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DORKOWSKI NAMED TO MISSION PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA. (Sept. 7, 2012) – Mission San Juan Capistrano has a new Mission Preservation Foundation Board member -- Don Dorkowski has been named to the Board to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Board member Mike Hagan.

After a detailed evaluation period, Dorkowski was approved by the Board earlier this month.

"Frankly, I am so excited," said Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director of Mission San Juan Capistrano. "Don has been a dedicated supporter of Mission San Juan Capistrano. His background is a great fit for our Board, and we are pleased to welcome him, and wife Carol as well."

Dorkowski has had a varied and comprehensive professional career and has been an active philanthropist. He simultaneously worked as a high school teacher for 35 years, helped run the family business (Dondee Company LLC) and was a football referee for 44 years, including 25 in the National Football League. He has been a community leader for decades and has been involved with Mission Regional Hospital, Best Friends Animal Society, Homefront America, American Cancer Society, Muscular Dystrophy Association and Juvenile Diabetes, among others.

He also is entering his third year as Chief of the Noble Vikings of Orange County, a charity-based organization that packs 1,400 boxes of food for needy families at Christmas time.

"It is quite an honor," Dorkowski said of his being named to the Board. "I see the names of the people on the Board and I'm in awe, I can't believe my name is there with them."

Dorkowski grew up in Muskegon, Michigan and moved to Southern California in 1956. He graduated from Pius X High School in Downey, Cal State L.A. (BA) and Azusa Pacific University (MA).

He lives in Laguna Hills with wife Carol, and the couple has two children and one grandchild.

"We moved here 14 years ago from the San Gabriel Valley, and they have the mission there in San Gabriel, but it doesn't compare to this one. We've been caught up in the lore and the love of this place, and we've been financial supporters ever since."

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 18th 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); \$6 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.