

complex commercial litigation.

**LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADER SELECTED TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL SECURITY FORUM**

Mike Chouri, General Manager of Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, recently received and accepted a personal invitation from the Secretary of the Air Force to attend the 56th Annual National Security Forum (NSF) at the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. The purpose of NSF is to expose influential citizens to senior U.S. and international officers and civilian equivalents in order to engage each other's ideas and perspectives on Air Force, national and



international security issues.

During the week of May 18-22, approximately 130 civilian leaders in business, education and government from all over the U.S. met with senior military leaders to explore current and future national security issues facing our nation. The NSF provides a great opportunity for an open and candid exchange of ideas among these guests, senior military and civilian leaders, and our Air War College students.

**BUTLER'S BETA CLUB VISITS THE EXPLORIUM AND IMAX THEATER IN MOBILE, ALABAMA**

On Tuesday, May 26th, 31 fifth graders from Butler Elementary School loaded a charter bus to enjoy the Explorium and Imax Theater in Mobile, Alabama. The students

are members of the National Beta Club that promotes high academic and leadership standards for youth. The Science Explorium offered many hands-on activities with science and math which the students really enjoyed. Main attractions



included a virtual roller coaster, the BodyWorks including a six foot heart, the biolab, and the mock news room for students to practice on their broadcast journalism skills. Students also enjoyed the Imax presentation The Grand Canyon Adventure: A River at Risk.

**HILTON SANDESTIN BEACH GOLF RESORT & SPA RECEIVES FLORIDA GREEN LODGING PROGRAM DESIGNATION**

The beautiful white-sand beaches – Clean Beach Council Blue Wave certified – and the diverse eco-system surrounding the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa make the resort hotel the perfect spot for nature lovers. Now the Hilton Sandestin Beach is exploring a new wave of green with its environmentally friendly initiatives, earning the Florida Green Lodging Program Designation for its implementation of green practices such as its recycling program, water conservation and energy reduction.

"We are honored to receive this designation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and are committed to furthering our policy of implementing environmentally friendly practices across the property," says Mike Chouri, general manager. "We see this program as an opportunity to be a part of protecting what makes

this area so breathtaking and special, and keeps our guests coming back year after year."

**EDGEWATER BEACH & GOLF RESORT UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE**

Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort, a property of The Resort Collection of Panama City Beach, recently unveiled their new and improved website. The new EdgewaterBeachResort.com presents a fresh image with rich photography, enhanced graphics, clean design, easy navigation and a wealth of information. With over 177,000 visits since January 1, 2009, Edgewater expects that the new design will attract even more attention to the already popular site.

**CITY OF DEFUNIAK SPRINGS IS AWARDED THE COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE AWARD**

The City of DeFuniak Springs received the "Northwest Florida League of Cities Community of Excellence Award" on May 8, 2009, at the Northwest Florida League of Cities Annual Meeting and Dinner, for the Community for a Lifetime initiative.

**MAJESTIC BEACH RESORT HOSTS INAUGURAL FRLA BAY CHAPTER MEETING**

Paul Wohlford Inducted as Vice President of Lodging and Incoming 2010 President of the Bay Chapter

On April 23, 2009, Majestic Beach Resort, a property of The Resort Collection of Panama City Beach, hosted the inaugural meeting of the Bay Chapter of the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association (FRLA). Florida's Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp gave the keynote speech at the meeting. He elaborated on the advantages of joining the 10,000-member hospitality trade association. FRLA's mission is to safeguard the needs of the hospitality

industry, improve the business climate, promote the highest levels of quality and safety for their patrons, provide legislative advocacy and ease navigation of government regulations.

FRLA President and CEO Carol Dover said, "We are honored to have Lt. Governor Kottkamp address our newest chapter of the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association. The Bay County area represents over 450 restaurants and hotels, employing close to 10,000 people, and we are thrilled to welcome these hospitality industry leaders into our association."

**SACRED HEART HOSPITAL ON THE EMERALD COAST RECEIVES C.A.R.E.S. DESIGNATION**



Medical Partners International recently awarded Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast with the 2009 C.A.R.E.S. Designation©, which stands for (C)ompassion, (A)ttitude, (R)espect, (E)nvironment and (S)ervice. Sacred Heart is one of only 33 hospitals out of more than 5,000 hospitals nationwide that received this prestigious award.

This designation is awarded to organizations that have achieved service excellence and are in the top one percent of all healthcare organizations in the United States in regards to the overall patient experience, as measured through the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS). HCAHPS is the first national, standardized, publicly reported survey that captures the patients' perception of the care they received and is available to the public online at www.HospitalCompare.hhs.gov.