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RONALD REAGAN STATUE TO BE UNVEILED IN U.S. CAPITOL

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(Washington, D.C.) – Mrs. Ronald Reagan is on-hand today at the U.S. Capitol to unveil a statue of President Ronald Reagan in the Capitol Rotunda. She will be joined by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, House Republican Leader John Boehner, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and other Members of Congress for this hour-long program and tribute to our nation’s fortieth president.

“I know Ronnie would be deeply honored to see himself with a permanent home in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol and very proud to be representing his beloved California,” said former first lady Nancy Reagan about the day’s events. “I’m so grateful to Californians for giving him this honor.”

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation provided the funding for the statue and its surrounding events.

The sculpture, designed by American artist Chas Fagan of North Carolina, depicts President Reagan’s left arm resting on a column featuring eagles and a “torch of freedom.” The figure is mounted on a three foot high marble pedestal which contains the Great Seal of the Governor of California on one side and the Great Seal of the President of the United States on the other. Shards of the Berlin Wall have been incorporated into the stone cap of the base to recognize the role of one of our nation’s greatest leaders in the fall of Communism.

“In many ways, today’s unveiling of President Reagan’s statue marks the kick-off of a series of nationwide events leading up to the anniversary of the 100th birthday of Ronald Reagan on February 6, 2011,” said chairman of the board of trustees of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Frederick J. Ryan, Jr. “It is only fitting that this kick-off event encapsulates both his time as a California Governor and President of the United States.”

The National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol is comprised of statues donated by individual states to honor persons notable in their history. The U.S. Congress began honoring these great Americans in 1864 and the entire collection now consists of 100 statues contributed by the 50 states. All fifty states have contributed two statues each.

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the promotion of the legacy of Ronald Reagan and his timeless principles of individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy, and national pride. It sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Presidential Learning Center and The Air Force One Pavilion. Located in Simi Valley, California the Library houses over 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 40,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It now also serves as the final resting place of America's 40th President.

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