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## **First New Orleans Photographer Elected President of Professional Photographers of America**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Metairie, LA – March 1, 2013 - Romaguera Photography, Inc. is delighted to announce that it's founder and President, Ralph Romaguera Sr. has been recently elected to the office of President for the Professional Photographers of America (PPA).



This position allows Romaguera to develop and implement programs, benefits and educational support of the professional photographic industry and photographers along with aiding in the lobbying for photographers in Washington DC. *"Involvement in professional associations has been the foundation of the success of our studios for the past four decades,"* Romaguera said recently about his election. *"The natural progression in local photography associations to state and regional groups, and now being president of the Professional Photographers of America is not only a career-long highlight but a humbling experience to be able to serve our more than 25,000 members."*

Romaguera's dedication and passion to the photographic industry is marked by many accomplishments and accolades. Romaguera has served as President of the Greater New Orleans Professional Photographers Guild, the Professional Photographers of Louisiana, the Southwest Professional Photographers Association and the American Society of Photographers.

Ralph Romaguera began his photographic career at the age of 18 in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Following active duty at the Naval Photo School, he obtained a part time position with United Press International and later became a full time photojournalist for the Times Picayune Publishing Corporation in New Orleans, LA.

In 1971, Romaguera opened his first portrait studio in New Orleans and has grown his business to one of the largest professional portrait photography studios and school photographers in Louisiana, serving generations of New Orleanians for over 40 years. His long-standing relationships with the local community and school clients make possible his long list of achievements. Romaguera is a graduate of St. Aloysius High School now known as Brother Martin High School and is among Romaguera's school clients along with many other New Orleans metro-area schools.

Ralph is known for photographing high school seniors, weddings and executive portraits. Through his volunteer work with the Young Leadership Council for nearly 15 years, Romaguera has been able to create portraits of some of the most notable New Orleanians from Chef John Besh, Blaine Kern, the late Al Copeland and many other notable local figures. As the photographer for the Krewe of Bacchus for many years, he was able to capture celebrity visitor's excitement of the Mardi Gras experience. His civic leadership in both Rotary and Kiwanis along with leadership as a past president of the New Orleans East Business Association has given shape to what Romaguera Photography has become today.

Romaguera has travelled the world lecturing as a platform speaker and judging international image competitions. He has earned the Masters and Craftsman Degrees and is certified by the Professional Photographer's of America and is a multi-time recipient of the National Award, given as a special honor in recognition of outstanding service to professional photography industry. His exhibition prints have been accepted in the General, Loan and Masters Loan Exhibits of the Professional Photographers of America and a ten-time winner of the prestigious Kodak Gallery Award, given for photographic excellence. He has been honored numerous times as "Photographer of the Year" by the Professional Photographers of Louisiana, an organization that has also honored him with the Emile Navarre Lifetime Achievement Award for his long dedication to the profession and activities he handled for New Orleans area photographers

following the Hurricane Katrina disaster. Ralph was named the 96th fellow in the American Society of Photographers (ASP), a distinction only claimed by 70 living photographers. Romaguera received the 2012 International Photographic Council (IPC) Professional Photographer Leadership Award presented to him at the United Nations in New York City.

As a platform speaker and photographic judge, Ralph has lectured throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, Korea and China. He has presented on numerous occasions at the national PPA convention and Wedding and Portrait Photographers International. He has been an instructor for the Winona International School for Professional Photography, the Florida School, the Mid America Institute of Professional Photography, the Mount Carroll School, Mid Atlantic Regional School, the California Workshop and the Texas School of Professional Photography and many other professional schools and workshops.

Romaguera was chosen to represent portrait photographers on the NBC Today Show in a series celebrating the 150 Years of Professional Photography. One of Ralph's greatest joys is giving back to the New Orleans community. He has done so for the past 15 years by donating his services to the Young Leadership Council by photographing their annual role models.

Ralph is married to the former Cindy Tomme and along with his children operates Romaguera Photography's professional portrait studio in the greater New Orleans area.

About Professional Photographers of America:

Professional Photographers of America (PPA), an international non-profit association for professional photographers founded in 1869, exists to assist its 25,000 members with unparalleled protection, education and resources to ensure their continued success in the photographic industry. For more information, visit [www.ppa.com](http://www.ppa.com)

About Romaguera Photography, Inc.

Romaguera Photography is one of the largest professional portrait photography studios in New Orleans, serving generations of New Orleanians for over 40 years. For additional information visit: [www.romaguera.com](http://www.romaguera.com) or call 504-828-3064

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