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DuPage CVB's Nominee Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket Honored with "Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination" Award

*Illinois Office of Tourism celebrates restaurants that are authentically Illinois,
attracting visitors and locals to state's diverse communities*

Oak Brook/DuPage County – The Illinois Office of Tourism (IOT) and DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau announced today that Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket, located in Willowbrook, is a recipient of an "Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination" award, which honors local food establishments around the state that are beloved destinations for visitors and locals alike.

Dell Rhea's is among a select group of Illinois establishments to receive the unique designation from the tourism bureau. All award winners will receive a certificate from the state and a window cling to inform diners of the state designation.

"From family-owned restaurants with long and storied histories to the hottest new cuisines in the world, Illinois has emerged as a premier culinary destination for both domestic and international visitors," according to Jen Hoelzle, Illinois State Travel Director. "The 'Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination' award honors those restaurants that are authentically Illinois, making a trip to the state unforgettable."

Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket opened in the summer of 1946 on Historic Illinois Route 66. Because of the amount of traffic and distance from Chicago, the Chicken Basket was the perfect stopping place going to or coming from Chicago.

This nostalgic 1940s roadhouse has been featured on The Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives," as well as in countless Route 66 documentaries and travel books on Route 66. The full-service restaurant and cocktail lounge welcomes visitors from around the world who come for its famous fried chicken, Buffalo wings, baked macaroni & cheese, and salad bar.

"From my years of working with the City of Chicago, I know how important Route 66 is to the international market. I'm so proud to have enjoyed a long standing relationship with the Village of Willowbrook and Patrick Rhea of Dell Rhea's," states DuPage CVB Executive Director Beth Marchetti. "We are excited that the state has recognized DuPage County's own historic Route 66 icon."

Many travelers come to Illinois because of the state's flourishing restaurant scene. According to a 2013 D.K. Shifflet & Associates Study, nearly one third of leisure travelers to Illinois reported participating in a unique "culinary experience" as a key part of their vacation, proving culinary offerings are a key motivator for travel.

To be considered for an award, restaurants must be nominated by a convention and visitors bureau, community member or Enjoy Illinois social media fan. The nominee must be a one-of-a-kind restaurant that is authentic to Illinois and an established part of its community. *(more)*

Only restaurants located in Illinois will be considered for the "Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination" award, which is chosen by IOT.

For more information about the state's culinary offerings and "Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination" awards, visit EnjoyIllinois.com or [Facebook.com/EnjoyIllinois](https://www.facebook.com/EnjoyIllinois). Visit DiscoverDuPage.com for more information about Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket and the many other wonderful restaurants in DuPage County.

*The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism
manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and
quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.*

About DuPage County

DuPage County is the second most populous county in Illinois after Cook County, which borders it to the north and east. Together, the two counties account for half of the state's population. One of the nation's wealthiest counties, DuPage is rich in many types of commerce and is second only to Cook in tourism revenue. With its well-developed highway and mass transit system, DuPage is easily accessible from O'Hare and Midway Airports, as well as the City of Chicago.

About DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau

The DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau was established through the efforts of a coalition of DuPage area hotel executives and business representatives in 1987, and was formally certified in 1989 by the State of Illinois. It remains the official agency for promoting the county's multibillion dollar tourism industry and market DuPage County as an enticing destination for leisure and business travelers, meeting planners, groups and conventions, in order to enhance the economic development of the area.

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