



Brent “Buster” Burns **ARHA Stars of the Industry State Finalist** **Front of the House Employee of the Year**

Few servers are born; meet Brent Burns, AKA Buster, who is such an anomaly. In 1992, at age 17, he found his calling with his first restaurant job. He bussed tables and greeted guests at the Original Oyster House [OOH]. Originally from Nashville, he went to college at Arizona State but decided after turning 21, to return to OOH in Gulf Shores and wait tables full time. In this capacity, Buster learned to embrace the wisdom of seasoned coworkers. Ostensible clichés became words to live by. Never judge a book by its cover, give the service I would expect if I was sitting in that chair and treat every guest with such excellent care their recommendations become contagious. 24 years later, Buster’s genuine regard for his colleagues and guests combined with creative altruism, make him a standout. In 2011 when an EF4 tornado devastated Tuscaloosa, Buster turned to fundraising. His empathy for victims prompted him into action and raised over \$1,100 in donations. His memory of eating MRE meals following Ivan inspired Tips for Texas when Hurricane Harvey hit Houston in 2017.

He donated his weekend gratuities, around \$1,300 to victims. Buster loves to travel, has journeyed abroad yearly, has enjoyed the finest restaurants and has paid off his home. He acknowledges OOH with helping him achieve an unconventional and fulfilling lifestyle, and has validated his appreciation with loyalty and being the best. As a lead server, Buster had been approached many times to take a management position but his love of presenting the menu, recommending fan favorites and meeting patrons from all over the world, won out. Buster has achieved many distinctions including the Island Spirit Award presented by the Chamber, Employee of the Month and Employee of the Year presented by the restaurant. However the general manager said that they stopped giving Buster awards because he gives his prize money to the kitchen staff. As an avid traveler and restaurant connoisseur, Buster’s savors the hospitality experience. He is outstanding in his profession because he enjoys both sides of the table.