



For immediate release

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Waddle champions statewide culinary competition

EDMOND, Okla. — Jeff Waddle, Executive Chef and Director of Dining Services at Touchmark at Coffee Creek in Edmond, has brought home the top award for “savory” cooking – the “Silver Spoon” award – after competing in a statewide cooking contest featuring the finest culinary masterpieces from Oklahoma’s long-term care centers.

The Silver Spoon Culinary Competition is in its third year. This is Waddle’s second year winning a top award.

Two top awards are given – one for the “savory” category and one for the “sweet” category.

Waddle competed with nine other finalists, who were selected from a pool of 60 chefs. The competition was held in the state-of-the-art US Foods’ demonstration kitchen in Oklahoma City, and the champions were announced during the Oklahoma Association of Healthcare Providers and the Oklahoma Assisted Living Association’s annual conference recently.

Waddle has been the Director of Dining Services at Touchmark, a full-service retirement community in Edmond, two years. His winning combination was crab-stuffed shrimp with roasted red-pepper cream sauce and sundried tomato and basil cream rice, sautéed asparagus with Parmesan cracker and basil chiffonade.

“The competition was much stronger this year, and this is a real honor,” said Waddle. “It was a great time to be in the same kitchen with other professional chefs, and I enjoyed every minute of it.”

Waddle won a cash prize and a giant spoon trophy for display at Touchmark, which was also awarded culinary supplies and equipment.

The Coalition of Advocates for Responsible Eldercare (CARE) Oklahoma, US Foods and Made in Oklahoma sponsored the competition. Three Oklahoma culinary experts and celebrities judged the competition: Dave Cathey, author, culinary columnist and the “Food Dude” with *The Oklahoman*, Chef Gene Leiterman with CocoFlow Chocolatier and Platt College and Miss Oklahoma Georgia Frazier.

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Recipes were submitted from long-term care and assisted living centers from across Oklahoma and narrowed down by US Foods' Chef Rob to five recipes in each category of "Savory" and "Sweet".

Last year, Waddle's Touchmark London Broil was a finalist in the Savory category and was selected as the winner of the "People's Choice" award after receiving the majority of votes at the competition by attendees, judges, other chefs and staff.

About CARE Oklahoma

The Coalition of Advocates for Responsible Eldercare is an organization established in 2004 to advocate on behalf of the long-term care community and the frail, elderly and disabled residents they serve. Charged with a mission to advance the value of long-term health care in Oklahoma, CARE achieves this by sharing the passion and joy of those in the profession through effective education and marketing. Working in close coordination with a variety of public and private companies, associations, government entities as well as other health care groups, CARE continues to move the state towards its overall vision of improving the quality of life for the state's thousands of residents residing in long-term care settings. For additional information, please visit www.careoklahoma.org or contact CARE Oklahoma at their Oklahoma City offices at 405-524-8338.

About Touchmark at Coffee Creek

Touchmark is part of the Coffee Creek 638-acre planned residential development, which includes a golf course, recreational centers and walking and biking trails for Coffee Creek homeowners. A full-service retirement community, Touchmark offers a wide range of homes and lifestyle options. For more information, contact Touchmark at 405-340-1975 or visit TouchmarkEdmond.com.

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