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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Helene Caseltine, Economic Development Director

INDIAN RIVER CHAMBER HONORS LOCAL COMPANIES *Industry Appreciation Awards Program Celebrates 30 Years*

The Indian River County Chamber of Commerce celebrated the achievements of local companies at its Annual Industry Appreciation Awards luncheon on September 20, at the [Indian River State College Richardson Center](#). This year marks the program's 30th anniversary. [Reiner Family Dental](#) was named Small Company of the year, while [Paris Air](#) and [Home Instead Senior Care of Vero Beach](#) were honored as the Chamber's 2018 Medium and Large Company of the Year, respectively, based on employment levels. [Florida Power & Light](#) sponsored the event.

Earlier in the week, the [Indian River County Board of County Commissioners](#) presented a Proclamation designating September 17-21, 2018 as Industry Appreciation Week in Indian River County.

Bill Penny, President/CEO of [Marine Bank & Trust](#), and Chairman the [Chamber's Economic Leadership Alliance](#) opened the event, welcoming guests and addressing the sold-out crowd as Master of Ceremonies. Anna Valencia-Tillery, with [White Glove Moving, Storage and Delivery](#) who Chairs the Awards Committee, and Bart Gaetjens, Regional External Affairs Manager for FPL, shared duties in announcing the award recipients.

Helene Caseltine, the Chamber's Economic Development Director, explained that "our Industry Appreciation Awards program is an important component of the [Chamber's](#) overall business retention program and our goal of job creation. We show

our appreciation to local businesses that have made a positive impact in our community during the past year, either through architectural enhancements or by way of community involvement and economic impact. It was even more special this year as we celebrate the program's 30th anniversary - 30 years of architectural achievements, business success, and community involvement!"

The Chamber's Company of the Year award recognizes local businesses that stimulate the Indian River County economy, make contributions back to the community, provide quality year-round employment, and have an overall positive impact on our county.

[Home Instead Senior Care of Vero Beach](#) was recognized as Company of the Year for a business with more than 75 employees. The Home Instead corporation was founded in 1994, and its Vero Beach location was established in 1999. Local sales for the company have increased ten percent over the past twelve months, and estimated annual taxes are over \$100,000 per year. Home Instead actively supports family caregivers, providing resources such as free online training, a cell phone app offering dementia care tips on-the-go, and a free monthly newsletter for caregivers. Home Instead has been a Platinum or Gold sponsor of the Alzheimer's Association "Walk to End Alzheimer's" for ten consecutive years.

[Paris Air](#) was recognized as the Chamber's Medium-sized Business of the Year. The company was established in 1997, and offers initial and advanced pilot training, including helicopter training, charter flights, line services plus aircraft maintenance and storage. They currently have 36 full-time employees. Paris Air is very generous in its donations to local non-profits, and pays well over \$100,000 in annual taxes. They've seen a 37 percent increase in sales in the past year. Over the past two years, they have grown from forty students to nearly 200 students. To accommodate their increased student population, Paris Air is planning to expand their building from 12,000 square feet to over 55,000 square feet..

Bradley H. Reiner, DMD, PA, owner of [Reiner Family Dental](#), was recognized as the Chamber's 2018 Small Business of the Year. Dr. Reiner opened his dental practice in 1996 and currently has ten employees. The company has experienced a twenty percent increase in sales over the past year. Dr. Reiner is a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry - a designation earned by attending hundreds of hours of continuing education classes and passing a rigorous examination. The company and its employees are active in several local non-profits.

The Chamber also honored two local companies with the Minority Business of the Year. As defined by *Florida Statute*, a minority business is one that is 51 percent owned by a person with racial, ethnic, or gender makeup or national origin.

The Chamber's Large Minority Business of the Year is [Costa d'Este Beach Resort & Spa](#), owned by Gloria and Emilio Estefan. After completing significant renovations due to major hurricane damage, Costa d'Este Beach Resort & Spa opened in 2008. The resort now has 141 employees, who enjoy a full range of benefits.. Costa d'Este pays well over \$1-million in property and payroll taxes annually. Earlier this year, Costa d'Este Beach Resort & Spa was included in the *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Hotels" list. More than 24,000 luxury properties were evaluated across the US, Europe, Bermuda, Canada and Mexico for this accolade. Chad Olson, the resort's General Manager, accepted the Chamber's award.

The Chamber's 2018 Small Minority Business of the Year award was presented to Ellis Buckner and Alex Addison, owners of the [Crab Stop of Vero Beach](#), which opened in 2015. A life-threatening health situation forced Mr. Buckner to retire from his job as a fireman and paramedic for the county. A delicious meal at the main Crab Stop restaurant in Daytona Beach inspired him and his wife to open a local franchise. With Beverly Addison's kitchen expertise, they embarked on a new path as entrepreneurs and owners. Their restaurant is one of seven Crab Stops throughout Florida. The Crab Stop of Vero Beach has seen a twenty percent increase in sales over the past year, and its market has doubled in size with the opening of a second restaurant in Sebastian.

The Entrepreneur of the Year award recognizes firms less than five years old that show increased growth and a true entrepreneurial spirit, while overcoming challenges and becoming a good corporate citizen.

The Chamber's 2018 Entrepreneurs of the Year are Lynn and Pete Anderson, owners of [Pareidolia Brewing Company](#) in Sebastian. When Lynn and Pete first opened Pareidolia in 2014, they were the only brewery in Sebastian and the 3rd to open on the Treasure Coast. Pareidolia was the first brewery on the Treasure Coast to win a Gold Medal at the [Best Florida Beer Competition](#). They are proud to be able to use locally sourced ingredients in their beer whenever possible. The biggest risk was opening a craft brewery where none had ever existed before and locals were not familiar with craft beer. They had to educate their customers, while convincing city officials that Pareidolia was a viable, positive addition to the community. Plus, there were no building codes in place for a brewery. Since opening, the company's gross revenues have significantly

increased, and they've expanded into a larger location. The Andersons intend to double current production capabilities to increase regional distribution, expand Pareidolia's dining options, and increase the number of special events to benefit local charities.

The Chamber's Manufacturer of the Year award considers growth of the company, quality of the jobs, its economic impact, and sales that are primarily outside our region or state, making them a contributory company. There were two local manufactures recognized: small and medium, based on employment.

The 2018 Mid-sized Manufacturer of the Year was presented to [Vero Glass & Mirror](#), a family-owned business with 28 employees. The company has been providing impact-resistant windows and doors to Vero Beach and the Treasure Coast since 1944. Vero Glass & Mirror has seen a fifteen percent increase in sales over the past year, and pays an estimated \$90,000 in taxes annually with the majority of their raw materials and supplies purchased locally.

The Chamber's Small Manufacturer of the Year is [Float-On Boat Trailers](#), the original saltwater boat trailer, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The company has been recognized as the Industry Innovator of the first aluminum boat trailer with torsion axles. The company has seen a seventeen percent increase in sales over the past year, and pays well over \$200,000 in taxes annually. The majority of its products are shipped outside of our region and state. They are active with several local non-profit organizations, including the Farm Bureau Youth Enhancement Fund, and the Navy Seal Museum.

Architectural Recognition awards were also presented, highlighting new construction, renovations and historical restoration or re-use. Award criteria includes: impact on the immediate area; the building's unique features; and the building or project being "user friendly". The following architectural projects were recognized:

NEW SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

Sandy Lane on Highway A1A in South Beach

GREEN AWARD

Sustainable Kashi, an interactive demonstration site dedicated to the education of sustainable and environmental practices

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Commercial Building Construction

Large - Harmony Reserve Clubhouse, 5980 33rd Street, Vero Beach

Mid-Size - Home Instead Senior Care of Vero Beach, 885 37th Place, Vero Beach
Mid-Size/North County - Sebastian Dialysis, 1424 US Highway 1, Sebastian
Small - Corporate Air Terminal, 3450-B Airport Drive West, Vero Beach

Non-Profit Building Construction

St. Francis Manor Apartments, 1750 20th Avenue, Vero Beach

RENOVATION/RESTORATION/RE-USE

Commercial Building Renovation

Large - Senior Life Services, 2300 3rd Court, Vero Beach
Mid-Size - Post & Vine building ,1919 14th Avenue, Vero Beach
Small - America's Best Autobody, 1705 10th Avenue, Vero Beach
Small/North County - Big C's Produce, 81 North Broadway Street, Fellsmere

Government Building Renovation

Treasure Coast Technical College, 1426 19th Street, Gifford

Project Renovation

Seminole Courtyard downtown Vero Beach

Historic Restoration of a Small Project

Waldo's Walkway at the Driftwood Inn on Ocean Drive

Restoration and Re-Use of Historic Property

American Icon Brewery, 1133 19th Place, Vero Beach

Historic Restoration of a Small Building

Vero Beach Women's Club, 1534 21st Street, Vero Beach

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