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**Retail Association of Maine Presents Hancock Lumber its Retailer of the Year Award**

Augusta, ME (April 27, 2023) The Retail Association of Maine (RAM) presented its Retailer of the Year Award to Hancock Lumber. The annual award is a prestigious recognition of a retailer in Maine who has met the highest standards of excellence in the past year by improving its sales, work environment for its employees, and the contribution of its resources to the community.

Now celebrating its 175th year in business, Hancock Lumber has set the standard for a work environment where leadership is encouraged at every position and employees feel empowered, respected, and listened to, –honoring a commitment to a culture where ‘Everybody Leads’ and truly being a ‘Best Place to Work.’

Kevin Hancock, Chairman of Hancock Lumber, accepted the award yesterday at The Summit 2023, our annual trade conference, co-hosted by the Retail Association of Maine and Maine Grocers and Food Producers Association (MGFPA). “In addition to being an exceptional business in the state of Maine, we are especially grateful to Hancock Lumber for their help with our “From Maine to Ukraine” project last year,” remarked Curtis Picard, President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine, “Because of Hancock, we shipped two containers full of donated goods for the people of Ukraine. Hancock Lumber provided the means to get those containers shipped to Ukraine. This was a major undertaking for which we are so very thankful.”

“It’s really a validation of the culture that we have, and it tells us to just keep doing what we’re doing,” commented Paul Wainman, President, and CEO of Hancock Lumber, “The focus is not on the results. It is making sure we do the right thing by the people in the business. You get that culture right, then everything else will fall into place.”

The Retail Association of Maine has presented the annual Retailer of the Year Award since 1980. Other winners include Lisa Marie’s Made in Maine (2022), Fielder’s Choice Ice Cream (2019), Union Farm Equipment (2018) Loyal Biscuit Company (2017), and Day’s Jewelers (2016).

**About the Retail Association of Maine**

*The Retail Association of Maine is a statewide, non-profit trade association representing more than 300 businesses in the state, from large chains to small independent retailers. Incorporated in 1937, the Retail Association of Maine serves as the voice of retailers in Maine and concentrates on preserving the state's strong retail climate. For more information on the Retail Association of Maine, please refer to the website at* [*www.retailmaine.org*](http://www.retailmaine.org) *or call the Retail Association of Maine office at 207-623-1149.*###