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**AAHOA Congratulates Chairman Miraj S. Patel on Being Named  
Businessperson of the Year by the Indo-American Chamber of  
Commerce of Greater Houston**

**HOUSTON, TX - October 3, 2024** – AAHOA (Asian American Hotel Owners Association) congratulates Chairman Miraj S. Patel on being named Businessperson of the Year by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston. Patel is the youngest person in the organization's history to receive the award.

The award was presented at the Chamber's September 21 Gala and Awards Banquet, celebrating its 25th anniversary. The chamber noted that Patel is the youngest chairman of AAHOA, whose 20,000 hotel owners own more than 60% of hotels in the United States.

Patel is a second-generation hotelier who began his career in hospitality at a young age, growing up in his family's first 30-room independent property. Today, he is President of Wayside Investment Group, a Texas-based company specializing in investing in the lodging and hospitality real estate sector.

"I am honored to receive the Businessperson of the Year award from the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston," said **Chairman Miraj S. Patel**. "It's a privilege to be recognized by an organization that champions the entrepreneurial spirit and supports the growth of our community. This award reflects the hard work and dedication of everyone at AAHOA, and I am grateful to be part of such an incredible network of leaders. I look forward to continuing to work alongside the Chamber to promote the success of our businesses and our industry."

AAHOA shares a close relationship with the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston, as its current president, **Rajiv Bhavsar**, and incoming president, **Malisha S. Patel**, are association members. This connection highlights the mutual support between the two organizations in promoting business and hospitality growth.

"On behalf of AAHOA, I want to extend our congratulations to Miraj on receiving the prestigious Businessperson of the Year award from the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston," said **President & CEO Laura Lee Blake**. "This honor reflects Miraj's leadership, commitment to the hospitality industry, and dedication to serving our members. We are proud to see him recognized for his contributions not only to AAHOA but to the broader business community as well."



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***NOTE: Photos available upon request.***

### **About AAHOA**

*AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the nation, with Member-owned properties representing a significant part of the U.S. economy. AAHOA's 20,000 members own 60% of the hotels in the United States and are responsible for 1.7% of the nation's GDP. More than 1 million employees work at AAHOA member-owned hotels, earning \$47 billion annually, and member-owned hotels support 4.2 million U.S. jobs across all sectors of the hospitality industry. AAHOA's mission is to advance and protect the business interests of hotel owners through advocacy, industry leadership, professional development, member benefits, and community engagement.*