



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEMMONS WILSON COMPANIES ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP

Grandsons continue entrepreneurial legacy of grandfather, founder of Holiday Inn Hotels

Memphis, TN – December 3, 2014 - Kemmons Wilson Companies (KWC), a family-run business started by Kemmons Wilson, the legendary founder of Holiday Inn Hotels, has announced a transition in leadership. The team members carrying on their grandfather's legacy are now the principals of the firm and include Spence Wilson Jr., Kemmons Wilson III, McLean Wilson and Webb Wilson. The previous second generation family leadership group, Spence Wilson Sr., Robert Wilson, and Kemmons Wilson Jr. will remain active and engaged in the business as members of the Board of Directors.

"We are excited about the opportunity to advance this great legacy created by our grandfather and continued so successfully by our fathers and uncles," shared Spence Wilson, Jr., Principal. "We look forward to the additional leadership roles at KWC, and we feel incredibly well-prepared after having worked at the company for over 35 years collectively."

Kemmons Wilson Companies is a concentration of six key industries, including: aviation, financial services, hotels, insurance, real estate and time sharing. KWC's aviation holding, Wilson Air Center, is a seven-time winner of the Best Small FBO Chain by Professional Pilot Magazine. They also manage Orange Lake Resorts (dba Holiday Inn Club Vacations®) which is among the largest timeshare

businesses in the world. The team also actively pursues private investment opportunities inside and outside these industries.

The team refreshed key elements of the Kemmons Wilson Companies' brand which include foundational items such as vision and core values as well as a new logo and website. The new vision statement of KWC is "to honor and advance the entrepreneurial legacy of Kemmons Wilson while enriching the lives of our families, associates, partners and the communities in which we live and work."

"With our change in leadership, we felt it critical to communicate to our stakeholders that while we will continue in our predecessors' footsteps, we intend to do so with a new energy," explained Kem Wilson, III, Principal. "With input from our associates, we crafted a revised mission statement and clearly articulated our core values. We believe these foundational elements will help us rally our team as well as help us hold ourselves accountable for future successes."

The third generation has already hosted several town hall meetings with each of their businesses to share the vision moving forward and the importance of their role as members on the KWC team. The leadership group is dedicated to an environment that encourages open communication.

"For more than 65 years, this company has found success in numerous industries and will continue to seek out new opportunities," shares Spence Wilson, Sr., Board of Director. "Having worked with the third generation for many years now, I know they are committed to our people-first philosophy and core values. We're excited about our prospects for the future and look forward to seeing them help write the next 'chapter' in our legacy."

About Kemmons Wilson Companies

Kemmons Wilson Companies is a third-generation, single family office established in 1948 by Kemmons Wilson. Most noted for founding Holiday Inn Hotels, Kemmons was a serial entrepreneur who never stopped creating or investing in businesses. Having owned, operated or partnered with people in over 400 ventures to date, the third generation helps lead the company today with a concentration in six (6) key industries – aviation, financial services, hotels, insurance, real estate and time sharing but are also open to opportunities outside these areas. We continue to exemplify the same core values, people-first philosophy and long-term perspective that our predecessors instilled. To learn more, visit kwilson.com

Contact

To learn more about this story, please contact

Christina Meek

Memphis Chamber of Commerce

cmeek@memphischamber.com

901.543.3500