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CRYE-LEIKE
PUBLIC RELATIONS
MEDIA ALERT

Contact Information:

Mike Machak

Director of Public Relations

Crye-Leike®, REALTORS® - Office of Public Relations

5111 Maryland Way, Suite 207

Brentwood, TN 37027

615-371-2191 direct / 615-414-6875 mobile / 615-221-0445 fax

**Crye-Leike, REALTORS Acquires Alabama Realty Group And Its
Real Estate Sales Operations In Athens And Ardmore Alabama**

2009 Expansion In Greater Huntsville And North Alabama Nets Crye-Leike Five New Retail Centers

ATHENS, AL., - Before the clock runs out on 2009, more than two dozen real estate agents in North Alabama will have transitioned their property listings and homebuyers to Crye-Leike, REALTORS. In December the company acquired the real estate sales operations of Alabama Realty Group and its sales center locations in Athens and Ardmore Alabama.

"When we first started studying the Greater Huntsville market two years ago, we knew we wanted to open an office in the Athens/Ardmore area because of its great growth potential," said Harold Crye, Crye-Leike, REALTORS Cofounder & CEO. "To be able to partner with a great company like Alabama Realty Group is very exciting to us."

With the office acquisition, more than two-dozen agents are making the transition to Crye-Leike. Former Alabama Realty Group owner Joe Stovall will stay on as an agent and plans to "hit the road selling". Kim Hodges will remain the Managing Broker at the new Crye-Leike Athens location and Broker Gary Neeley will continue to manage the new Crye-Leike Ardmore sales center.

"I am very excited about what the future holds for us all with Crye-Leike," said Stovall. "The proven tools and methods that Crye-Leike brings to our agents will take us all to the next level in our ability to provide professional service to buyers and sellers."

"Our goal is simple, to make the buying and selling process easier for our agents and their clients," said Rob Hatchett, Crye-leike, REALTORS Regional Vice President. "We have a great group of local agents now and we just want to put our unique marketing tools in their hands to serve the people of Athens and Ardmore."

The former Alabama Realty Group has been a real estate sales leader in its respective communities. The Alabama licensed agents – now joining Crye-Leike - assist buyers and sellers in and around in Limestone, Madison and Morgan counties.

"The Agents here have proven over the years to be great citizens and contributors of this community and throughout the South," said Crye. "Joe Stovall has led this company well in serving this community for many years and we are looking forward to being on the same team now with him. We know Kim Hodges and Gary Neely will do a fantastic job leading our new offices."

Crye-Leike Athens is located at 1260 U.S. Highway 72 East, Suite A in Athens, Alabama. Managing Broker Kim Hodges can be reached directly by phone at 256-230-2589 and by email at kim.hodges@crye-leike.com.

Crye-Leike Ardmore is located at 26626 Main Street in Ardmore, Alabama. Managing Broker Gary Neeley can be reached directly by phone at 256-423-5454 and by email at gary.neeley@crye-leike.com.

More About Joe Stovall And The former Alabama Realty Group

Joe Stovall and Kim Hodges started Alabama Realty Group in January 2003 with four offices in Athens, Ardmore, Madison and Decatur. The company specialized in residential, commercial and foreclosure properties.

Joe is a lifelong resident of Limestone County. Prior to his career in real estate he served more than 23 years in the U.S. Army and Navy. He is a Mason, part of the 32nd degree Scottish Rite and a Shriner devoted to helping crippled and burned children. Joe is a graduate of Calhoun Community College and has owned and operated several successful businesses in the region since his retirement from military service.

More About Crye-Leike Greater Huntsville And North Alabama

In the Spring of 2008 Crye-Leike, REALTORS entered Greater Huntsville with its first office located in the suburb of Madison, Alabama. A year later the company joined in a venture with the former owners of Coldwell Banker Premier located at 4092 Memorial Parkway South, Suite 200 and simultaneously opened a new sales center at 2745 Bob Wallace Avenue, Suite F in Huntsville. Also in 2009, the company acquired Red Rocket Realty in Huntsville.

Through its mergers and acquisitions in 2009, Crye-Leike, REALTORS is nearing 100 licensed sales associates in the region – and now ranks as the 3rd largest real estate firm in North Alabama based on recent monthly sales volume.

About Crye-Leike, REALTORS

Harold Crye and Dick Leike established **Crye-Leike, REALTORS** in 1977. Today, Crye-Leike®, the **Nations 6th Largest** real estate company, has a network of more than 3,000 licensed sales associates based out of more than 120 corporate and franchise offices located through-out the nine-state southern region of Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

Crye-Leike is a full-service real estate company offering buyers and sellers services in: residential sales, mortgage, title, insurance, business brokerage and investments, property management, development and construction, builder resources, REO bank-owned properties, relocation, auctions, and home services. In 2008, Crye-Leike attained a sales volume in excess of \$4.2 billion with 25,871 homes sold. ###