



NEW RELEASE

OKLAHOMA CITY EDUCATOR WINS CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Bahama Breeze to send Marjorie Waters on an Island Escape to the Caribbean May 2005

Oklahoma City – When Marjorie Waters attended Teacher Appreciation Day at Bahama Breeze on Wednesday, May 4, never in a million years did she think she would end up as the lucky recipient of a nationwide drawing for an all-expenses paid Caribbean cruise getaway.

“I couldn’t believe it,” explained Waters. “I thought it was a joke when I first got the call from Bahama Breeze and then I realized it was real and I was actually going!”

A media assistant who coordinates library book check-in and -out at Nichols Hills Elementary School in Oklahoma City, Waters explained that she and 12 other staff members from her school were among those who attended Bahama Breeze Teacher Appreciation Day at the restaurant located at 9219 Lake Hefner Parkway. Waters and the rest of the educators were treated to the restaurant’s island-inspired food and, she says, “had a great time.”

Teacher Appreciation Day was held at 30 Bahama Breeze locations across the nation during National Teacher Appreciation Week in May. Along with samples of Bahama Breeze Caribbean-inspired dishes, everyone who attended had the chance to win the Caribbean cruise getaway – a four-day, three-night escape for two to the islands.

“Teachers do so much for our children by providing them with the building blocks to become productive members of communities across our country,” said Laurie Burns, Bahama Breeze president. “We wanted to offer these hard-working community leaders an island escape to show them how much we appreciate all they do.”

Waters, an Oklahoma City resident, has three grown children, and “is aware of several people who would love to go on the cruise with me.” Although she has not chosen a definite companion for her island adventure, she adds, “I’m going to wait until it’s really cold here in Oklahoma and then head for the sun!”

With 32 locations nationwide, Bahama Breeze is known nationally for delicious, fresh seafood, flame-grilled steaks and distinctive chicken dishes with an island accent accompanied by refreshing, handcrafted tropical drinks. The company is owned by Darden Restaurants, Inc. (NYSE: DRI), the nation’s largest casual dining restaurant company. Darden also owns 1,300 Red Lobster, Olive Garden and Smokey Bones Barbeque & Grill restaurants.