Darden Restaurants To Certify Financial Statements

ORLANDO, Fla., Aug. 9 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Darden Restaurants, Inc. said today that its chief executive officer and chief financial officer will certify without qualification its fiscal 2002 annual report on Form 10-K to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Based on Darden Restaurants' May fiscal year end, the mandated CEO/CFO certifications and Darden Restaurants' 10-K filing are required 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.