

2006 AWARD HONOREES DEMONSTRATE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE & SUCCESS

HOSPITALITY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR: JOSEPH V. COZZO

Joseph V. Cozza has been Executive Director at the New York Marriott Marquis since the hotel's pre-opening in 1984 and is a member of the hotel's Executive Committee.

The New York Marquis is a flagship of the Marriott Lodging chain and boasts over 1,900 guest rooms and suites, six restaurants and lounges, and 53 event facilities, which can accommodate groups ranging in size from 10 to 3,000. Under Mr. Cozza's talented direction, the New York Marriott Marquis has received numerous awards for catering excellence.

Mr. Cozza was the proud recipient of Marriott Corporation's "Catering Director of the Year" award for all Marriott Hotels and Resorts worldwide in 1989 and Marriott's Regional Leadership Award in 1994. Over 30 years, his hospitality career has been centered in Food and Beverage and Catering. He worked for the Sheraton, Fairmont and Hyatt hotel chains prior to joining Marriott. Mr. Cozza has opened five hotels, including the Philadelphia Fairmont and Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City, where he was Director of Catering from that property's opening in 1980 through 1984. He graduated magna cum laude with a specialty in hotel restaurant management from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1974 and received the Hotel Restaurant Society's Alumni Achievement Award for 1984/1985.

Mr. Cozza is a member of Food and Beverage Managers of America and National Association of Catering Executives. He is also a member of Les Amis d'Escoffier Society Foundation and the Confrerie de la Chaine des Rotisseurs, two prestigious gourmet societies. He serves on the Advisory Board of Special Events Magazine and the Convention Network Board for Marriott Hotels.

Mr. Cozza's dedication to service extends above and beyond the hospitality community. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service and is also a board member of Inside Broadway, Broadway's not-for-profit educational organization for young audiences studying theater. He participates on the Board of Alumni Advisors for Fairleigh Dickinson University, School of Hotel and Tourism and on the New York Committee for BAT (Baseball Assistance Team), which benefits former Major League Baseball players in need. Mr. Cozza is a member of the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce and a lifetime member of the American Theatre Wing. He has been co-chair of the annual Boy Scouts of America Hospitality Industry Luncheon and for more than 23 years has been an active member of the Cardinal's Committee of the Laity.

In 1997, Mr. Cozza was the honoree for the Hospitality and Tourism Division of the Cardinal's Committee of the Laity. Other awards he has received include the Emma Lazarus Award given by the Associated Builders and Owners of Greater New York in recognition for his contributions to the city's business community. The Italian Wine and Food Institute honored Mr. Cozza with the Outstanding Achievement Award in the Field of Food and Wine. In 2003, he was inducted into the BizBash Media Hall of Fame for excellence in on-premise catering and years of service to the New York market. Recently, Mr. Cozza was honoree for the Learning for Life Bill Gallo Sports Award Gala benefiting scouting.

A native New Yorker, Joseph and his wife, Nancy, now live in New Jersey. They have two children, Lauren and Michael.