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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Shane Sharp  
Buffalo Communications  
704.519.8381 (cell)  
[ssharp@buffalocommunications.com](mailto:ssharp@buffalocommunications.com)

David Wood  
Buffalo Communications  
703.635.0577 (cell)  
[dwood@buffalocommunications.com](mailto:dwood@buffalocommunications.com)

**Kenny Gilbert Named Executive Chef at PGA National Resort & Spa**

***Current 'Top Chef' Contestant to Oversee Culinary Operation of Premier Florida Destination***

**(PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.)** – PGA National Resort & Spa – home of the newly-reinvented Ironwood Grille restaurant and trend-setting iBAR lounge – announces that Kenneth “Kenny” Gilbert has been named new Executive Chef of the AAA Four Diamond property and will oversee the resort’s culinary operation.

Currently a season seven contestant on Bravo's Emmy Award-winning series “Top Chef,” Gilbert comes to PGA National from Capella Telluride where he was executive chef for the ultra-luxury Colorado resort. With more than 17 years as a top name in the industry, Gilbert has been invited to cook at the prestigious James Beard House in New York on multiple occasions. At 23, he became the youngest African American chef to run a Ritz-Carlton Hotel restaurant at the AAA Five-Diamond Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island.

“We’re honored to have a chef as talented and highly sought-after as Kenny join the PGA National team,” says Joel Paige, Vice President and Managing Director of PGA National. “As the television audience has seen on ‘Top Chef’ episodes week after week, he possesses tremendous skills in the kitchen, exhibits grace under pressure and shows a strong desire to help other members of his profession succeed.”

“PGA National has an incredible energy and vibe channeling through all of its restaurants and food and beverage operations,” says Gilbert. “I am excited to utilize my background and skill sets to create an unforgettable culinary experience for resort guests.”

Gilbert was named "Star Chef of the Year" by The Chef's Garden and Culinary Vegetable Institute in 2005 and won The Food Network's "Ready, Set Cook" challenge in Jacksonville in 2001. He previously served as the executive chef for the BallenIsles Country Club and The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club and Spa, Jupiter, where he introduced 115 Prime Steak House. He is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Culinary Institute in Pittsburg.

Gilbert will be responsible for all menus and food concepts including casual fine dining in the Ironwood Grille and lighter resort fare in the iBAR lobby lounge. He will create health conscious cuisine for the elegant "Waters of the World" at The Spa at PGA National Resort, and specific cuisine for other resort eateries under his domain including: Wave Poolside Grille, Citrus Tree, The Bear Trap and The 19<sup>th</sup> hole.

For information on PGA National Resort & Spa, visit [www.pgaresort.com](http://www.pgaresort.com) or call 800.533.9386.

### **About PGA National Resort & Spa**

PGA National Resort & Spa is a national, premier golf vacation and meeting destination. The legendary 379-room Florida resort recently completed a \$65 million comprehensive revitalization, including a new front entrance, outdoor pool and pavilion, new Ironwood Grille and iBar, as well as enhanced public areas, golf courses and landscaping.

PGA National Resort & Spa offers 90 holes of championship golf on five courses, including the famed Champion course, home to the PGA Tour's Honda Classic. The resort's storied golf history includes hosting the 1983 Ryder Cup, 1987 PGA Championship, and nearly two decades of the Senior PGA Championship. In addition to The Champion, PGA National's award-winning golf courses are: The Palmer, The Haig, The Squire and The Estates.

Other distinguishing features include a 40,000 square-foot European Spa with 32 treatment areas and the exclusive "Waters of the World" outdoor mineral pools, a world-class 33,000 square-foot health-and-racquet club with 19 Har Tru tennis courts, 40,000 square feet of self-contained conference space and nine on-site restaurants and lounges.

Conveniently located within easy driving distances of major Florida population centers, the AAA Four Diamond resort is a 15-minute drive from Palm Beach International Airport (PBI), one hour from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) and 90 minutes from Miami International Airport (MIA).