

**Mark Smith** was born and raised in Savannah, GA. He attended Georgia Tech in Atlanta and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management and a minor in Political Science. While at Georgia Tech, Mr. Smith interned in the office of Senator Herman Talmadge and worked full time in Senator Sam Nunn's first re-election campaign.

Upon graduation in 1979, Mr. Smith went to work in the Real Estate Department of Days Inn of America. His responsibilities included all facets of the development and financing of hotel projects throughout the U.S. In 1986, Mr. Smith left Days Inn and became an independent hotel owner and broker. He has been involved in the sale of over \$300 million worth of hotel properties since that time.

In 1992, Mr. Thomas Prince, Mr. Robert Bush, and Mark Smith acquired the Mulberry Inn of Savannah out of bankruptcy. As a result, Savannah Investors was created with Mark as managing partner. Mr. Smith moved to Savannah to oversee the renovation of the Mulberry and the rebuilding of its business. The Mulberry is now the premier hotel in Savannah, Georgia. It excels in customer service and atmosphere. In 1997, Savannah Investors opened the Hampton Inn Historic District on Bay Street, three blocks from the Mulberry Inn. This opening culminated a three-year development process which required close collaboration with the Historic Savannah Foundation and the City of Savannah. The performance of this property places it in the upper 1% of the Hampton Inn chain. In December 2007, Savannah Investors opened a 143 room, \$20 million Holiday Inn Express across Abercorn Street from the Hampton Inn.

Mr. Smith is also Chief Executive Officer for his family's water utility business, which has in excess of 10,000 water and wastewater connections in Southeast Georgia. Mr. Smith is very active in community affairs and is presently Chairman of the Georgia International Maritime Trade and Convention Center. In 2008 he was elected as a Curator of the Georgia Historical Society. He is currently president of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension. Past service includes Chairman of the Savannah Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Trustee of the Coastal Heritage Society, and member of the Historic Savannah Foundation Board.