



**JIM THOMAS**  
Darden Restaurants  
VP, Supply Management

Jim Thomas is Vice President, Supply Management for Darden. Jim leads Darden's North American foodservice distribution, durable logistics, corporate transportation programs, global importation and logistics processes. Darden's global supply chain provides food products – including its extensive offering of seafood and beef – along with capital equipment and small wares in support of to more than 1,800 restaurants across North America. Jim serves as an corporate officer of Darden Direct Distribution and provides a leadership role to the enterprise-wide supply chain transformation. He also has responsibility for leading Darden's Hurricane Task Force which provides logistical support to any of more than 650 Darden restaurants that could potentially be impacted by a storm during the Atlantic hurricane season.

Darden is a family of restaurant brands built on decades of learning from our guests. Our culinary inspirations come from the fishing villages of Maine, the family tables of Italy and the American West – icons that reflect the rich diversity of those who visit our restaurants. Because we serve more than 400 million meals a year, we've come to know our guests extremely well. And that's why we're able to make our guests feel so welcome, special and at ease at Red Lobster, Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse and our other restaurants including The Capital Grille, Season's 52 and Bahama Breeze.

We have a strong track record of doing what's right. We employ 180,000 people, which gives us 180,000 reasons to create a great place to work and teach enduring life skills. We're actively involved in the hundreds of local communities where our people live and work. And, as a global purchaser of natural resources, we're actively committed to sustainability.

Jim joined Darden in 2001 as Director of Restaurant Distribution. His excellent organizational leadership at Darden was recognized in 2003, when he received the company's top honor, a Brilliance Award. Before joining Darden, Jim held a variety of leadership positions in manufacturing and supply chain management for Oberweis Dairy, McCain Foods and Frito Lay. Jim received a bachelor's degree in Operations Management from The Pennsylvania State University. He earned an MBA from the University of Chicago.

