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For Immediate Release

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Persian Rug Galleries Chosen Small Business of the Year

At its Eminence Awards ceremony held March 18th, the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce recognized Persian Rug Galleries as the Small Business of the Year for 2007. Eminence Awards are presented to businesses who have realized success in the previous year while also maintaining a commitment to the greater Nashua, NH community. The award was presented to Persian Rug Galleries owner, Sy Mahfuz.

This is the second time in less than a decade that Chamber executives have lauded Persian Rug Galleries. In 1999, the store garnered Retailer of the Year honors from the NH Chamber of Commerce Executives. That same year, the Oriental Rug Retailers Association also recognized Persian Rug Galleries as its Oriental Rug Retailer of the Year.

Representing the third generation to take an active role in his family's business, Sy Mahfuz has achieved enormous recognition as one of the nation's foremost authorities on Oriental rugs. He is a Certified Rug Appraiser (CRA); a past trustee of the Oriental Rug Retailers of America (ORRA); and also co-founder of MERA Consulting, providing sales analysis and training to retailers, wholesalers and suppliers engaged in the Oriental and area rug trade, including Nebraska Furniture Mart, Capel Corporation, Carpet One dealers, and Karastan.

In 1994, Mahfuz was instrumental in getting House Bill 1391 passed in New Hampshire, strengthening consumer protection statutes regarding going out of business sales. He has taught courses about Oriental rugs several colleges and universities, and contributes articles about Oriental rugs and rug retailing to various publications.

In addition to his professional standing, Sy is also actively involved in the greater Nashua community. He is a past president of the Rotary Club of Nashua; a trustee of the Nashua Symphony Orchestra Association; and has served on the boards of the local YMCA, Pastoral Care Center, Rivier College Advisory Board, United Way, Bishop Guertin High School and Great American Downtown. He currently serves on the Local Advocacy Task Force of the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce and the Nashua Pride Advisory Board.