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A Short History of Viking Range: Professional Performance for Your Home

(Greenwood, MS (January 2015)) - Viking Range, LLC is committed to innovative products of the highest quality. The majority of its product line is proudly made in Greenwood, Mississippi, USA. Viking is a division of the Middleby Corporation and has a proud history.

Viking Range was founded by Fred Carl, Jr. in the 1980s. In the midst of building his own home, he discovered the range he wanted did not exist. So Carl took to the drawing board and after countless late nights, he finally arrived at a hybrid that corralled the cooking power and features of a professional range into a design feasible for home use.

Carl persuaded a small commercial company in southern California to produce the first Viking range for him. After two years of trial, error and extensive testing, the first Viking ranges received American Gas Association certification in late 1986 and shipped in January 1987. Incredible consumer response quickly overwhelmed the contract manufacturer.

Viking soon opened its own manufacturing plant in Greenwood, Mississippi, and realized there was room for professional performance in every corner of the kitchen. By the end of the decade, Viking was operating three manufacturing facilities in Greenwood, and the Viking kitchen grew to include built-in cooking, ventilation, refrigeration, kitchen cleanup, and outdoor products. Since 2000, additional facilities have been added as the company and its product line grew. A dishwasher plant, a distribution center, and a tool and die center brought the total square footage of Viking manufacturing and distribution facilities to more than 500,000 square feet.

Viking has continued its aggressive new product development initiatives and has expanded its product offerings to encompass the entire kitchen, both indoors and outdoors. In addition to its flagship freestanding ranges, the current Viking product line includes ventilation, built-in range tops and cooktops, built-in ovens, warming drawers, dishwashers, trash compactors, refrigerators, freezers, wine cellars, and an entire line of outdoor products including grills, warming drawers, refrigeration and stainless steel cabinetry.

In 2001, Viking began renovations on the historic Hotel Irving in downtown Greenwood. Renamed The Alluvian and designed as an upscale boutique hotel offering unparalleled amenities, the hotel opened to widespread acclaim in May 2003. In addition, The Alluvian Spa; Giardina's Restaurant, a Mississippi Delta dining landmark since 1936; and the Viking Cooking School and Retail Store provide an entertaining and memorable experience, resulting in the renowned Viking facilities becoming a unique and popular tourist destination.

On December 31, 2012, The Middleby Corporation, a global leader in the commercial foodservice equipment industry, acquired Viking. Middleby has more than 50 companies in its portfolio and has a proven track record of acquiring and growing companies through bringing innovative, patented products to the market. Many synergies and growth opportunities exist between Viking and other Middleby brands and the acquisition of Viking strategically positioned Middleby to expand into the residential market with a strong, leading brand. Middleby has an established presence outside of the U.S., which helps Viking expand to new international markets.

Since the acquisition Viking has introduced over 60 new innovative products that incorporate proven commercial kitchen technology from Middleby into Viking residential products. These new Viking products further enable true restaurant results in a home kitchen.

Viking Range, LLC originated ultra-premium commercial-type appliances for the home, creating a whole new category of home appliances. Committed to innovative product design, unrivaled performance and peerless quality, Viking is headquartered in

Greenwood, Mississippi, and is a subsidiary of The Middleby Corporation, a long-time leader in commercial kitchen technology. Viking appliances are recognized globally as the foremost brand in the high-end appliance industry and are sold through a network of premium appliance distributors and dealers worldwide.

For additional product information, to locate a Viking dealer in your area, or to request a quote, please visit www.vikingrange.com. VIKING is a registered trademark of Viking Range, LLC. Viking products are sold under the BRIGADE brand in Canada.