

DAVE ZILKO

A true success story, Dave Zilko turned a small salsa business, which began in the back of a bankrupt restaurant outside of Detroit, into nearly a quarter of a billion-dollar profit, selling the number one selling salsa to Campbells. From humble beginnings, Zilko had the passion to take his dreams and make them into a reality bigger than he ever thought possible.

Zilko now shares his journey with audiences to inspire and educate through his humorous real-life experiences. Dave's story is a testament you can live the life you want if you know what steps to take. In early 2016 Dave published a book via Wiley & Sons, detailing his experiences as an entrepreneur in general and his experiences with Garden Fresh in particular. The book, *Irrational Persistence: Seven Secrets That Turned A Bankrupt Startup Into a \$231,000,000 Business* became an instant national bestseller.

Dave is an operating partner at Huron Capital, a Detroit-based private equity firm with over \$1 billion under management. Dave co-founded a charity called "Justin's Vision," A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children with life threatening illnesses enjoy a happy, carefree vacation experience with their families. Dave also serves on the boards of the \$60 million Grow Michigan venture fund, of Jimmy Buffett's charitable foundation, "Singing for Change," and on the executive board of the largest food rescue organization in the country, Forgotten Harvest. Dave graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in finance and earned a Master of Business Administration in marketing from The George Washington University.