MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO MOURNS THE LOSS OF LEGACY SUPPORTER MRS. JOAN IRVINE SMITH

ORANGE COUNTY, Calif. (December 20, 2019)- Mission San Juan Capistrano is sad to announce the passing of Joan Irvine Smith, a champion, friend and longtime supporter of Orange County’s only historic mission property. Mrs. Smith passed away yesterday morning.

Honored for her work and stewardship at the Mission’s Romance of the Mission gala in 2004, Mrs. Smith’s legacy will continue through her son James Irvine Swinden and his wife, Madeline Swinden, who serves on the Mission Preservation Foundation Board of Directors.

“This is a terrible loss to our community,” said Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, executive director of Mission San Juan Capistrano. “Mrs. Smith was a steward and champion of many things, including art and preservation. She recognized the importance of preserving the Mission for future generations, which was evidenced through her time, dedication and philanthropy. And, for that, we are grateful.”

Services will be private. Mrs. Smith’s family has asked that in lieu of flowers that any gifts in Joan Irvine Smith’s memory be made to Mission San Juan Capistrano and its ongoing preservation: 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675.

“Mrs. Smith helped to ensure that Mission San Juan Capistrano remains a place of inspiration, education and preservation for all,” added Lawrence-Adams. “We plan to ring the Mission bells in her honor as a way of remembering and celebrating a life that had so much meaning and purpose.”

ABOUT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
Located in San Juan Capistrano’s Historic Downton just four miles from the stunning coastal cliffs of
Dana Point in Orange County, Mission San Juan Capistrano is an 18th century world-renown California mission known for its swallows, gardens, and historic Serra Chapel. The Mission’s impressive grounds and remarkable architecture are a compelling setting in which visitors can learn about the region’s cultural roots, take inspiration from its spiritual significance, engage with local traditions, or explore both permanent and traveling exhibits of original artifacts that bring its history into the present.

Founded on November 1, 1776 by Saint Junipero Serra, who was canonized as a saint in 2015, Mission San Juan Capistrano is known as the “Jewel of the Missions” because of its Great Stone Church ruins. The seventh of nine missions founded by Serra (of a total 21 California missions established by Spain), it is Orange County’s only mission and is considered the birthplace of the region.

To learn more about Mission San Juan Capistrano visit https://www.missionsjc.com.

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