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**THE PEOPLE BEHIND MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO**  
***PEOPLE. PRESERVATION. PURPOSE***

San Juan Capistrano, CA -Tuesday, January 26, 2010- Mission San Juan Capistrano celebrated their employees and volunteers with the 5<sup>th</sup> annual appreciation luncheon held at El Adobe de Capistrano Restaurant in San Juan Capistrano, which was attended by over 200 guests,

“The mission relies on the heartfelt dedication and donation of time from our volunteers in order to continue to provide inspired learning and to be the place where life memories are made.” said Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director at the Mission.

Twenty four awards were given out to Mission employees and volunteers, including recognition for Employee Milestones, Preservation, Education, Inspiration, and Special Recognition. Long-time docent Mary Susa, and Tony Moiso, co-founder of the Mission Preservation Foundation, were both given Lifetime Achievement Awards for their tireless dedication to Mission San Juan Capistrano.

Every year the Mission has hundreds of volunteers that donate their time, energy, and passion. This year over 6,760 hours (averaging over 563 hours a month) were donated in dedicated service to the historic landmark and museum by over 300 volunteers. The ways that individuals volunteered included:

- Artifacts Council
- Cemetery volunteers
- The Docent Society
- Gardening Angels
- Living History

- Native American Basket Weavers
- Passport Explorer Assemblers
- Music Under the Stars
- Women's Guild
- Mission Archaeologists

Lawrence-Adams: "People. Preservation. Purpose. This is what the Mission is all about--It's a great day when you have the chance to express your appreciation to people who make the world a better place."

***About Mission San Juan Capistrano:***

*Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.*

*The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres' quarters of the South Wing.*

*The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County's only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County's only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$5 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit [www.missionsjc.com](http://www.missionsjc.com)*

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