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GORDON FOOD SERVICE® MOURNS THE PASSING OF PAUL GORDON

Grand Rapids, MI, May 7, 2008 - Paul Gordon, Chairman of Gordon Food Service (GFS), passed away Tuesday evening, May 6, 2008 at home after a brief battle with cancer. He was 84. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Dorothy, and siblings: Phil (Beth), John (Nancy) and Lois (Bill) Lanning. Paul is also survived by sons Dan (Magee) and Jim (Bonnie), and daughters Connie (Terry) Metzger and Joyce (Ron) Williams, 16 grandchildren and 5 great-grand children.

Paul Gordon influenced the lives of so many with his warmth, humbleness and generosity. While he dedicated his career to the food service industry and is best known for his business achievements, the impact Paul had on others goes far beyond the food service business. His commitment to integrity and his genuine concern for each customer, supplier, employee and their families established a company culture that still defines Gordon Food Service today. Paul left a strong spiritual heritage that will light the path for generations to follow as his legacy encompasses strong relationships, faith in a loving God, and a focus on serving others.

Born July 13, 1923 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Paul was the first son of Ben and Ruth Gordon. Some of Paul's earliest childhood memories were those of his father Ben, struggling through the very difficult times of the Great Depression. Ben was working for his father-in-law, Isaac, in the family grocery wholesaling business and growing up during these tough times taught Paul the true meaning of thrift, the importance of values, the power of faith, and the priority of giving.

Paul served in the United States Navy during World War II. He was assigned to the destroyer USS Fred T. Berry and served as a gunnery officer, achieving the rank of lieutenant. Upon discharge from the Navy, Paul attended the University of Michigan, graduating in 1948 with a degree in business. After graduation, at the request of his father Ben, Paul joined the newly reorganized Gordon Food Service. On July 17 of that same year, he married Dorothy "Dottie" Duncan.

The post-war economy created never-before-seen opportunities and growth. As customer demands increased, Paul worked to develop the frozen food business. Refrigeration technology in transportation was in its infancy but through many trials and errors, Paul worked to improve refrigeration on the Gordon Food Service fleet of trucks. From simple blocks of ice to multiple Thermo King® Refrigeration Units, Paul's unwavering drive to improve systems pushed the refrigerant industry toward finding solutions that are still in use today.

In 1965, Paul Gordon succeeded his father Ben as president of Gordon Food Service, and his brother John became secretary-treasurer. Together they initiated many industry innovations including state-of-art warehouse

technology. In 1973, the purchase and installation of a stacker crane was one of the first ten of its kind in operation in the United States. In 1974, in recognition for its phenomenal growth and industry leadership, Gordon Food Service became the first company to be named "Great Distributor Organization" by the foodservice industry publication – *Institutional Distribution*. In 1985, Paul helped organize a new marketing organization known as Markon® Cooperative, bringing together four other major independent distributors with GFS. The goal was to elevate the quality, consistency, packaging, and marketing of fresh produce within the foodservice industry.

In addition to implementing many innovations and spurring growth through significant investment in warehouse expansion and equipment, Paul was deeply committed to defining the philosophical direction of the company. His commitment to integrity, and his genuine concern for each employee and their families, established a company culture that still defines Gordon Food Service today. Dave Gray, Gordon Food Service board member said, "Paul Gordon is the ultimate example of how we should live our lives. He has touched the lives of so many of us with his warmth, humbleness and generosity. The balance Paul maintained between his God, his family, his community and his business is a lesson for all of us."

After 26 years as president, Paul Gordon stepped down in 1991, passing the torch to his son, Dan. Paul's wealth of knowledge and experience would continue to be a great influence on the company through his leadership as chairman. "Paul Gordon was truly a great man. I have never known anyone who achieved so much and was also loved by so many. Paul inspired us all with his love of God, his devotion to family, his business leadership, and his humility and generosity," said B. Joseph White, another Gordon Food Service board member and President, University of Illinois.

Paul was honored with many distinguished awards including the Outstanding Business Leader from Northwood University in 1994, the C. John Miller Business Leadership Award from Cornerstone University in 2001, the 2001 Business Person of the Year from the Economic Club of Grand Rapids, Ernst & Young West Michigan Entrepreneur of the Year 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award, and the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Foodservice Distributors Association (IFDA).

A man with a deep and personal relationship with God, Paul was very involved with the ministries of Berean Baptist Church and the Gull Lake Bible Missionary Conference, known today as Gull Lake Ministries, where he served as Chairman of the Board for over 40 years. His interest in God's work around the world also opened doors to serve on the board of international mission agencies like HCJB World Radio and SIM International.

About Gordon Food Service

Gordon Food Service, founded in 1897, is North America's largest family-owned and managed broadline foodservice distributor. Gordon Food Service is an international corporation offering more than 16,000 GFS and nationally branded products to over 45,000 customers in 15 states within the U.S. and throughout Canada. The company also operates 127 GFS Marketplace® retail stores. For more information about Gordon Food Service, visit the company's website at www.gfs.com.