



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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Hotel Association of Washington D.C.'s Statement on the Passing of Marion Barry

(Washington, DC) The Hotel Association of Washington, D.C. joins all Washingtonians as we mourn the passing of former Mayor and current District Councilmember Marion Barry this past weekend. Mr. Barry has always been a strong supporter of the District's hotel industry. For decades, Mr. Barry has valued and recognized the significant contributions of the hotel industry to the District's economy.

From the creation of the District's first Convention Center, to ensuring that District residents were provided opportunities to work in District hotels, Mr. Barry worked tirelessly to ensure that economic opportunities were available in the District and for its residents, especially those in his beloved Ward 8. "Marion Barry was a steadfast supporter of our industry. He understood the value of having a robust hotel industry that could contribute to our city's economy and offer career opportunities to our city's residents. We are all saddened by his passing," says Solomon Keene, President. Our thoughts go out to Mr. Barry's family and loved ones at this difficult time.

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Established in 1906, the Hotel Association of Washington, DC (www.hawdc.com) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of member hotels in the District of Columbia on a variety of governmental and public affairs issues.

AH&LA (www.ahla.com) is a 93-year-old federation of state lodging associations throughout the United States with some 11,000-property members worldwide, representing more than 1.5 million guest rooms. AH&LA provides its members with assistance in operations, education, and communications, and lobbies on Capitol Hill to provide a business climate in which the industry can continue to prosper. Individual state associations provide representation at the state level and offer many additional cost-saving benefits.