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**Bruce L. Thompson**

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

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A Hampton Roads native recognized as a philanthropist, business, and civic leader, **Bruce L. Thompson** is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Professional Hospitality Resources (PHR)**, one of the largest privately held hospitality and real estate companies in the Mid-Atlantic. PHR's portfolio of world-class restaurants, hotels, and resorts generate annual revenue exceeding \$100 million, employ over 2,000 associates and attract nearly a million guests to the local economy each year. In 2017 PHR opened one of Coastal Virginia's most distinguished hospitality properties with the completion of the Hilton Norfolk The Main hotel and conference center and in 2018 completed the highly anticipated restoration of the grand Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach.

Thompson has been an ardent supporter and advocate of the travel and tourism industry, serving as a director of the American Resort Development Association (ARDA) and on the boards of tourism and development organizations—including seven years on the Governor's Travel Advisory Committee, Resort Area Advisory Commission, Resort Leadership Council, Virginia Beach Festivals Committee, and the Virginia Small Business Financial Authority. He was chairman of Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell's Transition Team for Film and Tourism and was appointed to the Governor's Economic Development and Jobs Creation Commission. In July 2010, Thompson was appointed by the Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) Foundation Board of Trustees to serve on the EVMS Board of Visitors. In recognition of his accomplishments in the timeshare industry, Thompson was awarded "Best Industry Leader"

in 2012 by leading trade publication, *Perspective Magazine*. In 2017, Thompson was inducted into the Hampton Roads Hall of Fame by the Junior Achievement of Greater Hampton Roads, honoring his lifetime of achievements as one of Hampton Road's most visionary business leaders.

Charitable efforts define Bruce Thompson as much as his many business and civic accomplishments. In 2008, he organized the largest Walk to Defeat ALS effort in that organization's history, raising more than \$5 million to support the ALS Society, patient care, and medical research. In 2009, he designed and secured funding for the world's first fully accessible oceanfront park for the disabled, JT's Grommet Island Beach Park and Playground for EveryBODY, which opened on the Virginia Beach oceanfront in May 2010. Thompson received the 2009 ARDA Ace Philanthropic Award, the 2009 Outstanding Community Visionary Award from Amerigroup Foundation, the Virginia Center of Inclusive Committees Humanitarian Award and Gold Key Resorts (a company piloted by Bruce Thompson) received the 2010 ARDA Ace Community Service Award. After many years in support of the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival, Thompson was crowned King Neptune XXXVIII in 2010. He is a member of the Hampton Roads Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. In April of 2012, Thompson received the Lenora B. Matthews Lifetime Achievement Award from Volunteer Hampton Roads, recognizing his continued commitment to the community.

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