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828 INTERNATIONAL MOURNS LOSS OF JIM CLARDY

GREENVILLE, SC, April 4, 2005—828 International is sad to announce that its President and Founder, Jim Clardy, has passed away. Clardy was 50 when he died on April 3 of complications from a heart attack.

Those who knew Clardy will remember his passion for life and concern for those less fortunate. In fact, it was his compassion for the people of Moldova that led to the launch of 828 International. While on a 10-day humanitarian trip to Moldova in 1992, Clardy's desire to help the Moldavians caused him to search for products that could be sold in the U.S. Most impressed by the craftsmanship of the Moldavian rug weavers, Clardy began to import their rugs for sale in the U.S.

As the company grew, so did Clardy's works. His travels often led him to Tibet where he aided missionaries in the development of a rug factory. Samples from this rug factory will be on display in 828's showroom during the upcoming International Home Furnishings Market in High Point, NC.

"828 International—its employees and salesmen—have lost more than a founder," says John Shepherd, CEO of 828 International. "We've lost a friend, a leader, and a

visionary. His presence will be missed, but his passion will continue to inspire us as we move the company ahead.”

Clardy is survived by his wife, Martha and children, Caleb and Andrea.

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