

Bank of Granite

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 22, 2007

Thuss of Granite Mortgage Honored by USDA

Lenoir, N.C. – Tom L. Thuss and Granite Mortgage were recently honored by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for being a top lending company for Guaranteed Rural Housing loans during the past fiscal year. Granite Mortgage was one of two companies who used in excess of \$10,000,000 in Guarantee Rural Housing loan funds during the same time period.

Bank of Granite Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Charles M. Snipes, presented a certificate of appreciation to Thuss during the corporation's January board of directors meeting on behalf of the USDA. "Tom has done such a great job with this program in Caldwell County," said Snipes. "It truly helps families who would otherwise be without adequate housing."

USDA Rural Development's overall mission is to improve the quality of life for rural Americans. To help accomplish their mission, loans and grants are made to provide residents with safe, affordable homes through the Guaranteed Rural Housing program. Loan eligibility is based on adjusted household income, with loans available to low- and very low-income applicants. Rural Development guarantees loans, made by mortgage lenders, such as Granite Mortgage, to moderate-income families who have limited down payment funds.

After seven years in banking as a commercial lender, Thuss joined Granite Mortgage in 1998 as a mortgage loan officer and was promoted to vice president in 2005. His office is located at the Bank of Granite in downtown Lenoir.

Thus is a native of Caldwell County and a 1988 graduate of West Caldwell High School. He received a Bachelor of Science in business administration from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1991.

Thus is president of Collettsville School Athletic Boosters Club, board member of the Caldwell Council on Adolescent Health, and is secretary for the Board of Trustees at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute.

Thus and his wife, Vicki, reside in Collettsville with their son, 13-year-old Mason, and daughter, 10-year-old Carly. They are active members of Whitnel Pentecostal Holiness Church in Lenoir.

Bank of Granite and Granite Mortgage are subsidiaries of Bank of Granite Corporation whose stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "GRAN." The bank operates 22 full-service banking offices in Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Forsyth, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Watauga, and Wilkes counties. Granite Mortgage, headquartered in Winston-Salem, originates home mortgages in these counties and in Fayetteville, Greensboro, and Salisbury, N.C.

###

For further information, please contact:

Karen Clark-Caruso, *Public Relations & Marketing Director*

PO Box 578 • Hickory, NC 28603 • Ph. 828-345-6863 • Fax: 828-345-0809

kcaruso@bankofgranite.com • www.bankofgranite.com



Tom Thuss of Granite Mortgage and Charles Snipes, Bank of Granite Chairman and CEO