

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Ogden Marriott's Grand Re-Opening Event recognizes company founder J. Willard Marriott as a "True Ogden Original"; raises money for charity**

**Ogden, UT** - The Ogden Marriott will be celebrating its Grand Re-Opening Gala on November 13 from 5-8 p.m. at their completely renovated hotel at 247 24<sup>th</sup> Street in Ogden. Ogden Mayor Matthew Godfrey, other community leaders and Marriott officials will participate in a ribbon cutting at 4:30 p.m. The event, complete with entertainment and hors'douvers, will also be used as a fundraiser for The Ogden Christmas Box House. The community is invited to attend.

The multi-million dollar investment in the Ogden Marriott includes complete renovation of all 292 guest rooms, a newly designed lobby and front desk area, a new on-site restaurant called Canyon Fish Market & Grill, Rocks Lounge, redesigned meeting and ballrooms, updated pool facilities and a new state-of-the-art fitness center.

Attendees are invited to tour the new areas and stamp a "passport" for the chance to win several prizes including trips to Chicago, Las Vegas, Portland, Denver and free season passes to Powder Mountain.

Framed artwork by children served by The Ogden Christmas Box House will be available for purchase. All proceeds will go directly to this wonderful local charity; donated items will also be collected at this event. For a list of items most needed at The Ogden Christmas Box House, please call the hotel at 801/395-2048.

According to General Manager Scott Sloan, the Ogden Marriott's roots and future are in Ogden. J. Willard Marriott was born and raised in the Ogden area. Born in 1900, J. Willard's

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work ethic was first honed on his father's farm and he later graduated from Weber State Academy. His first business venture was a root beer stand he opened in 1927 to serve hot and thirsty tourists in Washington, D. C. What started as a simple concept peddling root beer soon led to a chain of family restaurants, his first hotel...and eventually the more than 3,000 hotels worldwide that today make Marriott the global leader in hospitality.

In recognition of J. Willard Marriott's first business venture, the Ogden Marriott has even produced a bottled beverage for the event—Marriott's Ogden Original Old-Fashioned Root Beer. The root beer bottles are not only being used to market the Grand Re-Opening event, but will continue to be utilized by the hotel for sales, marketing and gifts to guests. The new onsite restaurant, Canyon Fish Market & Grill, is also incorporating root beer into some of their recipes.

As the exclusive full-service hotel north of Salt Lake City, Ogden Marriott is poised to serve thrill seekers as Ogden continues to be recognized as the high-adventure capitol of the Intermountain West.

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