

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Atlanta Business League Honors African American Hotel Owner & McDonald's Operator

July 20, 2010 (Atlanta, GA) – On July 27, 2010 the Atlanta Business League will pay tribute to two legendary African American men, Henry “Hank” James Thomas, President, Victoria Hospitality Properties, and Leon Goodrum, Owner, McDonald's restaurants. The tribute will take place during ABL's annual Men of Influence Reception and Induction Ceremony from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, 265 Peachtree Street.

Henry James Thomas has developed and operated Marriott Branded Hotels since 2003. He has also owned McDonald's franchises since 1982, and Dairy Queen franchises from 1968 – 1978. Thomas is one of the original thirteen Freedom Riders, and a Viet Nam War Purple Heart recipient. His contributions to metro Atlanta include serving on the boards of the APEX Museum, the Butler Street YMCA, Atlanta's Boys and Girls Club, and the Atlanta Youth Academy and a recent appointment to the Board of Trustees of Morehouse Medical School.

Leon Goodrum opened his first McDonald's restaurant franchise in Atlanta in 1982 and currently owns several McDonald's restaurants in Atlanta, East Point and within Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. He has received the “Ronald McDonald Award” for outstanding professional achievement and community involvement and the prestigious “Golden Arch Award” representing the best in the McDonald's system. Goodrum is Chairman of the Board, Capital City Bank & Trust Company, a board member of the National Black McDonald's Owner/Operator Association, a member of Leadership Atlanta, the 100 Black Men of Atlanta, and the NAACP Thousandaire Club.

ABL's Men of Influence (MOI) event will also present the Legacy Award, posthumously, to the late Alonzo F. Herndon, founder of Atlanta Life Insurance. Additionally, 25 African American male business and community leaders will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The MOI list reflects the names of black men in metro Atlanta communities who have reached senior level positions within their profession, are leading entrepreneurs in their industry, have proven history-making feats or have attained the ability to influence large public bodies politically and in government. In addition to professional accomplishments, the Men of Influence have demonstrated their commitment to the citizenry of Metro Atlanta by maintaining significant involvement and participation in community and civic activities.

The Atlanta Business League, led by Leona Barr Davenport is one of the country's oldest business organizations established in 1933 as an affiliate of Booker T. Washington's National Business League. The organization fosters the growth, creation, and development of successful business enterprises owned, operated and managed by African-Americans in metropolitan Atlanta.

For more about the Men of Influence Reception & Induction Ceremony, please contact the Atlanta Business League at 404.584.8126 or online at www.AtlantaBusinessLeague.org. Interviews are available upon request.

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