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VIETNAM'S PROJECT RENEW TO BE HOSTED BY OREGON REALTORS® NOVEMBER 16-18, 2007

Salem, Oregon – October 18, 2007 – Chuck Searcy, Vietnam Representative for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Vietnam Enterprise Group, and Project RENEW, will visit Portland from November 16-18, 2007. His visit is sponsored by the Oregon Association of REALTORS®.

Project RENEW (Restoring the Environment and Neutralizing the Effects of War) is working to remove the over 3 million unexploded land mines remaining in Vietnam more than 30 years after the end of the Vietnam War. These land mines and 300,000 tons of unexploded ordnance (UXO) continue to kill or maim people today; children and teenagers represent 46.5 percent of victims, according to a 2006 report. Project RENEW is a cooperative effort between the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the Quang Tri Province People's Committee. Searcy, a Vietnam Veteran (U.S. Army, 519th Military Intelligence Battalion, Saigon, June 1967-1968) who resides in Vietnam, is the organization's Vietnam Representative.

Searcy also heads the Vietnam Enterprise Group. The U.S. and Vietnam signed an Agreement on Trade Relations on July 13, 2000. Vietnam formally acceded to the WTO as its 150th member on January 11, 2007. Vietnam was granted unconditional normal trade relations (NTR) status by the United States through a Presidential Proclamation signed by President Bush on December 29, 2006. (Source, U.S. Dept. of State).

Searcy and a delegation of eight Vietnamese will be hosted by the Oregon REALTORS®, the NAR-appointed Ambassador Association to Vietnam.

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The Oregon Association of REALTORS® was established in 1932 to organize the real estate profession in Oregon. Today, the Association is a force for education and a business and legislative advocate for free enterprise and private property rights in Oregon.