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**MILITARY COUPLE CAN WIN \$30,000 FLORIDA KEYS DESTINATION WEDDING  
IN STARS & STRIPES DREAM WEDDING GETAWAY CONTEST**

*Hawks Cay Resort, Brides Across America and VISIT FLORIDA partner to gift wedding to  
deserving couple*

**DUCK KEY, Fla. – Sept. 20, 2016 –** [Hawks Cay Resort](#) and [Brides Across America](#) have joined forces to make one military couple's dream destination wedding come true. The iconic Florida Keys resort and Brides Across America, which gives away free wedding dresses to military brides, today announced they will give away a destination wedding worth \$30,000 with their [Stars & Stripes Dream Wedding Getaway](#) contest.

As part of the Resort's annual Heroes Salute program, which runs from August to November and offers military and first responders deep discounts on rooms and experiences, the Resort teamed up with Brides Across America to take the event one step further by honoring a deserving military couple with a free wedding.

The Stars and Stripes Dream Wedding Getaway includes a complete wedding package at Hawks Cay Resort along with a wedding gown, veil and accessories gifted by Brides Across America as well as round-trip air transportation and in-state ground transportation provided by [VISIT FLORIDA](#). The lucky couple will be able to enjoy amenities such as a Premium Water View Suite for two nights, the wedding ceremony, cocktail and dinner reception setup for up to 50 guests.

To enter for a chance to win, couples or friends and family of an engaged military pair must visit [www.bridesacrossamerica.com/contest](http://www.bridesacrossamerica.com/contest) and share their love story by answering a few simple questions before Nov. 20, 2016. Five finalists will be selected to submit video testimonials. The winning couple will be selected by judges' scores and notified in December 2016. The wedding and reception must take place in 2017. For more information on official rules, please visit the eligibility & rules section on the website above.

With more than ten wedding venues located throughout the Resort, couples can choose from a variety of settings for the perfect backdrop. From a romantic set of twin palms that perfectly frame the afternoon sunset to a fairytale wedding gazebo overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, Hawks Cay offers couples multiple venues that accommodate any size group and range from elegant ballrooms to chic outdoor decks and casual placements near the water's edge. It's a

one-of-a-kind destination resort located in the middle Florida Keys featuring activities and experiences that will appeal to every wedding guest.

Not only will the newlyweds be able to enjoy all that the Resort has to offer, but guests of all ages will be able to experience the luxurious guest rooms and villas, gourmet casual and fine-dining restaurants and lounges. The Resort is perfect for multigenerational families with its extensive activities and water sports offerings. A few of the exclusive wedding experience activities for guests include a coral reef snorkel excursion, wedding party fishing tournament, a sunset cruise aboard the Blue, a 65-foot catamaran, or a sand volleyball tournament.

### **About Hawks Cay Resort**

A recipient of the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award and a member of the Preferred Hotel Group Lifestyle Collection, Hawks Cay Resort, Villas and Marina is located on Duck Key in the Middle Florida Keys. Situated roughly halfway between Key Largo and Key West at mile marker 61, this 60-acre, tropical destination is easily accessible by car, boat or plane yet feels worlds away from everyday life.

Alongside the emerald water of the Atlantic Ocean, guests enjoy offshore, flats and backcountry fishing; diving; kayaking; kiteboarding and standup paddleboarding programs; Cliff Drysdale tennis program; Segway tours and the only resort-based Dolphin Connection program with complimentary daily viewings. The Resort boasts 177 guestrooms and 225 two- and three-bedroom villas, a full-service marina, six restaurants, saltwater lagoon, five swimming pools, kid and teen clubs and the award-winning Calm Waters Spa.

### **About Brides Across America**

A national nonprofit, Brides Across America continues to honor our heroes by giving weddings and wedding gowns to our deserving military and making wedding dreams come true. Brides Across America has provided assistance to thousands of military couples since its inception in 2008. All donations that are received go directly to provide support to our couples. To date, Brides Across America, in collaboration with bridal salons, designers, and individual donations has been able to donate more than 17,000 wedding gowns and 20 weddings. Operation Wedding Gown has also made headlines when it was featured in PEOPLE magazine, Steve Harvey Show and honored at the White House.

### **About VISIT FLORIDA**

As the Sunshine State's No. 1 industry, tourism was responsible for welcoming 106.6 million visitors in 2015 and employing 1.2 million Floridians. According to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, for every \$1 the state invests in VISIT FLORIDA – the official tourism marketing corporation for the state of Florida – \$3.20 in tax revenue is generated. VISIT FLORIDA promotes tourism to Florida through sales, advertising, promotions, public relations and visitor services programs. As a public/private partnership, VISIT FLORIDA serves more than 11,000 tourism industry businesses, including major strategic alliance partnerships with Busch Gardens Tampa, Disney Destinations, The Hertz Corporation, LEGOLAND Florida Resort, SeaWorld Parks & Resorts Orlando, Simon Shopping Destinations and Universal Orlando Resort. To learn more about VISIT FLORIDA, please go to [VISITFLORIDA.org](http://VISITFLORIDA.org) or follow us on our industry social media channels: [SunshineMatters.org](http://SunshineMatters.org), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SunshineMatters.org) and [@FloridaTourism](https://twitter.com/FloridaTourism).

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