



Atlanta Announces 2002 Hospitality Hall of Fame Inductees

ATLANTA (Oct. 16, 2002) – The Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) will hold its fourth annual Atlanta Hospitality Hall of Fame ceremony to honor certain individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the growth and well being of the city with special emphasis on tourism and the travel and leisure marketplace.

“The hospitality industry is a key element to the well-being of the city and the state economy,” said Spurgeon Richardson, ACVB president. “The Hospitality Hall of Fame is a special way for our industry to honor those special leaders who dedicate their time and efforts to make Atlanta a better city.”

The ceremony will be held Thursday, October 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel. The 2002 inductees include four unique individuals who have contributed to the city’s growth in their own special way. Honorees include John E. Aderhold, Ivan Allen, Jr., Walter Banks and Bill T. Hardman who will be recognized for their dedication and commitment to Atlanta.

John E. Aderhold, Chairman, Aderhold Properties, Inc.

His Vision and Leadership are a Cornerstone of Atlanta’s Growth and Success

John Aderhold is a longtime civic leader who has made outstanding contributions in to the revitalization of Downtown Atlanta. A leader in redevelopment in Atlanta for more than 40 years, his current company, Aderhold Properties, Inc., has lead the resurgence of in-town living with the development of the Fulton Cotton Mill Lofts, Muse’s and Hotel Roxy Lofts. The recently opened Helen M. Aderhold Learning Center at Georgia State University downtown was a result of generous funds donated by Aderhold in the name of his wife. Aderhold is also the co-owner of Underground Atlanta, and plans to bring even more housing to that area to continue the revival of the downtown landmark.

Aderhold served for many years as co-chairman of the Corporation for Olympic Development in Atlanta (COPA), an organization formed by former Mayor Maynard Jackson to facilitate the development of new and renovated housing and streetscape improvements, and general cleaning and greening in neighborhoods near Olympic venues. He also served for ten years as chairman of the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) Authority and played a key role in the creation of Centennial Olympic Park. Additionally, Aderhold is credited by many with being primarily responsible for the Georgia Dome being built. His tenacity, coupled with the respect he enjoys from business and civic leaders, came in handy when he tried to raise money for the Georgia Dome before the project had any serious financial backing.

Ivan Allen, Jr., City of Atlanta Mayor from 1962-1969 and Chairman Emeritus, Ivan Allen Company *Atlanta’s Renaissance Mayor and Citizen Extraordinaire*

During his tenure as mayor, Ivan Allen, Jr. played a major role in laying the groundwork for many initiatives that became the foundation of the growth and success that characterize Atlanta as an international city. He created the framework for growth in commerce through his Forward Atlanta Program. The development of the Atlanta Stadium, which brought the Braves and Falcons to Atlanta, occurred under his leadership as well as the Atlanta Arts Alliance Complex, the Atlanta Civic Center and MARTA.

In addition to serving as mayor, Allen has lead the business community as well with the success of the family business, Ivan Allen Company, the office products and office furniture company his father founded in 1900. In his leadership roles in the company, Allen worked to grow Ivan Allen Company into one of the Southeast’s largest office products dealers and one of the largest independent office products dealers in America. As a civic

leader, he has participated in a number of organizations that work to better Atlanta and its communities including Atlanta Chamber of Commerce (President), Atlanta Arts Alliance (Chairman and Member, Board of Trustees), Atlanta Community Chest and United Way (President), Georgia State Chamber of Commerce (President), and more. Today, Ivan Allen, Jr. continues to be active in organizations that impact the city he loves.

Walter Banks, VIP Usher at Turner Field

Atlanta's Quiet Ambassador of Good Will

There is no doubt that Walter Banks has the best job in Atlanta baseball, and after 34 years on the job, he's earned it. With the title of VIP Usher, Banks oversees aisle 107, which includes the owner's box, the most coveted position among the 199 ushers at Turner Field. Each home game, he plays host to Ted Turner and his guests, including Hollywood celebrities, sports legends, powerhouse business leaders, politicians and more. But as anyone who has ever sat in Banks' section can attest, someone doesn't have to be a VIP to get his VIP treatment. Whether from Hollywood, Calif. or Hollywood, Fla., this soft-spoken and unassuming man epitomizes customer service at its finest and ensures that each visitor's experience at a Braves game is unparalleled.

Banks started with Atlanta baseball even before the Braves came south from Milwaukee. His first job was in 1965 with the AAA Atlanta Crackers at the old Atlanta Stadium, and during his tenure, he's seen everything from Hank Aaron's record-breaking 715th home run in the 70s to Ted Turner handing out free tickets on the street in the 80s to the Braves winning the World Series in the 90s. And, if that weren't enough, he works events at the Georgia Dome, Philips Arena and Georgia Tech Stadium and has worked for more than 40 years as a mail clerk and driver for Rich's/Lazarus/Goldsmith's.

Bill T. Hardman, President Emeritus, Southeast Tourism Society

Bill Hardman was Georgia's first tourism director and created the Georgia Tourist Division under then Governor Ernest Vandiver in 1959. He created the state's Welcome Center program and built its first eight centers while carrying the Georgia story all over the United States, Canada and Europe through travel shows. In the mid '60s, Hardman helped create and was the first president of the Southern Travel Directors' Council (STDC), which was later known as Travel South USA, and coordinated the first Governor's conference on tourism ever held in the US. This regional organization, whose membership consists of state travel directors from the Southern states, still exists today, 37 years later. In the '70s, Bill was hired to lobby the legislature for the creation of the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC). The first show presented at the GWCC was Hardman's first Atlanta Camping & RV Show, a show that he has produced for 27 years.

In 1983, Hardman and a few key travel promoters from the region started Southeast Tourism Society (STS), where he served as president for 13 years. STS has grown from the original 21 to a membership of more than 500 and plays a dynamic role in promoting travel in the Southeast through advertising, promotion and the development of tourism. Hardman is the past Chairman of the Board of the 2300-member Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) and has been on its board of directors for more than 40 years, its longest serving board member. He has been awarded TIA's highest honor, the Golden Horseshoe Award, for his efforts in promoting travel to the US from abroad, and he was recently awarded the 2002 Tourism Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Georgia Governor's Conference on Tourism.

Candidates for the Hospitality Hall of Fame may come from government, business or civic arenas and do not have to be directly related to the hospitality industry. The ACVB staff and members submit nominations to the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, and the editorial board of the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* selects the honorees. Portraits of the inductees are on permanent display in the reception area adjacent to the Sidney Marcus Auditorium at the GWCC.

Tickets to the dinner and award ceremony are \$125 each or \$1,000 for a table of eight. Please contact Judy Claxton, ACVB vice president of operations, at 404.521.6606 to purchase tickets. For more information or to order tickets online, visit www.atlanta.net/halloffame.

Established in 1913, the ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as the premier conventions, meetings and leisure destination in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Brandy Humphries
ACVB
Public Relations Manager
404.521.6645
bhumphries@atlanta.net