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Courtyard Scottsdale Old Town Hotel Celebrates Food & Beverage Supervisor's 50th Anniversary with Marriott

Pat D'Amato started her career as a hostess and waitress back in 1963, now plans to retire as Scottsdale, AZ, hotel's most decorated supervisor

Scottsdale, AZ – Meeting “Mr. Marriott.” It's that moment in 2001 that Pat D'Amato recalls most proudly as she looks back at 50 years of service with the worldwide lodging company.

The [Courtyard Scottsdale Old Town Hotel](#) honored and celebrated its most decorated food and beverage supervisor with a retirement party on Jan. 22, 2013, at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown.

“I am thankful for all of the wonderful friends, bosses, supervisors, co-workers and guests that have become a part of my family over the 50 years of my incredible career,” D'Amato said.

D'Amato began her career in January 1963 as a hostess and waitress at the Howard Johnson Restaurant in LaGrange Park, Ill. She was soon promoted to line cook. When Marriott purchased Howard Johnson in 1985, D'Amato was transferred to the Marriott's Red Coach Grill restaurant, where she continued as a cook. Three years later she moved to the restaurant at Downers Grove Marriott Suites, where she remained for 11 years and was awarded the Heart of the House Associate of the Year award in 1995.

D'Amato and her husband, Tom, moved to Arizona in 1999 so she could help open the Old Town Scottsdale hotel in April of that year. She started as the restaurant supervisor/kitchen lead at the Scottsdale, AZ, hotel and leaves as its food and beverage supervisor.

“Pat has never been late for work in the 14 years that she has worked at our hotel,” said Ann Cvelich, general manager of the hotel in Scottsdale, AZ. “She consistently demonstrated dedication to excellence in everything she did – from taking care of our guests and associates to ensuring sales and profitability in the [food and beverage operation](#). She always exceeded expectations.”

D'Amato has garnered \$4.9 million in revenue and managed an average food cost of 35 percent over the past 14 years at the [Old Town Scottsdale hotel](#), “which is truly an amazing accomplishment in the service industry,” Cvelich said.

Her highest honor came in May 2002 when she was presented with the coveted J. Willard Marriott Award of Excellence. The accolade, established in 1987, recognizes associates that have demonstrated the traits of achievement, character, dedication, effort and perseverance over a period of time. Three general managers nominated D'Amato for the award in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2001.

“We have always incorporated the ‘Pat experience’ as we have promoted the hotel to companies and groups,” Cvelich said. Now, with her retirement, who will greet “Mr. Marriott” every year in the Scottsdale, AZ, hotel’s lobby when he makes his yearly visits?

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