

# OCEAN CITY WINS BIG

Number of local eateries honored during Rest. Assoc. gala

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■ Staff Writer

(May 20, 2011) Ocean City was well represented Monday during the Restaurant Association of Maryland's 57th annual McCormick & Company "Star of the Industry" awards gala in Baltimore, and several resort businesses took home prestigious awards.

The first time, Fish Tales Bar & Grill was named a finalist — and winner — in the "Favorite Bar and/or Tavern" category.

"I was totally taken off guard," said Shawn Harman, who owns the 22nd Street bayside restaurant with his wife, Donna. "Just being nominated was an honor. It's very humbling to be picked as the favorite bar and/or tavern in Maryland. We are proud and happy and just want to thank everyone who voted for us."

Harborside Bar & Grill was also one of the six finalists in the category. This year marks the second consecutive year the West Ocean City restaurant made the short list.



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL BIRCHENALL

Madlyn Carder gives her husband Billy, owner of BJ's on the Water, a big hug when his name is announced for winning the "Restaurateur of the Year" award during the Restaurant Association of Maryland's 57th annual McCormick & Company "Star of the Industry" gala on Monday at Martin's West in Baltimore.

In 2008, Sunset Grille was a finalist in the "Favorite Restaurant" category. This year, the West Ocean City restaurant captured the title of Maryland's favorite dining establishment.

"I just really wanted to get

[the award] and I was so excited we did," said Sunset Grille owner Buddy Trala. "Being chosen as the favorite restaurant in the whole state is a huge honor."

Restaurants were first  
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Billy Carder, who owns BJ's on the Water on 75th Street with his wife Madlyn, was a finalist in the "Restaurateur of the Year" category. RAM members, not the dining public, chose the recipient of the award.

"It was the last award of the night and I was getting more and more anxious as it got closer," said Carder, who admitted he was overwhelmed when his name was called. "It really doesn't get much better than when you're recognized by your peers for such a big award."