



NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release, October 28, 2019

Contact: Mary Coppola

mcoppola@unitedfresh.org

202-303-3425

United Fresh to Honor Emanuel Lazopoulos with Lifetime Achievement Award

Lazopoulos will receive honor at FreshStart Conference in January

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 28, 2019) – United Fresh Produce Association will present its Lifetime Achievement Award to Emanuel Lazopoulos, former Senior Vice President of Del Monte Fresh Produce, Inc., at the 2020 FreshStart Conference’s Gala Dinner, Wednesday, January 15, at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, AZ.

“Emanuel has been the consummate professional role model in the produce industry, not only in advancing Del Monte during his tenure there, but serving as a leader throughout his career to move the industry forward,” said Tom Stenzel, United Fresh President & CEO. “We are delighted to celebrate Emanuel’s decades of impact, and I encourage the industry to help us honor him at the FreshStart Conference in January.”

Lazopoulos joins a distinguished group of past recipients, including Ron Carkoski, Hugh Topper, Bruce McEvoy, Rick and Tonya Antle, Mike Cavallero, Joe Procacci, Reggie Griffin, Frieda Caplan and Bob Grimm (posthumously).

Lazopoulos started at Del Monte Fresh Produce in 2003 as Vice President, Value-Added/Fresh Cut, and after 18 months, was promoted to Senior Vice President, North America. During his tenure, Lazopoulos was instrumental in growing all aspects of Del Monte’s North American business, including banana and pineapple sales, expansion of the company’s fresh-cut operations across the region, growth in avocados and the recent acquisition of Mann Packing.

Lazopoulos has held numerous industry leadership positions, serving as Chairman of the United Fresh Board of Directors, and a member of the United Fresh Start Foundation’s Board of Directors, the Produce Marketing Association’s Retail Board, and the Produce for Better Health Foundation Board of Directors.

Lazopoulos began his career at Castle & Cooke/Dole Foods in Philadelphia in 1979 after graduating from the University of Delaware. He was promoted to Eastern Division Sales Manager for Dole Fresh Vegetables, then moved to Salinas, CA as National Sales Manager and subsequently Vice President of Sales. He did a short stint with Salyer American before moving back east to help establish Banacol bananas and DNA Plant Technology operations through Fresh World Farms. Moving back to Salinas, he was one of three founding partners in NewStar Fresh Foods, where he served as Managing Director.

He has been married to his college sweetheart Laura for 41 years. They have three married daughters, and three grandchildren.

In addition to the *Gala Dinner*, the United Fresh Start Foundation's annual event will once again feature the *Growing Up Fresh* golf tournament, the *Bids for Kids* silent and live auction and a half-day of education. The FreshStart Conference will take place January 14-16, 2020, at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, AZ. United Fresh will also hold all of its committee, council and board meetings at the conference, which are open to all members to observe.

FreshStart Conference registration, including the gala dinner, is \$295 for members, or \$495 for non-members. Registration for the *Growing Up Fresh* Golf Tournament is \$300, with proceeds going to support the United Fresh Start Foundation. To register, visit www.unitedfresh.org.

For more information, contact Amanda Griffin, Vice President, Education & Programs Management at agriffin@unitedfresh.org or 202-303-3412.

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About United Fresh Produce Association

Founded in 1904, the United Fresh Produce Association brings together companies across every segment of the fresh produce supply chain, including growers, shippers, fresh cut processors, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, foodservice operators, industry suppliers and allied associations. We empower industry leaders to shape sound government policy. We deliver the resources and expertise companies need to succeed in managing complex business and technical issues. We provide the training and development individuals need to advance their careers in produce. Through these endeavors, we unite our industry with a common purpose – to build long-term value for our members and grow produce consumption. For more information, visit www.unitedfresh.org