

PETER H. PENNEKAMP, LEADER IN RURAL ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT, JOINS BUSH FOUNDATION BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saint Paul, MN (Aug. 25, 2008)—Bush Foundation Directors strengthened their commitment to rural communities at their July meeting by electing Peter H. Pennekamp of Bayside, CA, to the Board. He is executive director of the Humboldt Area Foundation, which strives to build “social, economic and environmental prosperity” on California’s forested, rural northern coast, an area that is home to several Indigenous tribes. Pennekamp is an advocate for rural communities at the state and national levels, as well as an activist for inclusive practices in institutions and communities.

Pennekamp said, “I’m excited to be joining the board of the Bush Foundation at a time of new and innovative focus on the people, states and Native nations it serves, under the executive leadership of Peter Hutchinson. I’ve long wanted to know more about this part of the country and look forward to learning from and meeting people throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.”

Over a long career in philanthropy, Pennekamp has served on various foundation boards and affinity groups, including the Diversity in Philanthropy project sponsored by the national Council on Foundations. He is trustee and past board chair of Internews Network, an advisor to the Aspen Roundtable on Community Change and Aspen Community Strategies Group, a trustee of the Association of California Traditional Artists, and a founding board member of CFLeads. He is a past board member of both the California Endowment, and the Center for Philanthropy and Public Policy at the University of Southern California.

Prior to joining the Humboldt Area Foundation in 1993, Pennekamp was the vice president for cultural programming and program services for National Public Radio. Two programs he was instrumental in developing at NPR went on to receive George Foster Peabody Awards. While at the National Endowment for the Arts in the late 1980s, he directed the Inter-Arts Program, which made grants to support arts presenting and service organizations, individual artists and artist colonies. For that work he received an Endowment Distinguished Service Award.

“Peter Pennekamp brings a wealth of experience to our Board,” said Foundation Board Chair Kathy Tunheim. “As a community foundation leader in a rural setting, he knows the importance of combining courageous leadership with community engagement to solve problems, and that is at the heart of our strategy going forward.”

Recently the United Indian Health Service of California awarded Pennekamp its Friends are Good Medicine Award; he has also been recognized by the California Arts Council for his exemplary contributions to the arts in his home state. Pennekamp holds a BA in social psychology from Humboldt State University.

The **Bush Foundation** was established in 1953 by 3M executive Archibald Bush and his wife Edyth. It strives to be a catalyst to shape vibrant communities in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota by investing in courageous *and* effective leadership that significantly strengthens and improves the well-being of people in these three states.

(A photo of Pennekamp is available at 651/379-2238 or vtirrel@bushfoundation.org.)