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**Marriott Gifts AAHOA \$5,000 In Honor of the 2021 Diwali Holiday**

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 3 – America’s hoteliers are grateful to announce that AAHOA Platinum Industry Partner Marriott International gifted AAHOA \$5,000 today in honor of the Diwali holiday.

For all who celebrate, Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a time to spend with friends and family. The holiday, which symbolizes the victory of good over evil and light over darkness, is also a time of giving – helping us make the world a better place for ourselves and others.

This is an extremely thoughtful and generous gift to AAHOA, as Diwali also marks the beginning of a new year. It is a time to come together as a community, gather for meals, and exchange gifts, so a contribution like this only adds to AAHOA’s hope for a prosperous and successful new year.

“AAHOA is very grateful for our partnership with Marriott and for their recognition and acknowledgement of this auspicious occasion, which is often celebrated by giving back to communities and organizations that make a difference in the world,” said Ken Greene, AAHOA President & CEO. “AAHOA plans to use the generous gift from Marriott to support member programming and AAHOA’s ongoing efforts to be the foremost resource and advocate for our members,” he said.

“Diwali also marks the start of a new year, so it symbolizes a new beginning and a chance to set the right tone for the coming year,” said AAHOA Chair Vinay Patel. “We exchange gifts and express appreciation toward one another. Marriott’s gift and act of goodwill is a symbol for all that we pray for in the upcoming year – prosperity, good fortune, and wisdom.”

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**About AAHOA**

*AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the nation, with Member-owned properties representing a significant part of the U.S. economy. AAHOA's 20,000 members own 60% of the hotels in the United States and are responsible for 1.7% of the nation's GDP. More than one million employees work at AAHOA member-owned hotels, earning \$47 billion annually, and member-owned hotels support 4.2 million U.S. jobs across all sectors of the hospitality industry.*

*AAHOA's mission is to advance and protect the business interests of hotel owners through advocacy, industry leadership, professional development, member benefits, and community engagement.*