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### **Sam Thompson**

Sam Thompson first met Elvis Presley in November 1972 through an invitation extended by his sister, and Elvis' girlfriend, Linda Thompson. Sam Thompson and Elvis quickly became friends. In July 1973, Elvis purchased a home for Thompson less than one mile from the gates of Graceland. Thompson toured with Elvis on the road from 1972 until 1977 as Elvis' friend and companion.

Thompson went to work for Elvis full-time as his personal bodyguard and tour advance man in July 1976. Thompson provided security for Elvis at Graceland, at his other homes in California, and on tour, including hotel and airport security. From July 1976 until the time of Elvis' death on August 16, 1977, Thompson accompanied Elvis on 10 separate road tours, comprising approximately 130 concert and stage performances.

Thompson resigned on September 1, 1977, and was the first of the "inner circle" to leave Graceland following Elvis' death. He later graduated from law school at the University of Memphis and in 1984, worked briefly for The Beach Boys in security and advance tour work. Since then, Thompson has been a lawyer; an Assistant County Attorney; a Corrections Superintendent; a U.S. Justice Department Consultant; a college professor; an author; a speaker; a Juvenile Court and General Sessions Court Judge; and a music industry executive. Thompson currently is retired and living in Las Vegas.

Thompson has partnered with the Reese's® brand to commemorate the life of his friend Elvis Presley and to kick-off the launch of *Reese's Elvis Cups* and the "Live Like The King" promotion.

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