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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DURHAM COMPANY IS NEWEST MEMBER OF GROWING REALTY
FRANCHISE ORGANIZATION IN NORTH CAROLINA**

WEICHERT, REALTORS® - Mark Thomas Properties Banner Will Fly January 7

Durham, N.C., January 7, 2005—Mark Thomas, broker/owner of Mark Thomas Realty, has announced his nine-year-old company's affiliation with Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. (WREA). Newly named WEICHERT, REALTORS® - Mark Thomas Properties, the franchise located at 3901 University Drive in Durham is one of 23 WEICHERT® offices to open in the Carolinas since WREA first began identifying qualified candidates in January 2002.

Thomas is a native North Carolinian and has made his home in Durham since 1978. A 1982 graduate of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, he was in sales and marketing for the biotech industry until 1993 when he earned his real estate Broker's license. His training "in a consumer-centered approach to sales," he says, is what led him into real estate nine years ago, "and ultimately, to the Weichert organization, which is the same sort of fit to my approach to business, that is, listening to clients' needs before trying to sell anything."

Martin J. Rueter, president of WREA, said, "We welcome Mark to our growing North Carolina team with high expectations of what his background, reputation and philosophy bring to the organization."

MORE—

Weichert, based in Morris Plains, N.J., has more than 13,700 sales associates in nearly 300 company-owned and franchised sales offices in key markets throughout the U.S. A family of full-service real estate and financial services companies, Weichert helps customers buy and sell both residential and commercial real estate, and streamlines the delivery of mortgages and home and title insurance. For more information, call Weichert's customer service center at 1-800-USA SOLD or visit Weichert's Web site, www.weichert.com <<http://www.weichert.com>>. Each Weichert franchised office is independently owned and operated.

An official grand opening will be announced at a later date, along with an ambitious recruiting schedule of free career night seminars. Meanwhile, WEICHERT, REALTORS® - Mark Thomas Properties can be reached at (919) 477-7985.

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