

Forward Air Corporation Reports Fourth Quarter 2018 Results

Reports record quarterly revenue, operating income and EBITDA

Reports record full year financial results, including revenue, operating income, net income, EPS, EBITDA, cash flow from operations and free cash flow

GREENEVILLE, Tenn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Forward Air Corporation (NASDAQ: FWRD) today reported financial results for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2018.

Revenue for the quarter ended December 31, 2018 increased 9.7% to \$356.6 million from \$325.1 million for the same quarter in 2017. Income from operations was \$35.0 million compared to \$27.8 million in the prior year quarter. Net income during the quarter was \$27.7 million compared to \$34.7 million in the same quarter of 2017. Net income per diluted share for the fourth quarter of 2018 was \$0.95 compared to \$1.16 in the prior year quarter, which included a \$0.53 benefit related to the fourth quarter 2017 enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("TCJA").

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased 13.0% to \$1.3 billion from \$1.2 billion for the same period in 2017. Income from operations was \$122.0 million compared to \$108.8 million in the prior year. Net income during the period was \$92.1 million compared to \$87.3 million in the same period of 2017. Net income per diluted share was \$3.12 for the year ended December 31, 2018 compared to \$2.89 in the same period of 2017, which included a \$0.53 benefit related to the 2017 enactment of the TCJA.

For the three and twelve months ended December 31, 2018, the Company generated \$38.7 million and \$152.6 million of cash flow from operations, respectively, compared to \$25.7 million and \$103.4 million for the same periods in 2017.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA") was \$45.9 million in the fourth quarter of 2018 compared to \$38.3 million in the same period of 2017. EBITDA increased to \$164.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2018 from \$149.8 million for the same period in 2017. Free cash flow was \$31.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2018 compared to \$1.9 million in the prior year quarter. Free cash flow was \$117.3 million in the year ended December 31, 2018 compared to \$67.5 million in the same period of 2017. EBITDA and free cash flow are non-GAAP financial measures and reconciliations of these non-GAAP financial measures are provided in the attached financial tables.

Tom Schmitt, President and CEO, commenting on fourth quarter results said, "Our strong fourth quarter growth fueled our full year record results. Consolidated revenues grew 9.7% driven by solid revenue management across the portfolio. Consolidated operating income grew 25.9% from improved business mix and outstanding Intermodal performance."

In closing, Mr. Schmitt said, "During 2018, we achieved record financial performance. I would like to thank all of our teammates for their hard work in helping us achieve this milestone."

Commenting on the Company's fourth quarter results, Michael J. Morris, Senior Vice President and CFO, said, "Our fourth quarter earnings per share of \$0.95 exceeded our \$0.81 to \$0.85 guidance range, driven by strong Intermodal results, improved safety performance and a low book tax rate." Regarding the Company's first quarter 2019 guidance, Mr. Morris said, "We expect first quarter year-on-year revenue growth to be 6% to 10%. We expect net income per diluted share to be between \$0.60 and \$0.64 in the first quarter of 2019 compared to \$0.60 in the first quarter of 2018."

On February 5, 2019, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.18 per share of common stock. The dividend is payable to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 7, 2019 and is expected to be paid on March 22, 2019.

This quarterly dividend is made pursuant to a cash dividend policy approved by the Board of Directors, which anticipates a total annual dividend of \$0.72 for the full year 2019, payable in quarterly increments of \$0.18 per share of common stock. The actual declaration of future cash dividends, and the establishment of record and payment dates, is subject to final determination by the Board of Directors each quarter after its review of the Company's financial performance.

Also, on February 5, 2019, our Board approved a stock repurchase authorization plan for up to five million shares of the Company's common stock. In connection with this action, the Board cancelled the Company's 2016 stock repurchase authorization. The amount and timing of any repurchases under the Company's new repurchase authorization will be at such prices as determined by management of the Company. Repurchases of common stock may also be made under a Rule 10b5-1 plan, which would permit common stock to be repurchased when the Company might otherwise be precluded from doing so under insider trading laws. Stock repurchases may be commenced or suspended from time to time for any reason. The Company currently has approximately 28,909,744 shares outstanding as of February 5, 2019.

Review of Financial Results

Forward Air will hold a conference call to discuss fourth quarter 2018 results on Friday, February 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. EST. The Company's conference call will be available online on the Investor Relations portion of the Company's website at www.forwardaircorp.com, where investors can easily find or navigate to pertinent information about us, or by dialing (800) 230-1059. A replay of the conference call will be available on the Investor Relations portion of the Company's website at www.forwardaircorp.com beginning shortly after completion of the live call.

About Forward Air Corporation

Forward Air keeps your business moving forward by providing services within four business segments: Expedited LTL (provides expedited regional, inter-regional and national LTL services, including local pick-up and delivery, shipment consolidation/deconsolidation, warehousing, final mile solutions and customs brokerage by utilizing a comprehensive national network of terminals); Truckload Premium Services (provides expedited truckload

brokerage, dedicated fleet services, as well as high-security and temperature-controlled logistics services); Intermodal (provides first-and last-mile high-value drayage services both to and from seaports and railheads, dedicated contract and Container Freight Station warehouse and handling services); and Pool Distribution (provides high-frequency handling and distribution of time sensitive product to numerous destinations within a specific geographic region). For more information, visit our website at www.forwardaircorp.com.

Financial Statement Presentation

Our results reflect the impact of the new revenue recognition standard, adopted under ASC 606, on a full retrospective basis, which required us to adjust each prior reporting period presented to conform to the current year presentation.

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (In thousands, except per share data) (Unaudited)

	Three months ended				Year	r ended			
	Dec	cember 31, 2018	De	cember 31, 2017	De	ecember 31, 2018	De	cember 31, 2017	
			(As	Adjusted)			(As	Adjusted)	
Operating revenue:						_			
Expedited LTL	\$	196,220	\$	181,202	\$	747,562	\$	655,838	
Truckload Premium Services		49,600		52,753		192,582		201,752	
Intermodal		52,730		44,377		201,006		154,684	
Pool Distribution		60,861		51,742		194,117		168,483	
Eliminations and other operations		(2,850)		(4,938)		(14,381)		(11,411)	
Operating revenue		356,561		325,136		1,320,886		1,169,346	
Operating expenses:									
Purchased transportation		162,804		155,964		613,636		545,091	
Salaries, wages and employee									
benefits		82,548		73,562		300,230		265,842	
Operating leases		21,036		16,594		75,677		63,799	
Depreciation and amortization		10,837		10,477		42,183		41,055	
Insurance and claims		8,738		8,199		35,180		29,578	
Fuel expense		6,335		5,094		23,121		16,542	
Other operating expenses		29,216		27,403	_	108,828		98,682	
Total operating expenses		321,514		297,293		1,198,855		1,060,589	
Income (loss) from operations									
Expedited LTL		25,361		22,805		96,385		87,969	
Truckload Premium Services		1,708		(519)		5,055		3,215	
Intermodal		6,933		3,415		23,266		12,963	
Pool Distribution		2,175		2,706		5,870		6,378	
Other operations		(1,130)		(564)		(8,545)		(1,768)	
Income from operations		35,047		27,843		122,031		108,757	
Other expense:									
Interest expense		(457)		(403)		(1,783)		(1,209)	
Other, net						(2)		(11)	
Total other expense		(457)		(403)		(1,785)		(1,220)	
Income before income taxes		34,590		27,440		120,246		107,537	
Income tax expense (benefit)		6,906		(7,241)		28,195		20,282	
Net income and comprehensive income	\$	27,684	\$	34,681	\$	92,051	\$	87,255	
Net income per share:									
Basic	\$	0.95	\$	1.17	\$	3.14	\$	2.90	
Diluted	\$	0.95	\$	1.16	\$	3.12	\$	2.89	
Dividends per share:	\$	0.18	\$	0.15	\$	0.63	\$	0.60	

Expedited LTL Segment Information (In millions) (Unaudited)

	Dece	ember 31,	Percent of	Dece	mber 31,	Percent of	1	Percent
		2018	Revenue	2	2017	Revenue	Change	Change
				(As A	djusted)			
Operating revenue	\$	196.2	100.0%	\$	181.2	100.0%	\$ 15.0	8.3%
Operating expenses:								
Purchased transportation		89.8	45.8		85.1	46.9	4.7	5.5
Salaries, wages and employee								
benefits		43.2	22.0		39.0	21.5	4.2	10.8
Operating leases		11.0	5.6		9.1	5.0	1.9	20.9
Depreciation and amortization		5.8	3.0		5.6	3.1	0.2	3.6
Insurance and claims		3.6	1.8		5.1	2.8	(1.5)	(29.4)
Fuel expense		1.8	0.9		1.0	0.6	8.0	80.0
Other operating expenses		15.6	8.0		13.5	7.5	2.1	15.6
Total operating expenses	-	170.8	87.1		158.4	87.4	12.4	7.8
Income from operations	\$	25.4	12.9%	\$	22.8	12.6%	\$ 2.6	11.4%

Expedited LTL Operating Statistics							
	Three months ended						
		mber 31, 2018		ember 31, 2017 Adjusted)	Percent Change		
Business days		64		63	1.6%		
Tonnage							
Total pounds ¹		648,423		666,308	(2.7)		
Pounds per day ¹		10,132		10,576	(4.2)		
Shipments							
Total shipments ¹		1,104		1,136	(2.8)		
Shipments per day ¹		17		18	(3.9)		
Total shipments with pickup and/or delivery ¹		260		245	6.1		
Weight per shipment		587		587	_		
Revenue per hundredweight	\$	26.72	\$	24.25	10.2		
Revenue per hundredweight, ex fuel	\$	22.33	\$	21.28	4.9		
Revenue per shipment	\$	157	\$	142	10.6		
Revenue per shipment, ex fuel	\$	131	\$	125	4.8%		

¹ - In thousands

Truckload Premium Services Segment Information (In millions) (Unaudited)

,	Revenue 2017		2017	Percent of Revenue	Change	Percent Change
\$ 49.6	100.0%	\$	52.8	100.0%	\$ (3.2)	(6.1)%
37.2	75.0		41.8	79.2	(4.6)	(11.0)
4.7	9.5		5.2	9.8	(0.5)	(9.6)
0.1	0.2		0.4	8.0	(0.3)	(75.0)
1.6	3.2		1.6	3.0	_	_
1.4	2.8		1.2	2.3	0.2	16.7
0.7	1.4		1.0	1.9	(0.3)	(30.0)
2.2	4.4		2.1	4.0	0.1	4.8
 47.9	96.6		53.3	100.9	(5.4)	(10.1)
\$ 1.7	3.4%	\$	(0.5)	(0.9)%	\$ 2.2	NM
\$	\$ 49.6 \$ 37.2 4.7 0.1 1.6 1.4 0.7 2.2 47.9	\$ 49.6 100.0% \$ 49.6 100.0% 37.2 75.0 4.7 9.5 0.1 0.2 1.6 3.2 1.4 2.8 0.7 1.4 2.2 4.4 47.9 96.6	2018 Revenue \$ 49.6 100.0% 37.2 75.0 4.7 9.5 0.1 0.2 1.6 3.2 1.4 2.8 0.7 1.4 2.2 4.4 47.9 96.6	2018 Revenue 2017 (As adjusted) \$ 49.6 100.0% \$ 52.8 37.2 75.0 41.8 4.7 9.5 5.2 0.1 0.2 0.4 1.6 3.2 1.6 1.4 2.8 1.2 0.7 1.4 1.0 2.2 4.4 2.1 47.9 96.6 53.3	2018 Revenue (As adjusted) 2017 (As adjusted) Revenue \$ 49.6 100.0% \$ 52.8 100.0% 37.2 75.0 41.8 79.2 4.7 9.5 5.2 9.8 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.6 3.2 1.6 3.0 1.4 2.8 1.2 2.3 0.7 1.4 1.0 1.9 2.2 4.4 2.1 4.0 47.9 96.6 53.3 100.9	2018 Revenue 2017 (As adjusted) Revenue Change \$ 49.6 100.0% \$ 52.8 100.0% \$ (3.2) 37.2 75.0 41.8 79.2 (4.6) 4.7 9.5 5.2 9.8 (0.5) 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.8 (0.3) 1.6 3.2 1.6 3.0 — 1.4 2.8 1.2 2.3 0.2 0.7 1.4 1.0 1.9 (0.3) 2.2 4.4 2.1 4.0 0.1 47.9 96.6 53.3 100.9 (5.4)

Truckload Premiu	m Ser	vices Oper	atin	g Statistics					
	Three months ended								
	Dec	2018		cember 31, 2017 s Adjusted)	Percent Change				
Total Miles ¹ Empty Miles Percentage Tractors (avg) Miles per tractor per week ²		19,485 8.3% 315 1,886		24,516 8.9% 354 2,585	(20.5)% (6.7) (11.0) (27.0)				
Revenue per mile Cost per mile	\$ \$	2.55 2.02	\$ \$	2.08 1.77	22.6 14.1%				

¹ - In thousands

 $^{^{\}rm 2}\,\textsc{-}$ Calculated using Company driver and owner operator miles

Intermodal Segment Information (In millions) (Unaudited)

		December 31, 2018		Percent of December 31, Revenue 2017		Percent of Revenue	Percen ige Change	
				(As Ac	djusted)			J J.
Operating revenue	\$	52.7	100.0%	\$	44.4	100.0%	\$ 8.	.3 18.7%
Operating expenses:								
Purchased transportation		19.7	37.4		18.8	42.3	0.	.9 4.8
Salaries, wages and employee								
benefits		12.2	23.1		9.7	21.8	2.	.5 25.8
Operating leases		4.0	7.6		3.5	7.9	0.	.5 14.3
Depreciation and amortization		1.7	3.2		1.6	3.6	0.	.1 6.3
Insurance and claims		1.5	2.8		0.9	2.0	0.	.6 66.7
Fuel expense		1.7	3.2		1.2	2.7	0.	.5 41.7
Other operating expenses		5.0	9.5		5.3	11.9	(0.	3) (5.7)
Total operating expenses		45.8	86.9		41.0	92.3	4.	.8 11.7
Income from operations	\$	6.9	13.1%	\$	3.4	7.7%	\$ 3.	.5 102.9%

Intermoda	l Opera	ting Statis	stics					
	Three months ended							
		December 31, 2018		mber 31, 2017 Adjusted)	Percent Change			
Drayage shipments		81,566	_	76,007	7.3%			
Drayage revenue per shipment	\$	560	\$	519	7.9			
Number of locations		20		19	5.3%			

Pool Distribution Segment Information (In millions) (Unaudited)

	December 31, 2018		December 31, 2017		Percent of Revenue	Change		Percent Change
			(As Ac	ljusted)				
Operating revenue	\$ 60.9	100.0%	\$	51.7	100.0%	\$	9.2	17.8%
Operating expenses:								
Purchased transportation	18.5	30.4		14.6	28.2		3.9	26.7
Salaries, wages and employee								
benefits	22.2	36.5		18.9	36.6		3.3	17.5
Operating leases	6.0	9.9		3.8	7.4		2.2	57.9
Depreciation and amortization	1.7	2.8		1.7	3.3		_	_
Insurance and claims	1.4	2.3		1.5	2.9		(0.1)	(6.7)
Fuel expense	2.1	3.4		1.8	3.5		0.3	16.7
Other operating expenses	6.8	11.2		6.7	13.0		0.1	1.5
Total operating expenses	58.7	96.4		49.0	94.8		9.7	19.8
Income from operations	\$ 2.2	3.6%	\$	2.7	5.2%	\$	(0.5)	(18.5)%
	 					_		

Pool Operating Statistics									
Three months ended									
		ember 31, 2018		mber 31, 2017 Adjusted)	Percent Change				
Cartons ¹ Revenue per carton Terminals	\$	30,435 2.00 28	\$	26,172 1.98 28	16.3% 1.0 —				

¹ In thousands

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Balance Sheets (In thousands) (Unaudited)

,	Dec	ember 31, 2018	December 31, 2017		
			(As	Adjusted)	
Assets				_	
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	25,657	\$	3,893	
Accounts receivable, net		156,359		147,948	
Other current assets		19,066		15,807	
Total current assets		201,082		167,648	
Property and equipment		413,900		399,235	
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization		204,005		193,123	
Net property and equipment		209,895		206,112	
Goodwill and other acquired intangibles:					
Goodwill		199,092		191,671	
Other acquired intangibles, net of accumulated amortization		113,661		111,247	
Total goodwill and other acquired intangibles, net		312,753		302,918	
Other assets	_	36,485	_	15,944	
Total assets	\$	760,215	\$	692,622	
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$	34,630	\$	30,723	
Accrued expenses		39,784		35,069	
Current portion of debt and capital lease obligations		309		359	
Total current liabilities		74,723		66,151	
Debt and capital lease obligations, less current portion		47,335		40,588	
Other long-term liabilities		47,739		24,104	
Deferred income taxes		37,174		29,080	
Shareholders' equity:					
Common stock		285		295	
Additional paid-in capital		210,296		195,346	
Retained earnings		342,663		337,058	
Total shareholders' equity		553,244		532,699	
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$	760,215	\$	692,622	

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (In thousands) (Unaudited)

	Three months ended				
	Dec	cember 31, 2018	Dec	ember 31, 2017	
			(As	Adjusted)	
Operating activities:	_				
Net income	\$	27,684	\$	34,681	
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities		40.007		40.477	
Depreciation and amortization		10,837		10,477	
Share-based compensation		3,024		2,138	
(Gain) loss on disposal of property and equipment		(157)		580	
Provision for loss on receivables		191		26	
Provision for revenue adjustments		707		924	
Deferred income tax		1,418		(12,592)	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		(0.700)		(40 500)	
Accounts receivable		(8,792)		(10,563)	
Prepaid expenses and other assets		2,315		207	
Income taxes		1,937		(3,056)	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		(456)		2,831	
Net cash provided by operating activities		38,708		25,653	
Investing activities:					
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		1,070		943	
Purchases of property and equipment		(7,949)		(24,655)	
Acquisition of business		(16,250)		(640)	
Other		115		(150)	
Net cash used in investing activities		(23,014)	'	(24,502)	
Financing activities:					
Payments of debt and capital lease obligations		(74)		(75)	
Borrowings on line of credit		7,000			
Proceeds from exercise of stock options		239		1,630	
Payments of cash dividends		(5,214)		(4,468)	
Repurchase of common stock (repurchase program)		(21,141)		(7,000)	
Common stock issued under employee stock purchase plan		242		232	
Net cash used in by financing activities		(18,948)		(9,681)	
Net decrease in cash		(3,254)		(8,530)	
Cash at beginning of period		28,911		12,423	
Cash at end of period	\$	25,657	\$	3,893	

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (In thousands) (Unaudited)

	Year ended				
	Dec	cember 31, 2018	Dec	cember 31, 2017	
			(As	Adjusted)	
Operating activities:	_		_		
Net income	\$	92,051	\$	87,255	
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities					
Depreciation and amortization		42,183		41,055	
Change in fair value of earn-out liability		(455)			
Share-based compensation		10,549		8,103	
(Gain) loss on disposal of property and equipment		(171)		1,281	
Provision for loss on receivables		139		1,814	
Provision for revenue adjustments		3,628		3,055	
Deferred income taxes		8,094		(12,068)	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities					
Accounts receivable		(12,178)		(33,457)	
Prepaid expenses and other assets		(2,565)		(1,204)	
Income taxes		(1,256)		(3,480)	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		12,535		11,010	
Net cash provided by operating activities		152,554		103,364	
Investing activities:					
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		7,059		2,440	
Purchases of property and equipment		(42,293)		(38, 265)	
Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired		(19,987)		(23,140)	
Other		(242)		(222)	
Net cash used in investing activities		(55,463)		(59,187)	
Financing activities:					
Payments of debt and capital lease obligations		(302)		(42,790)	
Proceeds from senior credit facility		7,000		55,000	
Proceeds from exercise of stock options		3,921		7,272	
Payments of cash dividends		(18,427)		(18,052)	
Repurchase of common stock (repurchase program)		(66, 126)		(48,983)	
Common stock issued under employee stock purchase plan		479		458	
Cash settlement of share-based awards for tax withholdings		(1,872)		(1,700)	
Net cash used in financing activities		(75,327)		(48,795)	
Net increase (decrease) in cash		21,764		(4,618)	
Cash at beginning of year		3,893		8,511	
Cash at end of year	\$	25,657	\$	3,893	

The Company reports its financial results in accordance with GAAP (also referred to herein as "reported"). However, the Company also uses "non-GAAP financial measures" that are derived on the basis of methodologies other than in accordance with GAAP. Specifically, the Company believes that meaningful analysis of its financial performance in 2018 and 2017 requires an understanding of the factors underlying that performance, including an understanding of items that are non-operational. Management uses these non-GAAP financial measures in making financial, operating, compensation and planning decisions and in evaluating the Company's performance.

This press release contains the following non-GAAP financial measures: earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA") for the three months and year ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 on a consolidated basis; and free cash flow for the three months and year ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. The Company believes that including these items will assist investors in understanding its core operating performance and allow for more accurate comparisons of results.

The Company believes that EBITDA improves comparability from period to period by removing the impact of its capital structure (interest and financing expenses), asset base (depreciation and amortization), tax impacts and other adjustments as set out in the attached tables. The Company believes that free cash flow is an important measure of its ability to repay maturing debt or fund other uses of capital that it believes will enhance stockholder value.

Non-GAAP financial measures should be viewed in addition to, and not as an alternative for, the Company's reported results prepared in accordance with GAAP. Non-GAAP financial information does not represent a comprehensive basis of accounting. As required by the Securities and Exchange Act of 1933 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the tables below present, for the periods indicated, a reconciliation of the Company's presented non-GAAP financial measures to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures.

Forward Air Corporation Reconciliation to U.S. GAAP (In thousands) (Unaudited)

	Three months ended				Year ended			
	December 31, 2018		December 31, 2017 (As Adjusted)		December 31, 2018		December 31, 2017 (As Adjusted)	
Net income	\$	27,684	\$	34,681	\$	92,051	\$	87,255
Interest expense		457		403		1,783		1,209
Income tax expense (benefit)		6,906		(7,241)		28,195		20,282
Depreciation and amortization		10,837		10,477		42,183		41,055
EBITDA	\$	45,884	\$	38,320	\$	164,212	\$	149,801
		Three mor	nths ended		Year ended		ed	
	December 31, 2018		December 31, 2017		December 31, 2018		December 31, 2017	
		(As Adjust		Adjusted)			(As Adjusted)	
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$	38,708	\$	25,653	\$	152,553	\$	103,364
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		1,070		943		7,059		2,440
Purchases of property and equipment		(7,949)		(24,655)		(42,293)		(38, 265)
Free cash flow	\$	31,829	\$	1,941	\$	117,319	\$	67,539

The following table summarizes supplemental guidance information that management believes to be useful.

Forward Air Corporation Additional Guidance Data (In thousands, except per share data) (Unaudited)

Thurs a magnetic a surel and

	Three months ended				
Actual	December 31, 2018				
Net income	\$	27,684			
Income allocated to participating securities		(315)			
Numerator for diluted income per share - net income	\$	27,369			
Fully diluted share count		28,829			
Diluted earnings per share	\$	0.95			
Projected	Full year 2019				
Projected tax rate		25.5%			
Projected capital expenditures, net	\$	38,000			
Projected	Three months ended December 31, 2019				
Projected year end fully diluted share count		28,100			

Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as: "anticipate," "intend," "plan," "goal," "seek," "believe," "project," "estimate," "expect," "strategy," "future," "likely," "may," "should," "will" and similar references to future periods. Forward-looking statements included in this press release relate to expected 2019 guidance, including first quarter 2019 revenue growth, net income per diluted shares, full year 2019 projected tax rate, fully diluted share count (before consideration of future share repurchase), projected capital expenditures, the future declaration of dividends and the quarterly and full year 2019 anticipated dividends per share.

Forward-looking statements are neither historical facts nor assurances of future performance. Instead, they are based only on our current beliefs, expectations and assumptions regarding the future of our business, future plans and strategies, projections, anticipated events and trends, the economy and other future conditions. Because forward looking statements relate to the future, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict and many of which are outside of our control. Our actual results and financial condition may differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Therefore, you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements. The following is a list of factors, among others, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements: economic factors such as recessions, inflation, higher interest rates and downturns in

customer business cycles, the creditworthiness of our customers and their ability to pay for services rendered, the availability and compensation of qualified independent owner-operators and freight handlers as well as contracted, third-party carriers needed to serve our customers' transportation needs, the inability of our information systems to handle an increased volume of freight moving through our network, changes in fuel prices, our inability to maintain our historical growth rate because of a decreased volume of freight or decreased average revenue per pound of freight moving through our network, loss of a major customer, increasing competition and pricing pressure, our ability to secure terminal facilities in desirable locations at reasonable rates, our inability to successfully integrate acquisitions, claims for property damage, personal injuries or workers' compensation, enforcement of and changes in governmental regulations, environmental and tax matters, insurance matters, the handling of hazardous materials and the risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q filed thereafter.

Any forward-looking statement made by us in this press release is based only on information currently available to us and speaks only as of the date on which it is made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

View source version on businesswire.com: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190207005833/en/

Forward Air Corporation
Michael J. Morris, 404-362-8933
mmorris@forwardair.com

Source: Forward Air Corporation