



**SOUTHEASTERN LUMBER
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THOMAS RECEIVES CHAIRMAN'S AWARD AT SLMA ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

TYRONE, GA, July 30, 2009 - - Charles Thomas, III, Vice President of Shuqualak Lumber Company, was presented with the prestigious Chairman's Award at the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association's 2009 Annual Conference held in Amelia Island, FL recently. Thomas served as chairman of the association from August of 2008 through July of 2009.

As chairman, Thomas focused on ensuring the association's preparedness for changes within the industry. "The landscape is changing in the forest products industry," explained Thomas. "SLMA is a strong entity and is well-equipped to help independent lumber manufacturers adapt to these changes."

Thomas began his career in the lumber industry in 1981 after receiving his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi that same year.

"We've thoroughly enjoyed working with Charlie for the past year," says Debbie Brady, president of SLMA. "He set goals for himself and for the association and he exceeded those goals. Thanks to his foresight and dedication, he equipped the association and its members to survive in these tough economic times."

In addition to his involvement with the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, Thomas is past president of the Mississippi Lumber Manufacturers Association. He continues to be actively involved in MLMA's Governmental Affairs Committee, where he is passionate about educating Mississippians about the importance of the forest products industry on the state's economy.

Aside from his commitment to the lumber industry, Thomas is also actively involved in his community. He is a member of First United Methodist Church in Macon,

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MS, where he serves on the Finance Committee. He also hosts a youth hunt each year in conjunction with Mississippi's Youth Hunt Program. Charlie and his wife, Lisa, currently reside in Starkville. They have a son, Chaz, and a daughter, Stephanie.

Shuqualak Lumber Co., headquartered in Shuqualak, MS, is a completely integrated forest products company. The company was founded in 1948 by Charles Thomas Sr., Richard Prince and E.G. Flora. Shuqualak Lumber Co. produces an average of 120 million board feet of quality Southern Pine products annually. The company currently has 100 employees.

The Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association represents independent lumber manufacturers throughout the Southeastern United States. Members of the association produce an average of 4.5 billion board feet of quality hardwood and softwood lumber annually. SLMA represents over 140 member companies with the continued goal of helping perpetuate family-owned lumber businesses.

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