



## **Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club's Tommy Turrentine Wins Lodging Employee of the Year**

*The hotel's Banquet Bar Captain was recognized at the 2017 NCRLA Stars of the Industry Awards and Taste of North Carolina for the state's top hospitality professionals*

**DURHAM, N.C., February 7, 2017** – [Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club](#), the premier AAA Four Diamond luxury inn and golf club located on the campus of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, today announced its Banquet Bar Captain Tommy Turrentine was recognized as the 2017 Lodging Employee of the Year award in a ceremony during Stars of the Industry Awards at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill yesterday evening.

The award winners showcase a commitment to valued guests and are selected based on their exemplary service, leadership, innovation and dedication in the restaurant, lodging and hospitality industries.

Tommy has more than a decade of experience at Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, making his mark with top-notch customer service and superb attention to detail. In a true testament to going above and beyond, Turrentine is the founding father of the lemon drop martini, originally created as a remedy for an indecisive guest and now a crowd favorite and go-to cocktail for new and existing customers.

“Our team is proud to see the state’s industry organization recognize the dedication Tommy puts in with every customer on a daily basis,” said Don Ball, director of food and beverage at Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club. “His work is more than just an occupation; he puts his heart into fostering each relationship and we appreciate his contribution in making Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club an award winning property.”

It’s no wonder that he has been nominated for Employee of the Month six times (winning four times) and awarded Employee of the Year in 2008. His motto, “the customer always comes first,” is the benchmark of his service. The AAA Four Diamond and Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star Award property is known for "greeting you in the halls," something Tommy takes to heart. He always makes a point of interacting with guests, whether it be with a smile from across the room or by striking up a meaningful conversation. Going above and beyond -- by arriving an hour before each shift and always accepting an opportunity to fill in on his day off -- is his way of life. This is a major contributing factor to the success within the banquet team, which is composed of 15 other team members.

To make reservations, please call the Fairview Dining Room at (919) 493-6699 or visit the event [registration page](#). To learn more information about The Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, including its upcoming events, please visit [www.washingtondukeinn.com](http://www.washingtondukeinn.com).

### **About The Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club**

The Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club is located on the campus of Duke University, only twenty minutes from Raleigh-Durham International Airport and ten minutes from Research Triangle Park. The



Washington Duke Inn is the oldest AAA Four Diamond hotel in Durham, North Carolina. Nestled on 300 acres filled with tall pines and hardwoods, the Inn is known for its beautiful facility and grounds, 271 elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites, marvelous cuisine in the Fairview Dining Room — winner of the AAA Four Diamond Award, 2015 Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star Award and Wine Spectator Award of Excellence — the Bull Durham Bar, the Robert Trent Jones-designed 18-hole championship Duke University golf course, and its convenience to local points of interest. It is set apart from other area hotels and conference centers by unparalleled service, a gracious staff, luxurious interiors and attention to detail. The Inn is owned by Duke University and is managed by WDI Hospitality, LLC of Durham, North Carolina. For more information or reservations call (919) 490-0999 or (800) 443-3853, or by visiting [washingtondukeinn.com](http://washingtondukeinn.com), and on Facebook at [facebook.com/WashingtonDukeInn](https://facebook.com/WashingtonDukeInn) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/WashingtonDuke](https://twitter.com/WashingtonDuke).

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