Darden Executive Officers File Certification Letters With The Securities And Exchange Commission

ORLANDO, Fla., Aug. 20 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Darden Restaurants, Inc. (NYSE: DRI - News) announced that yesterday its chief executive officer and chief financial officer filed certification letters with the Securities and Exchange Commission to affirm the accuracy of Darden's Form 10-K report for 2002. Copies of the certification letters were filed as exhibits to the Form 10-K. The certifications were in response to a June 28, 2002 order of the SEC requiring the principal executive and financial officers of approximately 945 of the nation's largest publicly traded companies to certify the accuracy of their company's financial reports. Based on Darden's May fiscal year end, the mandated certifications were required to be filed by August 26, 2002.


Forward-looking statements in this news release, if any, are made under the Safe Harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Certain important factors could cause results to differ materially from those anticipated by the forward-looking statements, including the impact of changing economic or business conditions, the impact of competition, the availability of favorable credit and trade terms, the impact of changes in the cost or availability of food and real estate, government regulation, construction costs, weather conditions and other factors discussed from time to time in reports filed by the company with the Securities and Exchange Commission.