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El Pomar Foundation Celebrates the 150th Birthday of Julie Penrose and Announces the Establishment of the Julie Penrose Award

Colorado Springs, Colo. – August 10, 2020— El Pomar Foundation will celebrate Julie Villiers Lewis McMillan Penrose (1870 – 1956) on her 150th birthday on **Wednesday, August 12th**. This celebration will include a gathering of staff and Trustees at Penrose House, featuring remarks from El Pomar Trustees Nechie Hall, Judy Bell and Andrea Aragon, the acknowledgement of a proclamation by Mayor John Suthers proclaiming August 12, 2020 “Julie Penrose Day,” and “Happy Birthday” will sound from the Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun three times throughout the day in Julie’s honor. The Trustees will briefly highlight the contributions of Julie Penrose and announce the launch of a new annual award in her name and honor, which will be presented formally at this time in 2021 to the inaugural recipient, Margot Lane.

An astute leader, dedicated philanthropist and patron of the arts, Julie Penrose was one of the most influential women in the growth and development of Colorado and Colorado Springs, founding several pillar institutions including El Pomar Foundation and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and championing the renovation of the Central City Opera House. She was particularly passionate about supporting and advancing education, the arts, and the health and well-being of Colorado’s residents. After her husband’s death in 1939, she served as vice president of The Broadmoor Hotel, president of El Pomar Investment Company and president of El Pomar Foundation. The Foundation lauds her initial support of these nonprofits and institutions, among others, and also celebrates the achievements and advancements that each has made in the subsequent decades in support of Colorado and all of its citizens.

On the occasion of Julie’s 150th birthday, and to continue to celebrate and uphold Julie’s philanthropic spirit, the female Trustees of El Pomar Foundation have established The Julie Penrose Award. This Award is presented to outstanding women who, like Julie Penrose, made significant contributions to their communities through their leadership and dedication. The Honoree may be living or deceased, can have worked anywhere across the state and can be a philanthropist, a volunteer or a leader in any sector. Each year, the current female El Pomar Trustees will select an honoree to recognize on Julie’s birthday.

The inaugural honoree of the Julie Penrose Award is Margot Lane. Margaret Ladwig "Margot" Lane was devoted to the Colorado Springs community as evidenced by her volunteer and board service as well as the establishment of the John E. and Margaret L. Lane Foundation with her husband. The Lane Foundation supported the launch of the Lane Center for Academic Health Sciences at UCCS, the U.S. Olympic Museum and the Lane Institute for Urban Education and Leadership just to name a few contributions, and Margot was a long-time and passionate supporter of arts organizations in the community as well. Margot leaves behind a legacy of selflessness and community spirit which connects her with Julie Penrose and makes her the ideal first honoree of this award.

El Pomar Foundation looks forward to formally presenting the Julie Penrose Award to Margot's family next year on August 12th at a larger community celebration.

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. To learn more about El Pomar Foundation please go to www.elpomar.org.

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