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PRESS RELEASE

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Pete Van de Putte to be Inducted into the International Festivals & Events Association Hall of Fame

Boise, ID – The IFEA is pleased to announce that one of the festival and events industry's finest professionals, Pete Van de Putte, CFEE, President of dfest@Dixie Flag Event Services Team will be inducted into the prestigious IFEA Hall of Fame on Monday, October 3rd, 2011 during the 56th Annual IFEA Convention & Expo, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Known as the association's most prestigious honor, the IFEA Hall of Fame recognizes those outstanding individuals who, through their exceptional work and achievements, have made a significant contribution to the Festivals and Events Industry and a profound difference in the communities they serve. Induction into the Hall of Fame is considered the highest of industry honors. Selected from a group of his industry-peers, Pete joins the prestigious ranks of 51 others inducted into the hall over the past 20 years.



Pete Van de Putte, CFEE, started in the festival business as a young child selling pennants with his father to shrimp boat captains for the 'Blessing of the Fleet' festivals along the Texas coastline. His first official job, at the age of 8, was to help put up the décor for the Poteet Strawberry Festival, one of Dixie Decorators first customers when they opened. Even at this young age, Pete began interacting with festival and fair managers as he walked the grounds with his father. Relationships built quickly, especially when the Festival and Fair managers would provide Pete with tickets to the carnival! Those relationships have continued to grow for more than 50 years.

Pete's dream growing up however, was to become a high school band director. He attended St. Mary's University where he majored in music education, while at the same time working nights at Dixie doing silk screening, hanging net banners and on the weekends decorating festivals in the San Antonio area. Pete's career as a band director allowed him to develop and shape his creativity while - perhaps more importantly - helping to develop and shape many young people into great adults. Not a day goes by that he doesn't hear from a former student whose life he has touched.

At the age of 30 Pete's passion for working with people led him, with encouragement from his father, to make the best career decision of his life: to come into Dixie Flag Manufacturing Company and run the business. His father said he could pay him what he was making as a band director, and if he wanted more, the answer was short and sweet... "build the business."

When Pete took over the company, he expanded the core business of selling all kinds of flags to all kinds of customers, and concentrated on aggressively building the custom manufacturing aspect of the business. This naturally led him to return to his festival and fair roots. More recently, by incorporating the next generation into the family business, he

has expanded the event services focus of the company to include mascots and video production for festivals, and the introduction a new industry brand: *dfest™ - Dixie Flag Event Services Team*. Throughout the years, Pete has practically raised his family within the context of Dixie Flag, having had his sister, several daughters, one of his sons and one of his sons-in-laws representing the company.

But perhaps the most important qualities that make Pete Van de Putte a standout among his peers are the ones most readily recognized by those who know him best: His ready cadre of jokes to bring a smile to all those around him; his passion for life, family and friends; his willingness to stand up for what is right; and his loyalty even when times are tough. Through these qualities and many others he has not only raised the bar, but decorated it as well! It is hard to imagine the IFEA or our industry without the magic that is Pete Van de Putte.

For an in depth look at Pete Van de Putte, [Click Here](#).

Past inductees include Dan Mangeot, CFEE (D), Kentucky Derby Festival (1992), George Zambelli (D), Zambelli Fireworks (1993), John H.B. "Jack" French, Pasadena Tournament of Roses (1996), Jean McFaddin, Macy's Parade and Events (1999), Robert (Bob) Jackson(D), Consultant (2003), and most recently Therese St. Onge, National Capital Commission (2006), Mike Berry, CFEE, Kentucky Derby Festival (2008), and Kirk Hendrix, 500 Festival (2010) just to name a few.

Headquartered in Boise, Idaho, the International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) is *The Premiere Association Supporting and Enabling Festival & Event Professionals Worldwide*. In partnership with global affiliates under the umbrellas of IFEA Africa, IFEA Asia, IFEA Australia, IFEA Europe, IFEA Latin America, IFEA Middle East, and IFEA North America the organization's common vision is for "*A Globally United Industry that Touches Lives in a Positive Way through Celebration,*" The Association offers the most complete source of ideas, resources, information, education and networking for festival and event professionals worldwide. Visit the IFEA website at www.ifea.com for additional details.

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