



**CALIFORNIA
HALL OF FAME**

AT THE CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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**GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER AND
FIRST LADY MARIA SHRIVER INSTALL INAUGURAL INDUCTEES
INTO FIRST-EVER CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME ON DECEMBER 6**

Thirteen Leaders, Trailblazers and Legends to be Inducted into Groundbreaking Institution at the California Museum of History, Women and the Arts Celebrating Extraordinary Californians and Their Lasting Contributions to the State, Nation and World

Sacramento, CA—Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver will install 13 leaders, trailblazers and legends into the first-ever **California Hall of Fame**, a groundbreaking institution extolling the inspirational contributions of extraordinary Californians who have made their mark on the state, the nation and the world. On December 6, 2006, **Ronald Reagan, César Chávez, Walt Disney, Amelia Earhart, Clint Eastwood, Frank Gehry, David Ho, M.D., Billie Jean King, John Muir, Sally Ride, Ph.D., Alice Walker** and the **Hearst and Packard Families** become the inaugural inductees through a formal state ceremony at The California Museum for History, Women and the Arts in Sacramento, the home of the new California Hall of Fame.

"Inductees in the California Hall of Fame share a common characteristic: they dreamed, they built, they organized and they soared so that the world would never be the same," said First Lady Maria Shriver. "A California Hall of Fame is long overdue. I am thrilled that, both as an idea and a destination, it will inspire all Californians—especially the young—to live out their dreams."

Conceived by First Lady Maria Shriver, the California Hall of Fame has been established to recognize individuals who embody California's innovative spirit. Inductees will come from all walks of life, and are people who have made distinguished achievements across many fields including the arts, education, business and labor, science, sports, philanthropy and public service.

"California is blessed with so much but there is no doubt that it is the people of this state who truly make it rich," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "It is the people who thrust California to the front of the global stage, pushing history forward and pulling the rest of the world with it. It is the people, who have made California the launching pad for progress. These are the men and women who we will honor in the California Hall of Fame—the trailblazers and world changers whose imprint is forever stamped on our culture."

Each year, individuals inducted into the California Hall of Fame will be installed through an annual, formal ceremony in the State Capital. Their accomplishments will be made part of the permanent record in the California State Archives and become the subject of a year-round education campaign. In addition, their unique stories and personal achievements will be showcased at The California Museum in a permanent exhibit serving as the visual, encyclopedic record of the California Hall of Fame and its inductees.

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At the first annual ceremony in Sacramento, inductees will be presented with the *Spirit of California* medal, designed and created by internationally-acclaimed California artist Robert Graham. The medal features an iconic image visually interpreting the Spirit of California, a woman who looks over her shoulder in contemplation, depicting a courageous dreamer filled with the hope of realizing her dreams. Like the Hall of Fame's inductees, the medal embodies the state's energy, creativity and originality, celebrating the individuals from California who have made their mark on history.

"All around us, we can see signs that California is coming of age," said Kevin Starr, noted California historian, California State Librarian Emeritus and University of Southern California Professor of History. "One of those indicators is the fact that we are now honoring those great Californians, past and present, who have helped to create this dynamic society."

"I am deeply honored that my husband has been selected by Governor Schwarzenegger to be included in the California Hall of Fame," commented Nancy Reagan. "Ronnie's life embodied the California dream, and he loved this state with all his heart. I am very touched that his life continues to be an inspiration to so many."

A California Hall of Fame selection committee, comprising representatives from The California Museum, the California Arts Council, and the Governor's and First Lady's Offices, established selection and eligibility criteria for inductees. The inaugural inductees were selected in consultation with California historian Kevin Starr, California State Archivist Nancy Zimmelman and California State Librarian Susan Hildreth. The committee's recommendations were presented to Governor Schwarzenegger in May 2006 for approval.

"The Chávez family is grateful that Governor Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver are honoring César Chávez and his example of a life dedicated to the self-sacrifice and nonviolent social change that is vitally relevant today," said Paul Chávez, son of the legendary late farm worker leader.

Inaugural inductee Sally Ride said, "I am deeply honored to be selected as part of such an amazingly accomplished group of people. Billie Jean King was a hero of mine, so to be recognized in the same group with her is profoundly significant to me. The California Hall of Fame will be such an important venue for all Californians, particularly to showcase role models for our children."

The inaugural Hall of Fame induction event will be held on December 6, 2006, at The California Museum in Sacramento, and includes a formal induction ceremony, the presentation of the *Spirit of California* medals by the Governor and First Lady, followed by a special reception for inductees, dignitaries and invited guests. The event will unveil the inaugural installation of the Museum's California Hall of Fame exhibit, with all living inductees scheduled to participate; members of the Reagan, Chávez, Disney, Earhart and Muir families will accept the posthumous awards.

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About The California Museum for Women, History and the Arts

The California Museum for Women, History and the Arts is a non-profit, historical and cultural institution dedicated to telling the rich history of California and its unique influence on the world of ideas, innovation, art and culture. The Museum seeks to engage, educate and enlighten a broad public audience about California's history through exhibits and programs incorporating the experiences of women and other underrepresented groups. The California Museum inspires men, women, and children to dream the California dream and to dare to make their mark on history. The California Museum is located at 1020 O Street in Sacramento. For more information about the museum, visit www.californiamuseum.org.

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The California Hall of Fame is presented by:

