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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REBNY TO HONOR FREDERICK MAREK AT 108TH ANNUAL INDUSTRY BANQUET

NEW YORK, NY --- Frederick Kane Marek, President of The Vortex Group, LLC and a leading figure in commercial real estate brokerage for three decades, will be honored with the Real Estate Board of New York's Kenneth R. Gerrety Humanitarian Award on January 15, 2004 at the Board's 108th Annual Banquet.

Officially dubbed "*A Great Night to Honor Five Great New Yorkers*," this year's event carries on the long-held tradition of honoring an outstanding member of the real estate community for philanthropic and civic activities that "meet high standards of generosity and effectiveness" with the Gerrety award.

Calling it "a great and unexpected honor," Marek says he "is particularly proud because the real estate industry has such a strong record of charitable involvement. To be accorded this recognition and follow in the footsteps of some of the leaders in our industry is deeply appreciated."

His civic contributions began early and paralleled his successful rise within the brokerage community. In 1967, he joined the New Leadership Division of Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. That led to participation on the Board of Directors at the Emanuel Midtown YMWHA, which he later served as President for seven years. His

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Marek honored by REBNY/2

community involvement continued at The Educational Alliance, which he continues to serve as a Trustee, and with The Rockefeller University as a Council Member. Marek co-founded a research program known as DirectEffect a decade ago at Rockefeller..

Shortly after 9/11 Marek started a fund with the Real Estate Board of New York to serve needy children of the victims of this disaster.

Marek spent the bulk of his career at Julien J. Studley, Inc. before forming The Vortex Group, LLC., earlier this year, where he continues to represent some of the leading corporations and firms in the legal profession and financial community. Focusing exclusively on the tenant side of the leasing equation, Marek is well known for his depth of expertise in working with law firms, financial institutions and banking corporations such as BNP Paribas, Lazard Freres, Wilson Elser, et. al. and Te Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

An active member of REBNY, Marek is Chairman of REBNY's Plaza Committee and a Director of its Commercial Brokerage Division.

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