The Buccaneer, Legendary Hotel in St. Croix, Reports
Historic Results for the Island's 24th Annual Coral Reef Swim

Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands *(November 13, 2019)* – An exuberant crowd at **The Buccaneer**'s Mermaid Beach witnessed several milestone accomplishments during the **24th Annual Coral Reef Swim** held this past Sunday, November 10.

The Buccaneer is the oldest family-run resort in the Caribbean. The Coral Reef Swim was founded by its owner and general manager, Elizabeth Armstrong, and her friend Kim Rice Sanford in 1996.

Alex Kostich, the 49-year-old Los Angeles resident who has won 19 previous five-mile Coral Reef Swims, battled stroke for stroke with 16-year-old David Greeley from Durham, N.C. the entire five miles from Buck Island to The Buccaneer. The incredible water race ended with Kostich touching the beach first by a toe, but with Greeley finding his legs and sprinting up the finish chute just a step before his competition. Greeley won the race with a time of 1:51:52, with Kostich coming in just one second behind him, at 1:51:53. Veteran Coral Reef swimmer Rob Jones of Falmouth, Mass., 54, finished in third place with a time of 1:58:46.

Much to the crowd's delight, 53-year-old Adrienne Kramer from Ashville, N.C. completed the five-mile distance as the first contestant to swim the entire distance doing the butterfly stroke. Her time was 3:09:03, and she earned a first-ever award for her amazing effort.

The field consisted of 122 swimmers representing 26 U.S. states; countries including Canada and Denmark; and 28 Virgin Islanders from St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John. Swimmers ranged in ages from 11 to 72. The event also welcomed back Para-Olympic gold medalist Allysa Seely, who finished ninth on the one-mile swim with a time of 34:35.

Starting points for the five-, three- and five-mile swims were Buck Island, Pull Point and Shoys Beach, respectively. The course routes were marked with volunteer boats, while dozens of volunteer kayakers and paddleboarders accompanied the swimmers as safety back-ups. The conditions were favorable, and many swimmers reported that eagle rays and sea turtles accompanied them on the race. Steel pan music and tropical libations greeted swimmers at Mermaid Beach, followed by a lavish awards luncheon at The Terrace, The Buccaneer's signature

restaurant. Winners of legal age received bottles of Cruzan Rum, and all winners received medals crafted by local artist Jan Mitchell.

The top three Two-Mile winners were 12-year-old Kaden Gleason of St. Croix (52:26), 18-year-old Matthew Greely (David's brother) of Durham, N.C. (53:23), and 24-year-old Michael McGean of Charlotte N.C. (53:26).

The top three One-Mile winners were St. Croix's Daryan Maynard, 11 years old (29:14), 22-year-old Nathaniel Greeley (David and Matthew's brother) of Durham, N.C. (29:32), and Ben Courtney, 33, from San Rafael, Calif. (30:59).

Sponsors of the 24th Annual Coral Reef Swim included The Buccaneer, Caribbean Sea Adventures, Big Beard's Adventure Tours, Teroro II, Captain Heinz, Cruzan Rum, CocaCola, and the St. Croix Yacht Club. The Coral Reef Swim extends a special thank you to the safety boats and volunteers in the water, as well as to the JFL Hospital EMS team, National Park Service, DPNR, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The 25th Annual Coral Reef Swim will be held November 8, 2020, and it's never too early to sign up. The race is open to everyone, and rooms are available at The Buccaneer. For this year's results and images, or for details about next year's race, please visit www.swimrace.com.

For more information about The Buccaneer, please visit www.TheBuccaneer.com.

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MEDIA CONTACT
Ashley Fenton
ashley@mindybiancapr.com