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DURHAM, N.C. TRUCK DEALER NOMINATED FOR TOP INDUSTRY HONOR

McLean, Va. (March 17, 2008) — Cooper Sykes, president of Cooper Kenworth Inc., Durham, N.C., is nominated for the American Truck Dealers/*Heavy Duty Trucking* Truck Dealer of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at the opening general session of the 45th Annual ATD Convention and Exposition in Dallas on April 26.

Building the Business

Sykes began his career in the U.S. Air Force. Later, he worked as a service technician for several years, and then accepted a position with GMC Truck as a district sales representative for North Carolina and Tennessee. From there he moved to Miller Truck Sales in Durham, N.C., and for 10 years he served in various management positions. When the opportunity arose in 1973, Sykes and his wife Joan signed on with Kenworth Truck Company and opened their first dealership. They currently operate nine full-service sales and parts facilities, selling Kenworth, Isuzu and Mitsubishi Fuso trucks. They also offer truck leasing, rental and body shop services.

Sykes attributes much of the company's success to the stability of many long-term employees and the loyalty and friendship of customers. He believes that "if you treat people with respect, honesty and integrity, they will treat you the same way."

Honors, Awards and Service to the Industry

Awards earned by Cooper Kenworth include Kenworth's Regional Customer Support Dealer of the Year (2006); the Parts & Service Silver award; various Top Ten awards; the Paclease Excellence Award (1982 – 2007); Franchise of the Year (1985, 2003); and Isuzu's Ichiban award.

Sykes served as an officer of ATD and as chairman of the Kenworth Dealer Council two times. He is a member of ATD and the Carolina Ready Mix Concrete Association. He also served on the board of directors of the North Carolina Auto and Truck Dealers Association (NCADA) and the North Carolina Trucking Association. Sykes remains active in NCADA, and is involved in addressing legislative issues affecting the truck industry.

Community Service

Sykes and his wife Joan live in Durham. He is a board member, contributor and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, and is an active member of the McMannen Methodist Church, serving on the Volunteer Disaster Response Team and numerous other volunteer positions.

The Award

The American Truck Dealers/*Heavy Duty Trucking* Truck Dealer of the Year Award nominees are evaluated on dealership performance, civic contributions and industry leadership.

About ATD

Founded in 1970, the American Truck Dealers division of the National Automobile Dealers Association is the only national organization representing dealers selling new medium- and heavy-duty trucks.

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