

# PRESS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release*

## **BUILDING INDUSTRY LEADERS OFFICIALLY OPEN NEW STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE OFFICE**

January 2, 2003 (Washington D.C.) – National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) President F. Gary Garczynski, flanked by Andrew G. Sharkey III, President and CEO of the American Iron & Steel Institute (AISI), Greg Ralph, Chairman of the Board of the Steel Framing Alliance (SFA), and Tim Waite, President of the SFA, sliced through a steel ribbon to officially open the new headquarters office of the Alliance in Washington, D.C. The December 18 event attracted numerous other leaders from both the building and steel making industries, including NAHB President-Elect C. Kent Conine, and NAHB Executive Vice President and CEO Jerry Howard.

The new Alliance office is in the heart of NAHB's National Housing Center, headquarters site for the NAHB and other construction-related industry associations. NAHB has recently completed a two-year, \$30 million expansion and renovation of the National Housing Center that now occupies its entire staff of 350 with the addition of the 40 employees of NAHB's Home Builders Institute. A limited number of other construction-related organizations including the Steel Framing Alliance were invited to move into the new building, a 209,000 square foot nine-story space featuring an impressive five-story atrium "Grand Hall" with etched glass murals on the window walls at the corners of 15<sup>th</sup> and M Streets.

In his remarks at the opening ceremony, Garczynski noted that the National Housing Center was intended to be a focal point for programs and initiatives that would advance new construction methods and materials that will enable builders to provide their customers with better structures for greater value. "Steel framing is an important new technology and we encouraged the Alliance to join us when space became available at the Center last year. We believe this marks the beginning of an even closer relationship between the steel framing and construction industries," he said.

Sharkey echoed these comments in his own remarks at the event. "The steel industry recognizes the importance of being close to its customers, and the relocation of the Alliance to the National Housing Center should send the strongest possible signal that we are committed to seeing steel framing enjoy its full potential."

Tim Waite, SFA president, added, "We are an integral part of the construction industry, so naturally the best place for us to be is at the hub of the home builders. Our presence at the National Housing Center helps ensure that we stay in touch with the needs of our customers, and can better anticipate opportunities as they arise. We are already seeing the direct benefits of our relationship with NAHB senior staff in just a few short weeks of operating at our new office."

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The Steel Framing Alliance is a non-profit membership trade association that was established in 1998 to enable and encourage the use of light gauge steel framing in construction. Serving as the industry's portal, the Steel Framing Alliance delivers innovative steel framing solutions to the residential and light commercial construction industries. For more information, contact Larry Williams, [llwilliams@steelframingalliance.com](mailto:llwilliams@steelframingalliance.com), 202.785.2022.



**At Open House:** (From left to right) Greg Ralph, SFA Board Chairman; Gary Garczynski, NAHB President; Andy Sharkey, AISI President and CEO; and Tim Waite, SFA President

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