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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Retired Navy Captain Pours “Heart & Soul”
into San Juan Capistrano Community**

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif. – July 8, 2010 – San Juan Capistrano resident Larry Kramer, 70, today was announced as the June recipient of the Orange County Heart & Soul Award. Kramer, a retired U.S. Navy submarine commander, is being honored for his service to the country and relentless dedication to the San Juan Capistrano community through Rotary, the SJC Open Space Committee and other service-based organizations.

Created by [O'Connor Mortuary](#), the Heart & Soul Award program is designed to recognize Orange County citizens for their passion for life and for their dedication to making a difference, whether they possess a lifetime of endeavors or for a one-time inspirational achievement.

“Larry is a stellar example of community service at its finest, because he’s genuinely dedicated to making San Juan Capistrano a better town,” said Neil O’Connor, president and CEO of O’Connor Mortuary. “He not only has embraced the Rotary International motto of ‘Service Above Self,’ but he exemplifies it in every sense of the phrase.”

A retired captain of the United States Navy, Kramer fulfilled the maximum term of service to his country as a submarine commander. He was stationed throughout the country in California, Connecticut, South Carolina, Washington, Hawaii and also internationally in Spain, Scotland and London during his 30 years of service. He has been honored with three Legions of Merit.

Today, Kramer is involved with Rotary International, which he has served for the past 12 years. He is a past-president of San Juan Capistrano Rotary and currently works at the office for Rotary District 5320, which consists of 46 clubs within Orange County and South Los Angeles County. Most recently, Kramer and other San Juan Capistrano Rotary members visited Tecate, Mexico, where they worked with nonprofit organization Corazon to build a home for an underprivileged family.

“Although I’m retired, I’m not dead. My health is good. My mind is good. I’ve had a pretty good life and it’s time to give back,” said Kramer. “Besides that, San Juan

Capistrano is a wonderful community, and it's great to see the results of my actions benefiting a place I love."

In addition to his involvement with Rotary, Kramer also serves on the San Juan Capistrano Transportation Commission as well as the city's Open Space Committee. He is a founder of the Open Space Ridge Events, which consist of a 10K walk, trail run and a mountain bike course for the first time this year. A portion of the proceeds from the event benefit San Juan Capistrano Rotary, and the rest is donated to the city to support trail maintenance.

As a winner of the Heart & Soul Award, O'Connor Mortuary will present Kramer with an official plaque, and a donation will be made in his name to Mission Hospital.

ABOUT THE HEART & SOUL AWARDS

Created by O'Connor Mortuary in February 2010, the Heart & Soul Award honors Orange County individuals each month for their exemplary and inspiring roles within the community. In celebrating the human spirit, the award recognizes OC residents for pouring their heart and soul into making a difference, whether for a life filled with dedicated endeavors or for a one-time inspirational achievement. One recipient is honored each month with an award plaque, a one-time donation to a local nonprofit organization in his/her name and recognition at a quarterly award reception. To nominate an outstanding Orange County citizen, email Patricia Kolstad at patricia@oconnormortuary.com.

ABOUT O'CONNOR MORTUARY

[O'Connor Mortuary](#) is the oldest family owned and operated mortuary in California. With offices in Laguna Hills, San Juan Capistrano and Irvine, Calif., it is the leading "stand alone" mortuary in Orange County. Founded in 1898 by Patrick J. O'Connor, and succeeded by his son Joseph and grandson Joseph Jr., the company today is managed by fourth generation CEO, Neil P. O'Connor and his two brother-in-laws, Joseph Fitzgerald, CFO and Charles Ricciardi, COO; as well as Jeff Turner, CAO. O'Connor Mortuary is recognized throughout Southern California for its longstanding tradition of caring, personalized service, honesty and integrity. The multi-generational company is active in numerous local charitable organizations and was honored by the California Historical Society for more than 100 years of continuous care and service to Southern California families. In addition, the company was honored in 2005 by the Family Owned Business Council for longevity and has received the Leatherby Award for Ethics in America.

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