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Hollywood Legend Debbie Reynolds to be Honored at American Celebration Nov. 4

- Actress-Singer Will Be Presented with Chapman's Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award at American Celebration, University's 25th Annual Fundraising Gala

ORANGE, Calif., Oct. 11, 2006 – Hollywood legend Debbie Reynolds will be the show-business honoree at the 25th Anniversary edition of American Celebration, Chapman University's spectacular annual black-tie fundraising gala, on Saturday, Nov. 4. The actress-singer, best known for starring with Gene Kelly in the Academy Award-winning *Singin' in the Rain* and for her Oscar-nominated role in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, will receive Chapman's Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award in recognition of her extraordinary six-decade career that spans movies, recordings, radio, television and live performances. Her daughter, actress (*Star Wars*) and novelist Carrie Fisher, and son Todd Fisher plan to attend the gala and presentation.

The 25th Anniversary American Celebration Gala begins at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 4 with a dazzling live Broadway-revue-style stage show starring Chapman University's talented music and dance students, which takes place in Memorial Hall. Then at 8 p.m. the festivities move outside to a festival tent on the Bert Williams Mall (the lawn in front of Memorial Hall) for a sumptuous dinner, the awards ceremony, a live auction, and dancing to a live ensemble. The evening's other major honorees will be Lawrence and Kristina Dodge, founders of American Sterling Corporation, whose generous \$20 million gift established Chapman's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts in 2004. The Dodges will receive Chapman's Corporate Citizens of the Year Award.

Debbie Reynolds, born April 1, 1932, first sang and danced her way into America's hearts as the female lead in MGM's *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), opposite Gene Kelly and Donald O'Connor, almost universally considered to be one of the greatest movie musicals of all time. She went on to star in numerous other movies, such as *The Tender Trap* (1955), *Bundle of Joy* (1956, with her then-husband, singer Eddie Fisher), *Tammy and the Bachelor* (1957, which also gave her a hit recording, the title tune "Tammy"), *How the West Was Won* (1962), *The Singing Nun* (1966), *Divorce American Style* (1967) and many others. Her title role in 1964's *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* brought her an Oscar nomination (she lost to Julie Andrews in *Mary Poppins*). In the 1970s, '80s and '90s she added television and live nightclub and concert-hall appearances to her resume. Today, after a six-decade career in show business, she is one of the few icons of the MGM "golden age of film" to be still active onscreen – her 1996 movie *Mother* garnered her a Golden Globe Award, and she picked up a Blockbuster Entertainment Award for her 1997 film *In & Out*. She also owns one of the world's finest private collections of Hollywood memorabilia, which she has displayed over the years in several public venues.