**James T. Dresher, Jr.**

***Caring & Successful Business & Community Leadership***

James T. Dresher, Jr. made a career out of making other people feel at home. After graduating from Rutgers University in the early 1970’s, Jim Dresher and his brother-in-law became McDonald’s franchise owners, eventually owning 12 restaurants in Baltimore and Harford Counties. During his 18 years with McDonald’s, Jim served in key roles in the organization. For four of those years, he was President of the McDonald’s Owner/Operators’ Association for the Baltimore/Washington Region. In his late twenties, he was elected to serve on OPNAD, McDonald’s national advertising board. During that time, Jim also was involved with many local and regional organizations, including as an advisor to Kenwood High School’s business education programs, the Middle River Boys’ and Girls’ Club, and several local recreation councils. He was a founding board member of Baltimore’s Ronald McDonald House and served two years as President of the (then) Essex-Middle River Chamber of Commerce. In 1990 Jim was honored as one of the top five (out of 2,300) McDonald’s franchise owners in the United States.

After selling his McDonald’s restaurants in 1990, Jim opened several Golden Corral restaurants. That effort only lasted a few years until opening his first hotel, the Hampton Inn in White Marsh. Jim sold his Golden Corrals and opened an additional nine Marriott and Hilton-branded hotels in Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties and in Baltimore City. Operating as Skye Hospitality, Jim’s ten hotels earned many national honors for operational excellence, including Marriott’s Outstanding Hotel of the Year on several occasions.

After fifteen years as a hotel owner, Jim changed direction again, selling his ten hotels and starting Skye Asset Management, a private investment fund. With several investments in local technology companies as well as 1st Mariner Bank (now Howard Bank where he serves on the board) Jim still maintains his office in White Marsh.

Jim serves on the boards of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Medicine, and Johns Hopkins Health System and recently completed a seven year term as Chairman of the Board of Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. He remains committed to the Baltimore community.

Jim and his wife Patti, who grew up in Essex and is a graduate of Eastern Tech, CCBC-Essex, and Towson University, live on a horse farm where they breed and raise thoroughbred horses.