

Press Release

Springfield, Missouri, Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Tickets on Sale for Salute to Travel & Tourism Awards Banquet

Springfield, Mo.—Tickets are on sale for the 2009 Salute to Travel & Tourism awards banquet set for 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Doubletree Hotel.

The Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau will present travel and tourism awards during the event. Award recipients are:

- Pinnacle Award – The late Si Siman, a founder of the Ozark Jubilee television show that aired from 1954-1960 from Springfield. The impact of the show and Siman’s efforts are still felt by Springfield’s tourism industry.
 - The Pinnacle Award is for individuals who have been active in the travel industry for many years and have made substantial contributions to the betterment of the Springfield area’s travel industry.
- Ambassador Award—Springfield Public Schools
 - The Ambassador Award is presented to individuals or organizations who generated significant economic impact for the area by working to encourage tourism or secure a major convention or event in Springfield.
- Hospitality Award—Doubletree Hotel
 - The Hospitality Award is presented to an attraction, lodging facility or restaurant which demonstrates outstanding hospitality to the traveling public and exhibits a team spirit in promoting growth of Springfield area travel and tourism.
- Spotlight Award—First Friday Art Walk
 - The Spotlight Award is presented to an individual, business or organization not usually considered part of the travel and tourism industry for noteworthy contributions in advancing travel and tourism in the Springfield area
- Diplomat Award—Former Greene County Sheriff Jack Merritt.
 - The Diplomat Award is presented to a government official, organization or employee who has provided significant support to the Springfield area travel industry

The bureau also will unveil its 2009 advertising campaign and present its annual report during the event.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$475 per table of 10 and are on sale through Feb. 6. Call 881-5300, Ext. 100, to reserve tickets or purchase tickets online at www.SpringfieldMo.org/banquet.

The following businesses are sponsoring the event:

- Diamond Sponsor: PulseStudios, Inc.
- Platinum Sponsor: Doubletree Hotel
- Gold Sponsors: ColorGraphic Printing, Downhome Productions, Elliott Lodging and Ramada Inn & Conference Center at the Oasis
- Silver Sponsors: A Graphic Resource, Gerry Averett Photography and Schilling/Sellmeyer & Associates
- Bronze Sponsors: Baum’s Promotional Products, Gary Ellison Productions and Missouri Meetings & Events Magazine.