



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

****THE LESTER GROUP APPOINTS NEW VP, FORTRESS DOOR COMPANY****

Martinsville, VA – The Lester Group is pleased to announce the appointment of Jerry Pennington as the new Vice President of Fortress Door Company, effective October 28. Jerry brings over three decades of industry experience to his new role at Fortress Door, where he will be instrumental in guiding the company’s sales and operational strategies.

Jerry Pennington comes to Fortress Door after a distinguished 19-year tenure at American Direct, where he held several key executive roles and significantly contributed to the company’s growth. His extensive experience also includes 13 years of valuable industry involvement with various independent distributors in the Midwest and with VELUX America.

Under his leadership, Fortress Door Company is set to expand its operations with a new manufacturing plant in Atlanta later this year. This expansion is aimed at increasing the production capacity of their commercial door line. The new facility will enhance the company’s ability to meet the growing demand in the commercial and residential sectors, reinforcing its commitment to delivering exceptional, tailored solutions to each customer.

“Jerry’s extensive experience and respected reputation in the commercial doors sector, combined with his proven leadership abilities, make him an invaluable addition to the Fortress Door Company,” said Jay Dickens, CEO of The Lester Group. “As we expand our operations, including the opening of a new manufacturing facility in Atlanta, GA, Jerry’s role will be pivotal in ensuring that we continue to deliver the highest standards of product and service to our clients.”

Fortress Door, a subsidiary of The Lester Group, is renowned for its high-quality commercial and residential doors, providing innovative solutions and services to a wide range of customers. Pennington’s appointment comes at a time when the company is poised for significant growth, with strategic expansions aimed at enhancing service delivery and customer satisfaction.

“We are thrilled to have Jerry on board,” said Jay Dickens, CEO/President of The Lester Group. “His remarkable track record in the commercial and residential door markets and his respected leadership style make him the perfect fit for guiding Fortress Door into its next phase of growth, especially as we prepare to expand our operations with a new manufacturing facility in Atlanta, GA.”

Pennington expressed his enthusiasm about his new role, stating, "I am excited to join The Lester Group and contribute to the continued success of Fortress Door Company. I look



forward to working with the team to expand our reach and continue providing excellent products and services to our customers.”

This strategic hire marks a significant step in The Lester Group’s ongoing efforts to enhance their market presence in the commercial and residential door industry and to ensure the highest level of service and product quality as they expand into new territories.

Jerry Pennington can be contacted at Jerry.Pennington@lestergroup.com

****About Fortress Door Company****Founded in 2016 as a subsidiary of The Lester Group, Fortress Door Company specializes in the manufacturing of high-quality doors tailored to customer specifications. The company serves both commercial and residential markets, providing products that lead in both design and functionality. With a commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction, Fortress Door is poised for continued growth and industry leadership.

****About The Lester Group**

The Lester Group is based in Martinsville, Virginia, with a 128-year legacy of serving Virginia and surrounding areas. The company's diverse portfolio includes forestlands, six building material locations, door manufacturing, and real estate developments. The Lester Group is committed to innovation, quality, and serving the community.

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