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Margot Lane honored as the inaugural recipient of El Pomar Foundation’s Julie Penrose Award

Colorado Springs, CO – August 13, 2021 – In August 2020, the Trustees of El Pomar Foundation announced the creation of an annual award in honor of co-founder Julie Penrose recognizing outstanding women in the Pikes Peak region that have made sustained and comprehensive impacts on their community. On August 12, 2021 El Pomar Foundation honored Margot Lane as the inaugural recipient of the Julie Penrose Award through a ceremony at Penrose House.

Born in Detroit in 1870, Julie Villers Lewis McMillan Penrose moved to Colorado Springs in 1901 to support her ailing husband’s fight against tuberculosis. After his passing, Julie married Spencer Penrose and the duo combined to support many entrepreneurial and philanthropic ventures in the city and state that continue to influence the communities of Colorado today. Grounded in her Catholic faith, Julie Penrose spent her lifetime supporting the arts, education, health and civic ventures in the Pikes Peak region with the good fortune that she shared with Spencer.

Two years before Spencer’s passing in 1939, the pair founded El Pomar Foundation with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado, a mission that the Trustees continue to pursue in 2021. In honor of what would have been Ms. Penrose’s 150th birthday and the myriad ways her generosity has positively influenced the development of Colorado Springs, the Trustees approved the creation of the Julie Penrose Award to highlight annually other outstanding women of Colorado who have made significant contributions to their community through their leadership and dedication. Colorado Springs City Council has also acknowledged the significant and commendable impact Julie Penrose had and continues to have on our community with a Resolution recognizing August 12, 2021 as “Julie Penrose Day.”

Margot Lane was nominated and selected as the inaugural winner of the award in 2020, but due to COVID-19 the ceremony was postponed until 2021. On August 12, 2021, the Trustees, Ms. Lane’s family, and guests from the community gathered at El Pomar’s Penrose House Conference Center in Colorado Springs to celebrate Ms. Lane and her many philanthropic contributions to the Pikes Peak region.

A native of St. Louis, Margot Lane moved to Colorado Springs in 1952 and served as an active donor and volunteer for many causes around the city. After a successful career in the family business, a Pepsi bottling company, Ms. Lane and her husband endowed a foundation that has donated millions of dollars to nonprofits in the region including the US Olympic and Paralympic Museum, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, University of Colorado Colorado Springs and the Helen Hunt Elementary renewal project. Ms. Lane was an active board member for a number of nonprofits,
serving organizations including the Junior League, Goodwill, the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and Young Life youth ministries.

**About the Julie Penrose Award**

*The Trustees of El Pomar Foundation established the Julie Penrose Award in 2020 in honor of what would have been Ms. Penrose’s 150th birthday. The Award is presented yearly to outstanding women who, like Julie Penrose, have made significant contributions to their communities through their leadership and dedication.*

**About El Pomar Foundation**

*El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately $22 million annually through grants and Community Stewardship programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations involved in health, human services, education, arts and humanities and civic and community initiatives. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.*

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