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**TWO ST. LOUIS AREA McDONALD'S® MANAGERS  
HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL RAY KROC AWARD**

**St. Louis, MO February 6, 2009-** Gerda Friedmeyer of Festus, MO and Christine Van De Riet of St. Louis each recently received the coveted McDonald's Ray Kroc award. This is a nationwide honor rewarding the top one percent of U.S. restaurant managers, making it the highest honor bestowed upon a McDonald's Restaurant manger.

Gerda manages the Twin City McDonald's Restaurant in Festus for Owner/Operators Jerry and Terri Flagg. She began her career with McDonald's in 1994 and has been a restaurant manager since 2002. "Her dedication to her customers and crew shows every day. She truly sets the bar in our industry by showing fast and friendly service to our customers and by working with the crew as a team," said Terri Flagg, McDonald's Owner/Operator.

Christine manages the Lemay Ferry McDonald's Restaurant in Mehlville, MO for Owner/Operators Tom and Pat Hillmeyer. She began her career with McDonald's in 1983 and has been a restaurant manager since 2001. "Not only is Christine truly committed to her customers, but her care and enthusiasm for the crew resonates throughout the restaurant. Her passion is contagious," said Pat Hillmeyer, McDonald's Owner/Operator.

Each year the best of the best get recognized for their dedication to operational excellence and reinforcing McDonald's commitment to people and building the business. A total of five managers were awarded in the Heartland Region, each receiving a \$2,500 cash bonus and recognition at a special awards ceremony later this spring in Chicago with McDonald's USA President, Don Thompson.

Ray Kroc founded McDonald's at age 52 and built the business on the belief that greatness can only be achieved through the dedication and support of a company's people. The award was named after him based on his commitment to people and recognizing their contributions to the organization he helped establish. Nominations were solicited from McDonald's Owner/Operators and staff members and were reviewed by a selection committee.

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## Ray Kroc Award Winners



Ray Kroc Award winner Gerda Friedmeyer (center) with Business Consultant Doug Bunting, Owner/Operators Terri and Jerry Flagg, and Supervisor Joe Hicks.



Ray Kroc Award winner Christine Van De Riet (center) with Field Service Manager Tammie Meyer, Owner/Operators Pat and Tom Hillmeyer, and Business Consultant Michelle Zarges.

McDonald's USA, LLC, is the leading foodservice provider in the United States serving a variety of wholesome foods made from quality ingredients to millions of customers every day. More than 80 percent of McDonald's 14,000 U.S. restaurants are independently owned and operated by local franchisees. For more information on the St. Louis/Metro East McDonald's Restaurants visit [www.McDonaldsSTL.com](http://www.McDonaldsSTL.com) or log on at any of the Wi-Fi enabled McDonald's restaurants.