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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Laguna Woods Resident and RN Sharon Davis
Honored with Heart & Soul Award**

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif. – April 15, 2010 O'Connor Mortuary (www.oconnormortuary.com) announced today that Sharon Davis, a clinical research nurse who has made significant contributions to oncology research spanning three decades, and who is viewed as a beloved “beacon of hope” by her patients and their families, has been named the April recipient of the Heart & Soul Award.

Created by O'Connor Mortuary, the Heart & Soul Award program is designed to recognize an Orange County citizen each month 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.

Davis, a resident of Laguna Woods, was selected for this honor because of the unique dual impact she has made on women's oncology research and patient care. A clinical research nurse at Long Beach Memorial hospital since 1982, Davis is stationed in the Women's Oncology Unit, and works predominantly with patients who are suffering from ovarian, endometrial and cervical cancers. Many of Davis' patients are inflicted with diseases that are unresponsive to conventional treatments. Her unwavering dedication to researching and identifying alternative therapies and protocols provides them, and their families, with newfound hope.

A registered nurse since 1977, Davis became involved in the research aspect of the field when a friend and fellow nurse asked her to help out with a special project in 1996. “From that first project on, I've really enjoyed clinical research,” said Davis, “Not only is it exciting to discover and develop new treatment options, but there is a lot of personalized interaction. I have the opportunity to become very close with the families because I take care of my patients before, during and long after their treatments.”

Davis is known at the hospital for going above and beyond her basic duties to bond with her patients and bring them hope. According to Davis, the most rewarding part of her work is simply being there for these women to make their situation a little easier to bear.

“We selected Sharon as our April Heart & Soul Award winner because of the deep connection she forms with each individual she works with, and for her dedication to bring quality care to patients who desperately need it,” said Neil O’Connor, CEO of O’Connor Mortuary and founder of the Heart & Soul Award. “She pours her heart and soul into helping women through a difficult process; bringing hope by watching over them, keeping in touch and researching different treatments and therapy options.”

Because she is so heavily involved with the research aspect, Davis checks in regularly with her patients long after they receive their treatment. “That’s another thing I really love about research, you follow your patients forever,” Davis said. “I check in with them every 3 months for the first 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years and annually after that. Knowing that people are still doing ok for long after, those are the success stories that make it all worth it.”

As winner of the Heart & Soul Award, O’Connor Mortuary will present Davis with an official plaque and a donation will be made in her name to Saddleback Hospital. Saddleback is part of the Memorial Care group, including Laguna Hills, Long Beach and San Clemente hospitals.

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 the fourth generation of O’Connors, including Neil P. O’Connor, CEO; Joseph Fitzgerald, CFO; Charles Ricciardi, COO; and 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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