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**TULALIP RESORT CASINO RAISES THREE TOTEM POLES IN THE LOBBY OF NEW LUXURY HOTEL AND SPA**



April 5, 2008 – Mortenson construction worker with “Welcome Pole.”

**Tulalip, Wash.** (June 24, 2008) – Tulalip Resort Casino recently installed three totem poles in the lobby of its new 370-room hotel and spa, opening August 15, 2008. The authentic Tulalip totem poles, all hand carved from red cedar wood, were designed by Tulalip Tribes members and master carvers James Madison and Joe Gobin.

Each of the three poles – “Welcome Pole,” “Gambling Pole” and “Story Pole,” – pays homage to cultural traditions and stories of the Tulalip people. The “Welcome Pole” faces the lobby entrance and features a Tulalip man with arms outstretched, which is the traditional Tulalip symbol of welcome. Designed by Joe Gobin, the “Welcome Pole” stands 19 feet tall.

The “Gambling Pole” and “Story Pole,” which were cut from the same section of wood, each stand 24 feet tall, 48 inches wide at the base and 42 inches wide at the top. The “Gambling Pole,” designed by Joe Gobin, represents the Tulalip Tribe’s long standing cultural tradition of gambling. It depicts a man, who represents the Tulalip people, holding sticks above a grizzly bear with whom the man is playing the guessing game called Slahal.

The “Story Pole,” designed by James Madison, represents many traditional stories and cultural elements passed down through the generations by native Tulalip members. From top to bottom, a wise eagle sits with his wings embracing an image of a half-man, half-wolf creature. This represents the protection of native culture, both past and present, and embracing all living things. The half-man, half-wolf sits above the

larger than life Sea Wolf. This fierce and supernatural creature is half-wolf and half-whale, and represents the canoes which transported the Tulalip people across the waters of the Northwest. Below the Sea Wolf sits a bear, representing strength and a Tulalip man in spirit form. The man holds a woman, depicting a traditional story of marriage. Intentionally left unpainted, the "Story Pole" incorporates modern art elements including a blown glass moon and multiple bronze castings of human faces to convey how the Tulalip people continue to evolve. This pole took approximately 14 months to finish.

Madison and Gobin, the master carvers and designers for these poles, were assisted by carvers Richard Madison, Frank Madison Jr. and Kelly Moses, and apprentice carvers Steven Madison, Steven Gobin and Mike Pablo.

### **About Tulalip Resort Casino**

With the opening of its luxury hotel in August 2008, Tulalip Resort Casino will become the largest and most distinctive meeting, gaming, entertainment and shopping destination in Washington State. What began with a bingo hall established by the Tulalip Tribes in 1983, has evolved into a world-class resort destination which includes: the region's "#1 Place for Fun" Tulalip Casino with 192,000 square feet of gaming; five dining venues headlined by the exceptional Tulalip Bay Restaurant; the intimate Canoes Cabaret; the 3,000-seat Tulalip Amphitheatre, a leading entertainment venue; and Seattle Premium Outlets, featuring more than 110 name brand retail discount outlets. The crown jewel of Tulalip Resort Casino will be its new luxury hotel featuring 370 guestrooms and suites, as well as premier meeting, convention and wedding space, and an elegant, 14,000 square foot, full-service spa. Surrounded by the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound, Tulalip Resort Casino is situated on 83 acres within the municipality of Quil Ceda Village on the Tulalip Indian Reservation. Tulalip Resort Casino is conveniently located between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. just off Interstate-5 at exit 200 and is an enterprise of the Tulalip Tribes. For further information on Tulalip Resort Casino call 888-272-1111 or visit [www.tulalipresort.com](http://www.tulalipresort.com).

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