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AED Recognizes Excellence at Annual Meeting

San Diego, Calif. – Each year during AED’s Annual Meeting & CONDEX, the association recognizes members and local groups for outstanding service to the industry and the association.

The following awards were presented during the Thursday, Jan. 15 Business Session:

- **The Local Association Founders Award** – The Local Association Founders Award commemorates the group of 11 distributor principals who had the vision and commitment to form AED 90 years ago. This award is conferred upon the local group that excels in each of four areas: significant value to members, strong support of AED objectives, significant member involvement and strong evidence of outstanding volunteer leadership. The **Illinois Equipment Distributors** received this award for the second consecutive year. This group has been especially active in Illinois state government over the last year through their participation on a diesel emissions task force that developed a position paper on pending Illinois state legislation that could affect all users, contractors, and equipment distributors. Furthermore, IED has thoroughly studied the Illinois prevailing wage act and informed its members of its wide-ranging effects on Illinois industry as a whole and particularly on the membership of IED. IED continues to provide value to its membership with offerings like the State of the Industry Meeting in which they provide overviews and forecasts of individual product lines, as well as the Annual Vendors Night, which brings distributors together with suppliers and service providers. Additionally, IED has expanded their prospective membership efforts to include rental houses that have whole goods contracts. IED also gives to the greater community through a group contribution to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.
- **AED Founders Award** – The AED Founders Award is AED’s and the industry’s highest individual honor. This award, conferred by the AED board of directors, was established in 1974 to recognize and honor individuals who have given outstanding and extraordinary contributions to AED and to the industry. This highest honor was bestowed upon **Jay Paradis**, chairman of Bramco Inc., the parent company of Brandeis Machinery and Supply Company headquartered in Louisville, Ky. At last year’s Annual Meeting, Brandeis Machinery was honored by AED for being in business for 100 years. Robert Brandeis founded the company in 1908 and sold the distributorship to the Paradis family in 1924. Bramco remains a family-owned business to this day. Paradis’ commitment and dedication are not limited to Bramco.

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Thursday, Jan. 15 Business Session, cont'd:

- **AED Founders Award, cont'd** – Over the years, he has consistently contributed a great measure of his time, effort, and expertise to the industry through his work with AED. Paradis has served on the AED board in many capacities: director, vice-president, and as president of AED in 1994. He has served on numerous committees and he has been a consistent presence, friend, and force for AED. He has led his company through a long period of growth and success, always marked by the highest levels of participation and support of AED, and continues to do so today.
- **AED Democracy Award** – **Joe Vrablik**, executive vice president of Cummins Rocky Mountain in Broomfield, Colo., was the recipient of this award. This award is granted to an individual who has done the most in the past year to promote the association's public policy agenda. Vrablik has been an extraordinary role model and influence on behalf of AED members in Washington and around the country.
- **2008 Pundit of the Year Award** – **John Regan**, executive vice president and COO of G&H Service in Newton, N.J., was the recipient of this award. This award is given to the individual that chose more winners for the 2008 elections than the AED Washington office team and other participants.

The following awards were presented during the Saturday, Jan. 17 Business Session:

- **50 Year AED Members** - AED recognized two companies that have prospered through the ups and downs and have remained a part of the AED community for an incredible 50 continuous years: **Linder Industrial Machinery** of Plant City, Fla., and **Southern Machinery Co.** of Nashville, Tenn. Linder Industrial Machinery was founded in 1953 by Scott Linder, Sr. and James Cox. Originally focused on the phosphate mining industry, the company expanded dramatically through the Florida housing boom of the 1950s, and has grown over the years to become the Florida peninsula's exclusive distributor of Komatsu equipment. Southern Machinery Company was founded in 1958. Originating as an equipment distributor, Southern Machinery Company has evolved over time into a dynamic enterprise specializing in the engineering, design and installation of material processing systems and components.

About AED

AED is an association of independent distributors, manufacturers and other organizations involved in the distribution of construction equipment and related products and services in North America and throughout the world. AED members sell, service and rent equipment to markets that include heavy and light construction, mining, agriculture, forestry, aggregates, engines and industrial.

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