



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEIDT NAMED VICE CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAN RED CROSS NATIONAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PENROD CEO and Longtime Volunteer Tapped for Post by Board of Governors

VIRGINIA BEACH, V.A. (February 24, 2005) – Edward A. (Buzz) Heidt, Jr., President and CEO of The PENROD Company, has been named a Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross.

As a vice chair of the Red Cross' top all-volunteer board, Heidt will help guide and support the organization's biomedical and blood services activities and domestic and international relief efforts – including the organization's work in tsunami-devastated South Asia.

A volunteer with the American Red Cross since 1982, Heidt is also a member of the Washington, D.C.-based organization's Executive Committee and is vice chair of the Board of Governor's Biomedical Services Committee. He has been a member of the Board of Governors since 1998 and will serve a one-year term as vice chair.

Heidt has been President and CEO of Virginia Beach-based PENROD, a worldwide importer and exporter of wood, metal and PVC products, since 1983. He is a member of the Board of Directors of several international companies and is Chairman of the Board of Foresbec Inc., French hardwood distributor Société Noblebois, and St. Raymond Veneers Inc., among other industry roles.

In addition to these activities, Heidt is a member of the board of the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters Health Foundation and Physicians for Peace.

He and his wife Alyce live in Virginia Beach.

*The PENROD Company is a diversified, worldwide distributor of forest, metal and PVC products based in Virginia Beach, Va. One of North America's largest suppliers of hardwood lumber and plywood, PENROD is also a large U.S. metal products provider in the residential and commercial construction markets, as well as a leading PVC products supplier. The PENROD Company is one of a number of worldwide product distributors that exist under the umbrella of The Penrod Group. With distribution offices on five continents, The Penrod Group includes The PENROD Company and its Canadian subsidiaries: St. Raymond Veneers, Inc., Foresbec Inc. and its subsidiaries (Foresbec-UK, Foresbec-Romania, Noblebois-France, and Penrus-Moscow). **For more information on The PENROD Company or The Penrod Group, visit www.thepenrodcompany.com***

###