

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Florida Avenue Grill Hosts 65th Anniversary Celebration 1944 – 2009

(Washington, DC) Imar Hutchins, owner of the world-famous Florida Avenue Grill is hosting a celebration of this Washington landmark which has provided continuous service to the Washington community since 1944 on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 10:00 to 4:00 PM in the 2200 block of 11th Street, Northwest, between W street and Florida Avenue.

Florida Avenue Grill was founded by Carl and Bertha Wilson and has a rich history at 11th Street and Florida Avenue, Northwest. Its patrons comprise a cross-section of Washington's diverse culture. The legacy of the Grill was entrusted to Lacey Wilson, Jr., son of the founders, who maintained this landmark thru the years. The Lacey, a new condominium, adjacent to the grill, honors his work and service to the Washington community.

Florida Avenue Grill is a story of Washington residents, the community, and its charm. The Grill has been cooking the best in Southern Cuisine for its community as well as for the city at-large for 65 years, surviving the 1968 riots, continually proclaiming "Open for business as usual." At the Anniversary Celebration, The Grill will be providing music, games for children and a taste of its southern foods for everyone.

"Mr. Hutchins indicated that this is an opportunity to continue the legacy of the founders and Lacey Wilson, Jr., and to share the flavor and hospitality of the Grill with our neighbors." Our local leaders have been invited to share this historic moment with the Grill and the community.

The Washington Post wrote, "The Grill, at Florida Avenue and 11th Street NW, has always seemed packed with a hungry and cosmopolitan clientele. Lively and cheerful waitresses serve enormous quantities of food to customers of all ages and races. Over the years, neither the setting nor the menu has changed much. And, if you can get out of bed early enough, you may run into Janet Reno. The cashier says the former A.G. comes in for breakfast nearly every Saturday morning she's in town. She's a woman of taste."

IN 2004, the Washington African American newspaper wrote "They came by limousine, taxi, train, bus, bike, wheelchair and foot to honor one of the oldest African-American establishments in the nation's capital. Known for its famous southern cuisine, the Florida Avenue Grill celebrated its 60th anniversary with loyal patrons, friends and community. "This is a symbol of an era when African Americans pooled their resources and support to make a business work," said Janette Hoston-Harris, city historian. "The Florida Avenue Grill was established when there were no government loans or set asides."