

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**THE ROBERT IRVINE GROUP WELCOMES SCOTT SONNEMAKER AS STRATEGIC ADVISOR**

*Scott Sonnemaker, U.S. Navy Veteran and current member of the Robert Irvine Foundation Board of Directors brings over 20 years of experience to his newly created advisory role*

**Tampa, FL (May 7, 2021)** -- The Robert Irvine Group announced today that U.S. Navy Veteran Scott Sonnemaker has joined the team as Strategic Advisor. Already a part of the Robert Irvine Foundation Board of Directors, in this expanded role Sonnemaker will advise leadership at Robert Irvine Foods as well as Irvine's Spirits in strategic direction and overall guidance.

*"It is an honor to build upon my relationship with Robert Irvine and his team. With Robert Irvine Foods and Irvine's Spirits, Robert takes an innovative approach to chef-driven food and beverage - to have the opportunity to assist in the growth of both is an exciting endeavor." Notes Sonnemaker, "As a retired Navy veteran, Robert's commitment to the military community through food and hospitality is near and dear to my heart. This is a team I am proud to stand with."*

Scott Sonnemaker joined the Robert Irvine Foundation's Board of Directors in December 2020 having served the nation as a member of the US Navy, on active duty from 1985-1990 serving through four deployments. Sonnemaker first became introduced to Robert Irvine during his 20 year career with Sysco Corporation where he ultimately served as Chief Customer Officer. Following his time at Sysco, Sonnemaker joined Genuine Parts Company where he most recently served as Group President, North American Automotive. Sonnemaker has served on the Board of Directors for the National Restaurant Association, held the Vice-Chair position with the National Restaurant Education Foundation and has local board experience with the Special Olympics Oregon and Oregon Restaurant Association.

In his role as Strategic Advisor, Sonnemaker is tasked with creating a multi-year strategy around the alignment and growth of Robert Irvine Foods and Irvine's Spirits. As with all of Irvine's endeavors, a portion of proceeds from Robert Irvine Foods and Irvine's Spirits goes to support the Robert Irvine Foundation, whose primary focus is on giving-back and supporting our military personnel (active, retired, and veterans) and first responders through resiliency and health and wellness programs. Sonnemaker will be an asset to the Irvine team as he will be equipped to aid in the growth of Robert Irvine Foods & Irvine's Spirits, as well as utilize his own passion for support of the military to further the reach of Robert's proven passion and results of serving and supporting the military community.

*"I am so excited to further the relationship of long-time supporter of the Robert Irvine Foundation, Scott Sonnemaker, as he begins his role as Strategic Advisor for the Robert Irvine Group," shares Robert Irvine "Scott is deeply connected to the military and has wholeheartedly believed in our mission for years. Our team is looking forward to having him onboard as we continue to grow our efforts to support the military and first responder community. I'm proud to have Scott with us as Strategic Advisor and can't wait to get started!"*

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