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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

In Memory of Robert Hunt Steffler

Temecula, CA (May 19, 2004) -- Robert Hunt Steffler, a life-long member of the ceramic tile industry, died on May 5, 2004, at the age of 63, due to heart complications.

Steffler began his thirty plus years in the ceramic tile business in 1961 with Gladding, McBean Tile Company (later to become Franciscan Ceramics), and ended his career with Franciscan as the customer service manager in 1979. Steffler then took a position as V.P. of Sales with California Architectural Ceramics where he worked until 1987, at which time he left to open his own tile operation. The San Fernando Valley Tile Company was a partnership between Steffler and another ex-Franciscan Ceramics employee, Dave Steyck. Several years ago Steffler retired to Temecula, California where he assisted his wife, Katie, in her design business. He also worked part-time with owner Vince Pompo at Tile Depot in San Marcos. "Robert was really dedicated to this industry," said Vince Pompo. "He was professional with the customer because he genuinely cared that they were satisfied and happy with the tile selection – we'll miss him a lot." He was associated with the B.I.A., B.I.C.A., Association of Tile Contractors and Producers Counsel. Robert enjoyed playing golf and was a member of the Men's Club at Temeku Hills and Red Hawk Golf Course. He was honorably discharged from the 82nd Airborne Division while stationed in Germany.

Sheffler is survived by his wife of 20 years, Katie, two daughters, two son-in-laws, one grandson, two sisters, and one brother. They will all miss him very much!

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