



## **News Release**

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### **William L. "Bill" Wilson Announces Retirement As Belk Executive Vice President of Real Estate and Store Planning**

CHARLOTTE, N.C., September 3, 2009 – William L. "Bill" Wilson announced his retirement as Belk executive vice president of real estate and store planning effective on August 31, 2009 following 32 years of exemplary leadership and service to the company.

Wilson joined the company in December 1977 as manager of real estate and subsequently was promoted to vice president in 1982, senior vice president in 1985 and executive vice president in 1990.

"Bill has played a key leadership role in the growth and development of Belk while at the helm of the real estate department," said Tim Belk, chairman and CEO of Belk, Inc. "He has been instrumental in the opening of hundreds of new stores throughout our market area and played a key role in the company's acquisitions of stores from Dillard's, Saks Incorporated and other competitors. During his career, the total combined size of Belk stores grew from 14.8 million gross square feet to more than 29 million gross square feet today."

Wilson has built and maintained outstanding relationships with numerous retail developers and shopping center owners throughout the country which enabled Belk to position its stores in premium locations in the leading malls and retail centers across the South. He is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and served on its board of trustees from 1999 to 2005. He is also a member of the Center for Real Estate board of advisors at the Belk College of Business at UNC Charlotte.

Prior to joining Belk, Wilson was real estate manager for Roses Stores in Henderson, N.C. and vice president of real estate for Jack Eckerd Corporation in Clearwater, Fla. The Winston-Salem, N.C. native is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a BSBA degree in business.

Wilson is a member of Myers Park Methodist Church, Myers Park Country Club, the Charlotte Good Fellows Club and the Blowing Rock Country Club. He and his wife Melinda have two sons, Scott of Charlotte, Greg of Chattanooga, Tenn., and a daughter, Lauren of Tampa, Fla.

#### **About Belk, Inc.**

Charlotte, N.C.-based Belk, Inc. is the nation's largest privately owned mainline department store company with 307 Belk stores in 16 Southern states. The company was founded in 1888 by William Henry Belk in Monroe, N.C., and is in the third generation of Belk family leadership.

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