



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*USC Alumni Association to Honor National Defense University President and USC Alumna Lieutenant General Frances C. Wilson, USMC*

**Wilson and Seven Other Prominent USC Alumni Will Be Feted at 76<sup>th</sup> Annual USC Alumni Awards Gala**

*April 9, 2009*

Los Angeles – Lieutenant General Frances C. Wilson, USMC, the 12<sup>th</sup> president of the National Defense University, will receive the Alumni Merit Award from her alma mater, the University of Southern California, at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual USC Alumni Awards Gala on May 2, 2009, at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown Los Angeles.

The university's Alumni Merit Awards recognize "individuals whose remarkable accomplishments speak well for the range and quality of a USC education." Wilson, who received her doctorate from the USC Rossier School of Education in 1980, is the first Marine to serve as president of National Defense University (NDU). In this position, she is directly responsible to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for NDU's mission: to provide world-class professional military education in joint, multinational and interagency operations. Prior to joining NDU, Wilson served as the commandant of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Since beginning her military career in 1972, where she was commissioned a second lieutenant, Wilson has been awarded several military honors, including the Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal; the Navy Commendation Medal; and the Navy Achievement Medal. She is authorized to wear the Basic Parachutist Badge and the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff identification badges.

In addition to Wilson, the USC Alumni Association will recognize seven other distinguished alumni for their achievements and contributions. Ronnie C. Chan MBA '76, chairman of the Hang Lung Group Limited in Hong Kong, will receive the Asa V. Call Achievement Award. Mark A. Stevens '81, MS '84, managing partner of Sequoia Capital, will also receive an Alumni Merit Award. Dr. David M. Breslow PharmD '71, CEO of United Pharmacists Network, Inc.; Alexander L. Cappello '77, chairman/CEO of Cappello Group, Inc.; and James A. Eddy '52 and

Dr. Janet Eddy '54, MS '78, PhD '91, of the Half Century Trojans will receive Alumni Service Awards. Ron Orr '79, associate athletic director of USC Athletics, will receive the Fred B. Olds Award.

“Through their many accomplishments and acts of service, these eight alumni have proven themselves to be exemplary members of the Trojan Family,” says Scott Mory, associate senior vice president for alumni relations. “We look forward to welcoming them, and our guests, to the 76<sup>th</sup> annual gala.”

Every year since 1932, the USC Alumni Association has paid tribute to distinguished members of the Trojan Family. The annual Alumni Awards Gala is the premier event sponsored by the Alumni Association. All proceeds from the event support the Alumni Association’s programs, services and scholarships. Past honorees include Grammy-winning trumpeter Herb Alpert, former Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher, architect Frank O. Gehry, opera great Marilyn Horne, WNBA star Lisa Leslie and screen legend John Wayne. For more information, please visit <http://alumni.usc.edu/awards>.

#### **ABOUT THE USC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Founded in 1923, the University of Southern California Alumni Association honors through its many events and programs the university’s rich history and the intellectual, cultural and economic contributions of the Trojan Family. A full-time staff headed by the associate senior vice president for alumni relations helps 300,000+ USC alumni worldwide build and maintain lifelong connections to their alma mater and one another. For more information, call (213) 740-2300 or visit <http://alumni.usc.edu>.

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