

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **“The Awakening” Finds Permanent Home at National Harbor**

### *J. Seward Johnson’s Five-Piece Sculpture to Rise from Potomac Shoreline in Spring 2008*

**NATIONAL HARBOR, Md., April \_\_, 2007** — The Peterson Companies is pleased and proud to announce the purchase of J. Seward Johnson’s sculpture, “The Awakening” and its relocation from Hains Point to the shores of the Potomac River at National Harbor.

“The Awakening”, a five-piece, cast aluminum sculpture more than 70 feet in length and approximately 15 feet at its highest point, has been arduously rising from an earth-covered slumber at the tip of Hains Point since its installation in 1980 as part of a city-wide public art exhibition. Since then, the piece has been on loan to the National Park Service, which manages the East Potomac Park property.

“I am delighted that the ‘Giant’ has at long last found a permanent home, particularly one that will provide him with such prominent and accessible accommodations,” Mr. Johnson said. “I believe National Harbor is the perfect site for ‘The Awakening,’ and I hope generations of Washington-area residents and visitors will enjoy interacting with him along the banks of the Potomac.”

According to The Sculpture Foundation, which owned the piece, the statue had been quietly available for sale for several years and interest in it had come from prospective buyers as far away as Japan. It was recently acquired by the Peterson Companies, whose founder and chairman, Milt Peterson is a longtime Washington-area developer and is currently developing National Harbor.

“‘The Awakening’ is a magnificent piece of public art, at the same time thought-provoking and fanciful,” said Mr. Peterson. “We are thrilled to have it take up residence on the waterfront at National Harbor where it will be joined by all manner of public art, including three newly-commissioned pieces by Albert Paley. National Harbor is an entirely new city along the banks of a grand river, and it demands art that has energy, scale and grandeur of its own. We are thrilled to have that in ‘The Awakening’ and in Mr. Paley’s work.”

Albert Paley is a renowned sculptor whose monumental metal sculptures are featured in such institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art. Currently, Mr. Paley is constructing an entrance gate for a chapel at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Among the pieces commissioned for National Harbor is an 80-foot abstract vertical pillar flanking the entrance to the property. Additionally, Mr. Paley is creating two abstract bald eagles, held aloft high above the street on 30-foot perches and flanking the main thoroughfare leading up the heart of the property from the banks of the Potomac River and the new site of "The Awakening".

"Public art will help set the tone for the spirit of National Harbor," added Mr. Peterson.

"The Awakening" will be refurbished and moved to National Harbor in time for the spring 2008 opening of its first phase of development, which includes the 2,000-room Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center and portions of National Harbor's mile-and-a-quarter waterfront. The development's first residences, restaurants and other hotels also are scheduled to open later next year. National Harbor's landscaping, layout, lighting and fountains, as well as a prolific commitment to many genres and styles of public art, will contribute to the development's sense of place. The entire community will be brought to life throughout the year with festivals, music and more. Even National Harbor's main thoroughfare, American Way, a 3,000-foot promenade down the center of the property, is being designed as an homage to the American experience.

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#### **About "The Awakening"**

Part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sculpture Conference in 1980, which included the installation of 500 pieces of public art throughout Washington, D.C., "The Awakening" is a cast aluminum sculpture depicting the arousing of a bearded giant. The piece is actually five separate ones – head, hand, outstretched arm, bent knee and foot – arranged in such a fashion as to suggest that the giant is breaking free from the confines of the earth. Since the closing of the exhibit more than a quarter century ago, the sculpture has remained at its location by way of annual loan agreements between The Sculpture Foundation and the National Park Service. In 1986, Congress passed a law stipulating that sculpture on Park Service land must be "commemorative" in nature, or be installed for only a brief period of time.

**About National Harbor**

Rising from the banks of the Potomac just south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Prince George's County, Md., National Harbor is a 300-acre, mixed-used development that will include five hotels (including the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center), thousands of residential units, tree-lined promenades with scores of shops and offices, a marina and much more. Created by Washington, D.C.-area developer, The Peterson Companies., the project will command a mile and a quarter of the Potomac.

**About The Peterson Cos.**

The Peterson Companies and its affiliates have had a major impact on real estate development in the Washington, DC, area for more than 30 years. The firm is one of the largest privately owned development companies in the region.

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