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Tampa Bay Watch Announces New Board Members

Tierra Verde, FL - Tampa Bay Watch is proud to announce new members of its Board of Directors: Carol Marks and Terry McCarthy.

Carol Marks is retired after a 32-year career as a Special Agent Criminal Investigator with the United States Secret Service (USSS) from 1984 to 2016. In 2016, Ms. Marks retired from the USSS and relocated to the Tampa Bay Area with her husband Kenneth Wrede. Retirement allowed her to pursue her lifelong interests in nature, conservation, and restoration of wildlife habitat. Ms. Marks is a 25+ year member of The Nature Conservancy, The National Parks Conservation Association, and The National Resources Defense Council. Since retirement, Ms. Marks continues to support these national organizations and is actively engaged as a member and volunteer with Tampa Bay Watch for the past five years.

Terry McCarthy has worked in real estate development and investment since 1978 by redeveloping, hotels, offices, and retirement communities. In 2014, Mr. McCarthy created TJM Atlantic City and purchased two casino hotels, The Claridge and Atlantic City Club. He currently owns and operates four full service flag hotels in the northeast, six other hotels in Florida and the East, four Retirement Communities including The Oaks of Clearwater and the Princess Martha in Pinellas County, plus a portfolio of residential hotels, apartments, office buildings and several residences around the country. Terry also is on the Board of Directors for St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation and Florida Funders.

Carol and Terry bring a variety of skills, experience, and diversity to Tampa Bay Watch's board composition. "I am very proud and excited about our new board members. They are professional individuals that contribute personally and professionally to Tampa Bay Watch as we continue to increase awareness of our mission to restore the bay through restoration projects, environmental education programs, and the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center on the St. Pete Pier," states Dwayne Virgint, Chief Executive Officer of Tampa Bay Watch.

The entire slate of board members includes Mark Chmielewski, Mike Wilson, Travis Parker, Elizabeth Daly, Lari Johnson, Kevin Kelso, Steven Lay, MD, Mary Ann Renfrow, Steve Stanley, Chip Webster, and Larry Weiner.

Tampa Bay Watch, Inc., is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary through scientific and educational programs. Incorporated in 1993, Tampa Bay Watch performs habitat restoration and protection activities throughout the year, relying heavily on the efforts of community volunteers. The Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center on the St. Pete Pier is a significant new addition to the education and conservation efforts of Tampa Bay Watch and is integral to the advancement of the organization's mission. The Discovery Center is an interactive visitor experience showcasing the economic, ecological and recreational value of the Tampa Bay estuary to residents and visitors as well as an academic component that expands environmental and educational outreach programs to Tampa Bay area schools, residents, and visitors.

Tampa Bay Watch is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) stewardship program dedicated exclusively to the charitable and scientific purpose of protecting and restoring the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary encompassing over 400 square miles of open water and 2,300 square miles of highly- developed watershed. Tampa Bay Watch involves more than 10,000 youth and adult volunteers each year in hands on habitat restoration projects. For more information, visit www.tampabaywatch.org, or call 727-867-8166.

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