Deloach Elected New Chairman of Sonoco Board of Directors

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., April 20, 2005 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- The Sonoco (NYSE: SON) Board of Directors today announced the election of Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., 60, Sonoco president and chief executive officer, as chairman of the board, effective immediately. DeLoach, who will continue as president and chief executive officer, replaces Charles W. Coker, 71, who will remain as a member of the Sonoco Board of Directors until May 2005 when he will reach mandatory retirement age for members of the Sonoco Board.

(Logo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/19991006/SNCLOGO)

DeLoach joined Sonoco in 1986 as vice president, administration, and general counsel. Prior to joining the Company, he was in private law practice and served as an outside counsel to Sonoco for approximately 15 years. In 1990, he was named vice president of Sonoco's High Density Film Products division and in February 1993 was named vice president of Film, Plastics and Special Products. In October 1993, he was promoted to group vice president. In 1996, he was promoted to executive vice president. DeLoach was elected to Sonoco's Board of Directors in 1998. He was named senior executive vice president in 1999 and promoted to senior executive vice president and chief operating officer in March 2000. He was named president and chief executive officer in July 2000.

DeLoach, a native of Columbia, S.C., graduated from the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina in 1966 with a degree in Business Administration and graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1969 with a J.D. degree. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Moore School of Business, in 1998.

In addition to the Sonoco Board of Directors, he currently serves on the Goodrich Board of Directors; is chairman of the University of South Carolina Business Partnership Foundation; a member of the University of South Carolina Law School Partnership Board; Presbyterian College Board of Trustees; president of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics Foundation; and chairman, Byerly Foundation, Hartsville.

Coker, a native of Hartsville, joined Sonoco in 1958 after graduating from Woodberry Forest School in Va., receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Princeton University in 1955 and earning a master's degree from Harvard University in 1957. After serving as executive vice president from 1966 to 1970, he was named president. In 1976, he was elected chief executive officer. In 1990, he was elected chairman of the board of directors. In 1998, he relinquished the responsibilities of CEO and continued as chairman of the board of directors.

In addition to his directorship at Sonoco, Coker also serves on the boards of Bank of America Corporation, Progress Energy, Inc. and Sara Lee Corporation. He is former chairman of the Board of Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina, and presently serves as vice chairman.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $3.2 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 35 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. Additional information about the Company is available at http://www.sonoco.com.

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