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**Maine Restaurant
Association**

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**MAINE RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
"2007 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" TO MANAGER AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF**

Augusta, ME – Laura Honey, Manager of Boothbay Harbor's popular Fisherman's Wharf Inn, has been presented with the prestigious "Bill Zoidis Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Maine Restaurant Association (MeRA). The award was presented to Honey during MeRA's recently held annual awards ceremony in Portland, ME.

"Laura Honey is considered the epitome of seaside hospitality in Maine, and with good reason," noted Dick Grotton, President and CEO of Augusta-based MeRA. "In addition to being a vital part of the Fisherman's Wharf Inn team for the past 43 years, Laura has played a central role in our state's restaurant industry. By her involvement with several hospitality organizations, she has genuinely helped to build Maine's unparalleled reputation for welcoming visitors to our state."

Referred to by her peers as a "hospitality icon" and a top-notch "ambassador" for Maine's tourism industry, Honey has for years actively served as a mentor at Fisherman's Wharf Inn to countless young people in Maine, many of whom have gone on to become industry leaders in Maine and beyond. She was elected to MeRA's Board of Directors in 1996; two years later, she was appointed to the association's executive committee. In 2002, during MeRA's 50th anniversary year, Honey was elected Chairman of MeRA – the first woman to achieve the esteemed position.

Honey has kept a busy schedule by any standard: In addition to her work at Fisherman's Wharf Inn and with MeRA, Honey also has served on her local PTA and has been active in the Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor. She is a former trustee of St. Andrews Hospital; a member of The Maine Innkeepers Association, the Board of the Maine Merchants Association Workers Comp Trust and The Maine Tourism Association; and, Past President of the Boothbay Harbor Chamber of Commerce.

The Maine Restaurant Association "Lifetime Achievement Award" is considered to be MeRA's "Hall of Fame" equivalent. According to Grotton, the award was created to honor people in Maine's restaurant industry who have actively mentored and networked with others, who cared for their employees and others in their industry and community, and who set a high standard for performance and excellence.

"We were honored to be able to present Laura with this year's Lifetime Achievement award," Grotton noted. "Laura is hospitality personified, and Maine is all the better for it."

To read Meredith Goad's recent profile (3/7/07) of Laura Honey in the *Portland Press Herald*, visit http://www.frontburnerpr.com/PDF/MeRA_LifetimeAchievement_PressHerald_Mar7_07.pdf

For further information about MeRA, or to schedule an interview with MeRA President and CEO Dick Grotton, please contact Jen Beltz at Ph: 207/899-2750 or jen@frontburnerpr.com

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