



# News release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KB HOME'S JIM WIDNER NAMED BUILDER OF THE YEAR**

***Las Vegas President Recognized by Nation's Largest Homebuilder's Magazine***

**Las Vegas, Nev. (December 29, 2004)** – Jim Widner, president of KB Home's (NYSE: KBH) Nevada division was named 2004 Builder of the Year by *Builder & Developer* magazine, the nation's largest professional homebuilder's magazine. Widner, a Las Vegas resident and KB Home employee for the past 18 years, was recognized for leading the builder's Las Vegas division as the top builder in one of the nation's most prolific markets while spearheading key quality industry initiatives.

"I've long known Jim to be an outstanding leader," said KB Home Chairman and CEO Bruce Karatz, who was *Builder & Developer's* 1993 Builder of the Year. "Jim heads a division that is larger than most building companies. His strategic focus and knowledge of our business help maintain our top market share in one of the fastest growing and most competitive housing markets in the nation."

Among Widner's successes in Las Vegas is the division's distinction as the first public homebuilder in the nation to earn certification through the National Association of Homebuilders Research Center's National Housing Quality (NHQ) Program's pilot Certified Builder initiative. The builder certification followed the Las Vegas division's adoption of the NHQ Trade Contractors Certification program for all trade partners.

"So far, as a result of program implementation, [the Las Vegas division] has seen a four-day improvement on our build time with the confidence that we and our trade partners are building with a consistent commitment to quality," said Leah Bryant, regional general manager of KB Home and former president of KB Home Las Vegas. "Jim Widner has been one of the major driving forces of this program."

Another major success in KB Home's Las Vegas division this year was Widner's participation in ABC's popular *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. Over a five-day period in early November, KB Home demolished a 1,300 sq. ft. cinderblock home and replaced it with a 3,200 sq. ft. two story beauty for the very deserving Broadbent family in North

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Las Vegas. This accomplishment reflected the strength of KB Home Las Vegas leadership, employees and trade partners with more than 1,100 people working on the home in the brief span.

As president of KB Home Las Vegas Division, Jim Widner is responsible for all Las Vegas operations, including land acquisition, construction, purchasing, customer service, sales and marketing. Widner first joined Lewis Homes in 1986 as a project superintendent. When Lewis Homes was acquired by KB Home in January 1999, Widner was named vice president of operations before his promotions to senior vice president and then executive vice president. He assumed the role of president for KB Home's Las Vegas division in August 2003.

### **About KB Home**

Building homes for nearly half a century, KB Home is one of America's premier homebuilders with domestic operating divisions in the following regions and states: West Coast -- California; Southwest -- Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico; Central -- Colorado, Illinois and Texas; and Southeast -- Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Kaufman & Broad S.A., the Company's majority-owned subsidiary, is one of the largest homebuilders in France. In fiscal 2004, the Company delivered 31,646 homes in the United States and France. It also operates KB Home Mortgage Company, a full-service mortgage company for the convenience of its buyers. Founded in 1957, KB Home is a Fortune 500 company listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "KBH." For more information about any of KB Home's new home communities, call 1-888-KB-HOMES or visit the Company's Web site at <http://www.kbhome.com>.

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