Leonore Annenberg Continues Outstanding Tradition of Giving

LEFT TO RIGHT: California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Eisenhower Medical Center President and Chief Executive Officer G. Aubrey Serfling, Harry M. Goldstein, Chairman of the Board of Eisenhower Medical Center, and Mrs. Leonore Annenberg. Eisenhower Breaks Ground on Annenberg Pavilion

On Friday, January 12, 2007, Harry M. Goldstein, Chairman of the Board of Eisenhower Medical Center, announced a $30 million gift from Leonore Annenberg, on behalf of the Annenberg Foundation. Mrs. Annenberg's incomparable donation formally launches Campaign Eisenhower Phase Two, the Medical Center's vital capital campaign. Her latest donation extends the enduring relationship she and her late husband Ambassador Annenberg have shared with Eisenhower Medical Center for more than 35 years.

[photo dir="assets/news/story/cfhlimages/200703/wn_annenberg1.jpg" align="right"] The announcement coincided with the official groundbreaking ceremony and gala reception for the new $212.5 million Walter and Leonore Annenberg Hospital Pavilion. Mrs.Walter Annenberg was lauded by more than 300 Eisenhower Medical Center donors, physicians and staff. Speakers included California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, former Secretary of State George Shultz, former Senator John Danforth, Eisenhower Medical Center President and Chief Executive Officer G. Aubrey Serfling, and Mrs. Leonore Annenberg. Former President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush sent personal videotaped greetings to honor Mrs. Annenberg.

Mrs. Annenberg addressed the audience of attendees by thanking them for their support: "I am the one who is thankful to all of you here for caring enough about the Eisenhower Medical Center and the new 160-bed Annenberg Pavilion to be here to share this moment with me today. I would like to pay tribute to my late husband Walter for it was through our partnership of 50 years that I have been privileged to continue my support for Eisenhower Medical Center. Great moments like this have filled my life with such joy. This Medical Center, including the Eisenhower board members, physicians, and staff, has meant so much to our lives as well as the development of the entire Coachella Valley…. This has become a Top 100 hospital in America — it has become the place of excellence that we all have hoped for."

WALTER AND LEONORE ANNENBERG HOSPITAL PAVILION

The 250,000 square-foot, four-story Walter and Leonore Annenberg Hospital Pavilion will add an additional 65 beds to the hospital to help offset the rapid population growth in the Coachella Valley and will meet current California seismic safety standards. It will house 34 critical care unit beds, 126 inpatient beds, and a new hospital cafeteria as well as various departments, including information systems, environmental services and nutritional services.

Focused on healing and excellence in care, patient rooms will feature state-of-the-art medical technology, a welcoming interior design, in-room dining areas, beds for overnight guests and online access for the patient and family. The luxurious rooms follow the "bedside model" design, allowing patients and their families privacy and comfort while facilitating patient care.

A full transcript of the evening's speeches.

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