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Friday, March 27, 2009

Bruce Howard Appointed Senior Vice President and General Manager of Ameristar Casino Hotel Vicksburg

Context

LAS VEGAS, NV, Mar 27, 2009 (MARKET WIRE via COMTEX) ----Ameristar Casinos, Inc. (NASDAQ: ASCA: 13.5, -0.66, -4.0%) has announced that Bruce Howard has been named Senior Vice President and General Manager of Ameristar Casino Hotel Vicksburg in Vicksburg, Miss., effective March 23, 2009.

Howard, a 23-year gaming industry veteran who most recently served as Senior Vice President and General Manager of M Resort Las Vegas, where he was replaced by Adrian Caldwell, who has resigned from the Company to pursue other opportunities. "We thank Adrian for his almost 10 years of service and wish him the best in his new moves on to new challenges," said Michelle Shriver, Senior Vice President of Operations for Ameristar.

Howard has an extensive background in casino operations with a variety of properties in markets ranging from Lake Charles, Louisiana, where he was General Manager of Ameristar's property in St. Charles, Mo., in 2002-03, where he helped to oversee the successful reopening and renovation of the property's acquisition by Ameristar in 2000.

Howard began his gaming career in 1985 as Assistant Director of Food & Beverage of Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, where he later served as President of Food and Beverage for Players Island Resort/Casino in Mesquite, Nev., and later, as Vice President of Operations of the property. Before joining M, he was Vice President of Operations and General Manager of Valley View Casino in Valley Center, Calif. He has also held operations positions at Bally's and Aladdin in Las Vegas.

"With his impressive background in operations for a variety of gaming companies, we are excited to have Bruce rejoin the Ameristar family. Bruce is well known and respected in the industry as an especially skilled coach and mentor firmly committed to the collaboration and success of Ameristar. I'm confident Bruce will build upon Vicksburg's past successes and provide the leadership needed to capitalize on the property's potential."

Ameristar last year completed a \$100 million expansion of its Vicksburg property, which included a casino expansion that added 100 slot machines, restaurants, a VIP lounge and a 1,000-space parking garage. The property's 149-room hotel also was renovated during the year.

"I'm very excited to be rejoining Ameristar," Howard said. "Ameristar Casino Hotel Vicksburg is an exceptional property staffed with a great team. I look forward to working closely with Team Members in Vicksburg and executives across the Company to help the property reach its full potential."

Howard, 51, graduated from Florida International University in Miami, Fla., with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Forward-Looking Information

This release contains certain forward-looking information that generally can be identified by the context of the statement or the use of words such as "believes," "estimates," "anticipates," "intends," "expects," "plans," "is confident that," "should" or words of similar meaning, and "should" or words of similar meaning. Similarly, statements that describe our future plans, objectives, strategies, financial results or position, operational expectations or other forward-looking information. There is no assurance that our expectations may not be met due to various factors, many of which are beyond our control, and we therefore cannot guarantee that our expectations will prove to be correct. For a discussion of relevant factors, risks and uncertainties that could materially affect our performance, see "Risk Factors" and "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2008.

About Ameristar

Ameristar Casinos, Inc. is a leading Las Vegas-based gaming and entertainment company known for its premier properties offering the art of casino floors and superior dining, lodging and entertainment offerings. Ameristar's focus on the total entertainment experience has earned it leading market share positions in the markets in which it operates. Founded in 1954 in Jackpot, Nev., Ameristar has since grown to become a leading gaming and entertainment company. The Company has a portfolio of eight casinos in seven markets: Ameristar Casino Resort Spa in St. Charles (greater St. Louis area), Ameristar Casino in Tunica, Miss., Ameristar Casino in Biloxi, Miss., Ameristar Casino in Vicksburg, Miss., Ameristar Casino in Lake Charles, La., Ameristar Casino in Mesquite, Nev., and Ameristar Casino in Las Vegas.

Casino Hotel Council Bluffs (Omaha, Neb. and southwestern Iowa); Ameristar Casino Hotel Vicksburg (Jackson, Miss. and M
(Chicagoland area); Ameristar Casino Black Hawk (Denver metropolitan area); and Cactus Petes and The Horseshu in Jackp

Visit Ameristar Casinos' web site at www.ameristar.com (which shall not be deemed to be incorporated in or a part of this nev

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