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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Caregiver Honored for Giving Her ‘Heart & Soul’ to Grieving Families
O’Connor Mortuary Recognizes Compassion, Commitment and Concern

LAKE FOREST/SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO/MISSION VIEJO, Calif. – April 21, 2011 – Planning is usually a daunting task – weddings, retirement and life in general. But what about planning when a death occurs? At an often emotionally overwhelming time, critical details and important arrangements can easily get pushed aside by all-consuming grief. For instances such as these, Betty Fasset helps to alleviate that monumental weight. Fasset has been volunteering at Saddleback Memorial Church’s bereavement ministry in San Juan Capistrano and Lake Forest for nearly six years as a memorial service assistant, helping to manage myriad details during days of mourning and assisting families with whatever they need – be it driving directions or emotional support. For her unwavering compassion, Fasset has been announced as the April 2011 recipient of the O’Connor Mortuary Heart & Soul Award.

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

“Betty’s invaluable role has eased stress and helped to bring about the coping process for the families she serves,” said Neil O’Connor, President and CEO of O’Connor Mortuary. “She does something not many people can do and does so with incredible empathy and compassion. She is a figure of stability and comfort at a time when people need it the most.”

A resident of Mission Viejo, Fasset grew up in Chicago where her uncle worked as a mortician. So when she saw that Saddleback Church needed volunteers in this field, she graciously offered her services – acutely aware of the lessons she learned as a child as well as her own genuine, heartfelt compassion for grieving families. Of her multi-faceted role, Fasset said that if she can help lessen stress and sadness, ensuring that families are better equipped to honor their loved ones and focus on the grief process, then she’s given the family the support they need.

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“This is something I can do, and I know not everyone can be in my position and help people deal with loss. But for me, it is rewarding that people feel comforted and well taken care of as a result of something I do,” said Fassett of her position at Saddleback Church. “It’s humbling to be honored for something I feel I was meant to do.”

As a winner of the Heart & Soul Award, O’Connor Mortuary will present Fassett with an official plaque, and a donation will be made in her name to the effect.

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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