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**Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Gala Honors Mayor Matti Herrera Bower, Dr. Barth Green, Bill Johnson and Brett Ratner**

**MIAMI BEACH, FL** (April 26, 2011) – On Saturday, June 4, 2011, more than 1200 of Miami Beach’s most influential business professionals and community members will join the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce for the annual celebration honoring local icons for their outstanding contributions to the community. LIVE FROM MIAMI BEACH, this year’s 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Gala will be hosted at the Miami Beach Convention Center on June 4, 2011 at 7:00 PM and be a flash back to the black and white television days of Miami Beach in the 50s and 60s.

"Our 2011 Dinner Gala is poised to be our greatest ever" said immediate Past Chair and Dinner Gala Chairman, Aaron Perry. "We are very excited to have the opportunity to recognize such a distinguished group of leaders who have had such a positive impact on our community.

This year, the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce will honor **Mayor Matti Herrera Bower, Bill Johnson, Dr. Barth A. Green,** and **Brett Ratner**, for their dedication and service to our local community as well as around the globe.

**Mayor Matti Herrera Bower**, City of Miami Beach, will be honored with the *Lifetime Achievement Award*, bestowed on those whose philanthropic pursuits and community leadership have dramatically enhanced the quality of life in Miami Beach. Previous Lifetime Achievement Award honorees have included the Galbut family, Steven Haas, Michael Aller - “Mr. Miami Beach”, Leonard Abess, the Greenwald family and Stephen Muss.

**Bill Johnson**, Port of Miami Director, will be awarded the *Excellence in Tourism Award*, which recognizes individuals or companies whose insight, leadership and nobleness have contributed significantly to the tourism industry in Miami Beach. Last year’s recipient was William D. Talbert, President & CEO of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**Dr. Barth A. Green**, Co-founder of Project Medishare, Shake-a-leg Miami, and Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, will receive the *Distinguished Service Award*, which honors a community leader who demonstrates extraordinary community involvement, sparks inspiration throughout the community and

helps mentor others to achieve greatness. Since the award's inception in 1987, the Jan Pfeiffer Distinguished Service Award designation has been bestowed upon this community's leading corporate and civic leaders including Rob W. Parkins, State Representative Elaine Bloom, James J. McDonnell, Judy Drucker, JoAnn Bass, Charles Cinnamon, Fred Hirt, Seymour Gelber, Father James Murphy, Leo Salom, Joy V.W. Malakoff, Dr. Michael "Mickey" Krop, Mitchell "Micky" Wolfson, Jr. former Mayor Neisen O. Kasdin, Martin J. Gelb, Chairman of Mount Sinai Medical Center, Ocean Drive Magazine, Saks Fifth Avenue Bal Harbour, Romero Britto, Norma Quintero, Lee Brian Schragar, Founder of the South Beach Food & Wine Festival, Tracy & Alonzo Mourning, and Elsie Howard.

**Brett Ratner** will be awarded with the *City National Bank Hi-Tides Outstanding Achievement Award*, which, in this its inaugural year, is presented to an outstanding local business professional, whose achievements have extended into assisting the greater economy. Born and raised in Miami Beach, Brett graduated from Miami Beach Senior High and through hard work and dedication, he has established himself as one of Hollywood's most successful directors/producers with eight feature films grossing over one and a half billion dollars worldwide. Some of his films include *Rush Hour*, *The Family Man*, *Red Dragon*, *X-Men: The Last Stand*, and *After the Sunset*, among others. He has succeeded in producing documentaries and television shows, including *Prison Break*, as well as enhancing marketing brands of large companies, to include Actision's Guitar Hero, Steve Wynn's Encore, and Oreo Cookies. He serves on the board of Best Buddies and Do Something and is truly an iconic individual that began in our local community.

A special thank you to the platinum and gold sponsors who make this event possible: American Airlines, City National Bank, Centerplate, Prestige AV, Premier Beverage, Eristoff Vodka, CBS Outdoor, and Warren Henry Automobiles.

Individual tickets start at \$300 and sponsorship opportunities begin at \$3,000, which includes a table for 10 guests. For tickets, sponsorships or more information, please call (305) 674-1300 or email, [valerie@miamibeachchamber.com](mailto:valerie@miamibeachchamber.com). Additional information is also available at [www.miamibeachchamber.com](http://www.miamibeachchamber.com).

For more information on the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, visit [www.miamibeachchamber.com](http://www.miamibeachchamber.com) or visit us on Twitter: MiamiBeachBiz or Facebook: Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce.

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#### **ABOUT THE MIAMI BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1921 to promote the economic well-being of Miami Beach's citizens, to improve the quality of life for the entire community, and to communicate the view of the business community on major issues of public policy.