

Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, Inc.

presents 2010 Beacon of Light Awards

**Honorees include Palm Beach County Commissioner Karen Marcus,
Palm Harbor Marina and Raymond Graziotto of Loggerhead Club & Marina**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEST PALM BEACH (March 24, 2010) -- The Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, Inc. (MIAPBC) proudly recognizes three outstanding individuals and organizations as recipients of the MIAPBC Beacon of Light Awards for their unfailing support of the county's marine industry. The awards will be presented March 24 at the Phillips Point Club, overlooking the 25th Annual Palm Beach International Boat Show. MIAPBC Board President George Carter of the Riviera Beach Maritime Academy will preside over the awards ceremony.

The Beacon of Light Awards are awarded in three categories: Marine Advocate of the Year awarded to Palm Beach County Commissioner Karen Marcus; Marine Project of the Year awarded to Palm Harbor Marina; and Member of the Year to Raymond Graziotto of Loggerhead Club & Marina.

Each of the Beacon of Light Award winners received a handsome engraved award featuring a scale replica of the Jupiter Lighthouse, designed and created by noted artist Jack Dupuis of Jupiter.

Marine Advocate of the Year is presented to an individual, group or organization whose work is recognized as supporting, promoting and protecting the sound growth of the marine industry in Palm Beach County for the benefit and education of the boating public and the environment. The Marine Advocate of the Year for 2010 is Palm Beach County Commissioner Karen Marcus. She supported the vessel registration fee increase for the artificial reef program to improve fish habitat, and ensure that there will be an abundant fish population. She helped to ensure the marine industry was targeted within the county for growth and job creation. Commissioner Marcus supported the Mega Yacht

dredge project, and she also was the only county commissioner to oppose the boat ramp parking fee for county boat ramps.

“I have enjoyed working closely with the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County over the years,” says Commissioner Marcus. “The marine industry is a big part of our local economy and they provide many jobs in the community. They also provide great recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors.”

The Marine Project of the Year is awarded to the person or organization that initiated, is responsible for, defended, promoted or otherwise supported a project that enhances boating opportunities in the Palm Beaches. The award is presented to Palm Harbor Marina for its new state-of-the-art marina in West Palm Beach. Marina Manager John Smundin will accept the award on behalf of the marina for the project which features custom-engineered concrete floating docks with extra-wide gangways and finger-piers, color coordinated railing systems, in-slip pump outs, single and three-phase power and much more. The multi-million dollar project represents the strength and commitment of the Chase family, working together with the City of West Palm Beach, to help stimulate the local economy and provide hundreds of jobs, energize the downtown area, as well as create a destination Marina that will attract yachts from around the world to experience beautiful West Palm Beach, Florida.

MIAPBC Member of the Year is Raymond Graziotto, a member of the MIAPBC Board of Directors and COO of Loggerhead Club & Marina. Ray is being honored for his dedication to MIAPBC, and marine industry overall. He has taken on many leadership positions over the years, most recently becoming chair of the MIAPBC governance committee. He was also the recipient of the 2009 BoatU.S. Access Award for his dedication and support in passing Amendment 6 in the November 2008 election.

“I am very honored to be recognized by my peers,” says Ray. “The Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County works so hard in promoting boating and the businesses that support boating, it is truly remarkable that they also take the time to acknowledge those of us that try to help in whatever small way that we can to promote public access to Florida’s beautiful waterways.”

The Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County congratulates all of its 2010 Beacon of Light Award recipients and thanks them for their support of this important industry.

The Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, Inc. represents the more than 800 marine-related businesses in Palm Beach County that have an annual economic impact of approximately \$1.5 billion in our community. MIAPBC is a not-for-profit organization created to promote and protect the sound growth of the marine industry in Palm Beach County for the benefit and education of its members, the community, and the environment. For more information, call 561-832-8444 or visit www.marinepbc.org.

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