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Date: January 17, 2005
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WERTZ & COMPANY, LLP Announces its Second Acquisition This Month

Russ Wertz, Managing Partner of Wertz & Company, LLP, one of Orange County's largest local CPA firms, announced today the Company's merger with John Ernest Accountancy Corporation. The merger, which became effective January 1, 2005, follows Wertz & Company's earlier announcement this month regarding its acquisition of the Irvine based firm of Fox & Cova.

John Ernest Accountancy Corporation is a Tustin based tax practice servicing individuals and business owners since 1979. Prior to starting his own company, Ernest spent ten years in the audit department of two other local Orange County CPA firms. Mr. Ernest will serve as a consultant working out of the Wertz & Company's Irvine office building through April 2005 to ensure a smooth transition of his client base.

"I was introduced to W&C by Mike Michael Trank who is a tax and financial planning partner in their tax practice" said Ernest. "I have known Mike for fourteen years and have confidence in his ability and his professionalism. He will be taking personal charge of my practice during the transition"

This marks the second merger by Wertz & Company within the last 30 days, reinforcing the Company's overall growth strategy. "We believe that by combining high quality firms into a multi-disciplinary practice, we broaden the scope of the services and deepen the resources which ultimately allow us to better serve our clients" said Wertz. This event marks the sixth successful merger the W&C has completed over the last five years.

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