



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

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Contact: Solomon Keene, President & CEO - Solomon@hawdc.com / (202) 289-0584

HAWDC Hosts Hospitality Industry Veterans Engagement Panel

(Washington, D.C.) Last week, the Hotel Association of Washington, D.C. (HAWDC) hosted a Hospitality Industry Veterans Engagement Panel at the Hyatt Place in downtown Washington, D.C. The panel sought to better engage veterans in Washington, D.C. in the hotel workforce, expose the wealth of opportunities that exist within the hospitality industry that may interest veterans, and to bridge the gap between the experience and skill-sets typically ascribed to veterans and career opportunities in the industry.

The panel included Sheri Swain, General Manager, Holiday Inn Capitol; Tom Goheen, Deputy Director of Security, Colorado Security Agency; Ely Ross, Director, Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Monique Morris-Hughes, Interim Director, District Department of Employment Services; and Vanessa Peters, Director of Human Resources, InterContinental - The Wharf and was moderated by HAWDC's President & CEO, Solomon Keene. Panelists shared their thoughts on various topics including helping veterans transition to the private sector workforce, veteran outreach and retention, hospitality industry training designed specifically for veterans, as well as hiring military spouses. Panelists engaged in a meaningful discussion regarding unifying efforts to support transitioning veterans.

"We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to directly engage with veterans seeking career opportunities. The industry can certainly work collaboratively with veterans and the District to address issues concerning veteran unemployment. To overlook the value of the veteran is to them, and ourselves, a great disservice." says Solomon Keene.

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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.