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Community will remember Matt Haley on Sept. 28

REHOBOTH BEACH, DEL. (Sept. 16, 2014) — An outdoor service to honor Rehoboth Beach-based restaurateur/chef Matt Haley is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 28 at the Freeman Stage at Bayside in Selbyville, beginning at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:15 p.m.

Up to 2,000 people are expected to attend the event. “Matt touched so many lives,” said Scott Kammerer, president and CEO of the Matt Haley Companies. “He was an employer, philanthropist, board member, motivational speaker, brother, uncle, son – and, universally, a friend. If he knew you were in need – no matter the need – he’d do anything to help.”

Haley died on Aug. 19 from injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident in India. He was traveling through Northern India and Nepal on a six-week humanitarian mission.

During the celebration – which has “love, joy and kindness” as its theme – speakers who knew Haley in his many capacities will pay tribute to his colorful life and his contributions, both in Delaware and abroad. Haley received the James Beard Foundation’s 2014 Humanitarian of the Year Award, and in 2011, he founded the Global Delaware Fund to help children and adults in need. The service will also include video and music.

Seating is on a first-come basis. Those who can’t attend can still share in the occasion via a live webcast at freemanstage.org. The event’s rain date is Monday, Sept. 29 at 11 a.m.

Guests are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food donation to benefit the Food Bank of Delaware, one of the many local causes that Haley supported.

The Freeman Stage at Bayside is located at 31750 Lake View Drive in Selbyville, DE. For information, visit freemanstage.org.

About Matt Haley and the Matt Haley Companies

Delaware chef and entrepreneur Matt Haley, a Washington, D.C. native, in 2014 received the James Beard Foundation’s 2014 Humanitarian of the Year Award, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation’s Cornerstone Humanitarian Award and the International Association of Culinary Professionals’ National Humanitarian Award.

He passed away in August 2014 from injuries sustained during a motorcycle accident in India. Haley was on a humanitarian mission in India and Nepal.

The Matt Haley Companies' restaurants, operating under the SoDel Concepts umbrella, include Fish On in Lewes; Lupo di mare and Papa Grande's Coastal Taqueria in Rehoboth; Matt's Fish Camp and Bluecoast Seafood Grill in Bethany Beach; Northeast Seafood Kitchen in Ocean View; and Catch 54 and the first Papa Grande's in Fenwick Island.

The Matt Haley Companies also includes Plate Catering; Highwater Management, a hospitality management firm; and Haley/Kammerer, a hospitality consulting business. The Global Delaware Fund, a nonprofit, helps children and people in Delaware and across the globe. Many of the fund's efforts address hunger and sustainability. Haley was also actively involved in Conti di San Bonifacio in Italy, which has a winery, an olive oil division and a hotel/restaurant.

For additional information, visit www.matthaleycompanies.com.

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