

1st Annual Black History Celebration at Maryland Live! Casino

As the guest line grew at Maryland Live! Casino's Rams Head Center Stage to celebrate the region's Black History Heroes, conversations could be heard discussing the significance of the evening. "Black History Heroes being honored at the casino, what an odd gesture," one guest stated. Another guest wondered aloud if other casino's celebrated Black History because Maryland Live! Casino appeared to be the first ever in the Mid-Atlantic to do so. Still others discussed the feature entertainment for the evening, The Chuck Brown Band, with so many memorable "GoGo" sound hits, and the band still together after the passing of their founder and leader, Chuck Brown, last year. Excitement was in the air and our guest felt very special to be a part of this historic moment.

This event was special because the 1st Annual Black History Celebration, hosted by Maryland Live! Casino, was the first ever of its kind and the 276 attending guests were in for a very special evening. Robert J. Norton, President and General Manager of the Casino, cares about being a great corporate citizen and wanted to express his appreciation to Black History Heroes who have made a difference in our community through business, social, and civic empowerment; that's why he recognized twenty-three (23) individuals for their great work in giving back and uplifting others. Mr. Norton said, "The Maryland Live! Casino family thanks all of the honorees for making our lives better and going beyond what is expected to accomplish that."

The honorees consisted of several local NAACP Branch Presidents, Business and Civic Chamber Presidents, Supplier Diversity Procurement Officers, elected leaders, and community organizers. Carroll "Mr. C" Hynson, Jr. was the evening's Master of Ceremonies and did an excellent job in keeping the evening alive and moving. Theodore "Ted" Mack, Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture gave a brief history discussion. He presented Mr. Norton with a proclamation signed by Governor Martin O'Malley, State of Maryland, proclaiming Black History Month at Maryland Live! Casino.

Wayne R. Frazier, Sr., President of Md. Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA), spoke and commented on how Maryland Live! Casino is a shining example of how Maryland's new gaming industry should support and recognize ethnic groups who spend lots of

cash in the casinos. He said, "I pray that all casinos in Maryland take a page out of Maryland Live! Casino's playbook in terms of creating opportunities for certified minority businesses in contracting with them and philanthropic giving. They are the best at what they do and MWMCA will honor them on Friday, May 9, 2014 at our 11th Annual 2014 Spring Breakfast Meeting/Business Showcase Expo as our Most Creative and Inclusive Gaming Facility of the Year."