

McNeill Entities Announce Hospitality Scholarship in Memory of Co-Founder and Longtime Industry Leader Mark A. Ricketts

Germantown, Tennessee — June 2024 — Germantown, TN- based McNeill Hotel Company (MHC) and McNeill Investment Group (MIG) today announced the establishment of the Mark A. Ricketts Memorial Scholarship at The University of Memphis Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality & Resort Management.

Dedicated to the memory of Mark Ricketts, who co-founded McNeill Hotel Company in 2014 with Phillip McNeill, Jr., the scholarship will aid at least one undergraduate student, beginning in 2025, committed to a career in hospitality. A courageous and most loved leader, Ricketts passed away on November 2, 2022, after a brave battle with ALS.

Working with the hospitality school, the scholarship was established through the devoted efforts of Brent McDowell, MIG Executive Vice President, Business Development; and Rick West, long-time friend of Mark Ricketts and VP Sales/Partner at hospitality consultant Commercial Green Solutions.

“Mark was a lifelong partner and friend, as well as an exceptional, inspirational leader. He believed in empowering all people in our industry and society. In his memory, we hope this scholarship contributes to the next generation of hospitality leaders,” said Phillip H. McNeil, Jr., Executive Chairman of McNeill Investment Group, LLC and of McNeill Hotel Company, LLC.

“I never remember him not being kind. Anyone with whom he ever came in contact was better for having known him,” West said. “He would be humbled and thrilled by this scholarship in his memory. He loved the hotel industry and never tired of trying to better it through a unique mix of high-level experience and openness to change. An amazing hotelier, but a better man.”

For more information about the Mark A. Ricketts Memorial Scholarship at the University of Memphis Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality & Resort Management, including contributing to the scholarship’s endowment, please contact Brent McDowell at bmcdowell@mcneillhotels.com.

More about Mark A. Ricketts

To those who knew him, as a second-generation hotelier, Mark seemed born to a career in hospitality, with his personal and professional lives driven by a genuine sense of faith and devotion to the service of others. He was a mentor, philanthropist, and friend who was able to bring a sense of joy to everyday life.

An exceptional leader, Mark understood intrinsically what bonds people together with shared values and goals and inspired them to those ends, while being a champion for diversity and inclusivity in the hospitality industry.

McNeill Hotel Company was fortunate to have Mark Ricketts serve as President and COO since a Founding Principal until June of 2022. Mark then served as Chief Culture Officer until his passing in late 2022. Prior to joining McNeill Hotel Company, Mark spent seven years serving as Vice President in the Realty Management Division for Goldman

Sachs in Irving, Texas. In his capacity, Ricketts provided hotel asset management oversight for a portfolio of more than 300 properties, spanning 10 brands, and 27 flags.

Overall, Mark spent more than 35 years in the hotel industry. He previously worked as Vice President of Asset Management for Equity Inns, Inc., a publicly traded Hotel REIT based in Germantown, Tennessee; and as Vice President of Hotel Operations for Memphis, Tennessee based Master Hospitality Services.

Many have heard him say “I live to serve” in response to a need or task. His ability to make every associate, regardless of title, feel seen and valued was such a beautiful gift. Mark believed each person made a difference within MHC and had a sign hung in each hotel’s employee breakroom, “Thank you for making a difference today.” Mark led the company to become one of the top 50 hotel companies in the U.S.

About McNeill Hotel Company

Headquartered in Germantown, Tennessee, McNeill Hotel Company is built on a foundation of trust, pursuit of excellence and a philosophy of “people serving people.” The firm focuses on select-service hotels with a growth strategy based on a mix of new hotel development, meaningful acquisitions and third-party management agreements. The company is an approved franchisee for both Marriott and Hilton. The Company’s leadership team have more than 200 years of combined institutional experience in the hotel industry, encompassing nearly every discipline of the business. For more information, visit www.mcneillhotels.com

About McNeill Investment Group

Founded in 2014 and headquartered in Germantown, Tennessee, McNeill Investment Group (MIG) is built on a foundation of trust, pursuit of excellence and a philosophy of “people serving people.” The multi-strategy hospitality investment management platform focuses on direct and indirect real estate investments, investment in and ownership of general partner interests in sponsored investment vehicles, and investment in complementary operating businesses.

The company’s success is rooted in its robust vertical infrastructure and ability to tactically allocate investment capital into high conviction strategies with an aim toward smoothing seasonality in the near-term and cyclicity over the longer-term horizon. For more information, visit www.mcneillinvestmentgroup.com.

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