**HOME AND GIFT INDUSTRY LEADER JOINS AMERICASMART® ATLANTA**

**TO ASSUME THE POSITION OF**

**EXECUTIVE LEADER OF RETAIL SERVICES OPERATIONS**

**ATLANTA – March 25, 2015** – George Kacic, the gift and home furnishings industry leader widely acknowledged as a visionary force in the U.S. wholesale and retail communities, will join AmericasMart® Atlanta as Executive Vice President responsible for retail services operations, according to Jeffrey L. Portman, Sr., vice chairman, president and chief operating officer of AmericasMart parent company AMC, Inc.

Kacic’s appointment is effective April 1 following his departure from Giftcraft Ltd., the Toronto-based lifestyle home décor and giftware industry leader serving a diverse network of specialty retailers around the world, where he has served as president of U.S. operations since 2012.  In his new role, Kacic will direct AmericasMart’s large and growing retail services operations with a major focus on sustaining and expanding domestic and international retailer and designer presence and enhancing their experience while attending AmericasMart’s 14 annual markets and shows.

“We have long admired and applauded George Kacic’s ability to build enduring relationships in large and diverse customer populations,” Portman notes.  “He is highly gifted in the art of engaging customers with genuine care and concern and building trust for long-term partnerships.  These are among the many skills and talents George is bringing to help refine the market experience for our global customer community,” Portman adds.

Kacic’s career spans more than 36 years within the home and gift community, including senior sales and business development leadership roles at GANZ and Russ Berrie.  His career also reflects long service to the gift and home industry through leadership of the Gift & Home Trade Association (GHTA) and other prominent trade organizations.  Prior to his Giftcraft presidency, Kacic enjoyed a long tenure at GANZ USA, where he served as Vice President for 20 years.  Previous positions also include a seven-year engagement with Russ Berrie; five years as President of an independent sales representatives firm; and a Vice Presidency with Takara USA, during which he helped establish the Japan-based firm within the U.S. market.

His industry activities are as deep-rooted as his corporate leadership.  He is vice-chairman of the Gift for Life Board, on which he has served since 2011, and has served for nine years on the GHTA Board, during which time he held the offices of President, Chairman Emeritus and ICON HONORS founding partner.  Kacic has received numerous awards from GHTA, including the prestigious Luminary Scholarship Award, which is devoted to the enhancement of leadership and business development skills in young students. His most recent industry honor was conferred in January 2012, when he received Gift For Life’s highly respected Chuck Yancy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kacic’s extensive knowledge of the retail industry gained through his years of experience will be invaluable to his achieving success as he assumes his responsibilities within AmericasMart.

**ABOUT AMERICASMART**

AmericasMart Atlanta is the nation’s only global wholesale marketplace housing the world’s single-largest collection of home, gift, area rug and apparel merchandise. The largest of AmericasMart’s 14 annual Markets and shows, The Atlanta International Gift & Home Furnishings Market and The Atlanta International Area Rug Market in January and July are the ignition switch for global retailing with buyers from every U.S. state and as many as 90 countries discovering product in more than 1,400 showrooms and more than 10,300 temporary exhibiting companies. [ICON HONORS](http://www.americasmarticonhonors.com/), the home and gift industry’s most celebrated recognition program, is produced and staged annually by AmericasMart.

Located in downtown Atlanta, the AmericasMart complex contains more than seven million square feet of space. It’s a huge global stage on which manufacturers, designers and sales representatives unveil new lines, launch new designs and introduce new categories – all for the benefit of buyers seeking all that is fresh and first in the home, rug, gift and apparel arenas. For more information, please visit [www.AmericasMart.com](http://www.AmericasMart.com" \t "_self). Follow us @AmericasMartATL or @AtlantaApparel.

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