



*For Immediate Release*

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### **Statement by J.D. Byrider Systems Inc.**

**CARMEL, Ind. (March 23, 2006)**—J.D. Byrider Systems Inc., today made the following statement:

“Late this morning, the crash of a private plane in Melbourne, Florida, took the life of James F. DeVoe. He was the founder, president, chief executive officer, and chairman of the board of J.D. Byrider Systems Inc.

“Along with the pilot, also killed in the crash was Steele Gudal, who was Mr. DeVoe’s son-in-law, and a Byrider shareholder and successful franchisee.

“With Jim’s death, our corporate family has lost a leader, a mentor, and most important—a great friend. We don’t use the word “family” loosely—Jim was fond of referring to us all that way.

“It was the hallmark of the way he did business. Whether it was in dealing with customers or fellow employees, his rule was pretty simple: Treat people with the dignity and respect that you would give a family member.

“With an attitude like that, it’s not surprising that he fostered initiative and personal growth within the management of his company. He made us *all* leaders. As a result, we’re confident he always knew that the company was in good hands, and that his legacy of compassionate leadership would be continued.

“We are all proud to carry on Jim’s work. The business model that Jim created more than 25 years ago will continue, just the way he would want it.

“Our personal loss is compounded because, along with Jim, Steele Gudal will also no longer be at our side. We valued him as not just as a franchisee and shareholder, but also as a trusted friend and advisor. No less than Jim, he will be missed. We mourn for his family and that of the pilot, the DeVoe family, and the extended Byrider family.”



**Note to Editors:**

James F. DeVoe has been involved in automobile dealerships since 1961, and car financing and leasing since 1968. He opened his first dealership in 1979. He founded J.D. Byrider in 1989, and has served as chairman and CEO since then.

Jim graduated from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 1966, and earned a masters of business administration degree there in 1967.

**J.D. Byrider**

Headquartered in Carmel, IN, outside Indianapolis, J.D. Byrider was founded in 1989. Its mission is to serve customers with special financing needs who are routinely ignored by other dealers, and to ensure that they receive the same quality service in every J.D. Byrider dealership. Sixteen years and some 550,000 vehicles later, daily customer-satisfaction monitoring by each dealership shows an average 95 percent satisfaction rating. There are 123 franchisee- and company-owned J.D. Byrider dealerships in 28 states. More than 5,000 people—many of them repeat customers or referrals—trust Byrider with their business every month. For more, visit [www.jdbyrider.com](http://www.jdbyrider.com).