



For Immediate Release

Theaterfest receives \$150,000 gift from Skytt Family

November 14, 2020 -- The Solvang Theaterfest received a donation of \$150,000 from the Hans Skytt Family Charitable Unitrust. The contribution is designated for Theaterfest's campaign, *IMAGINE! Building the Future – The \$4.7 Million Capital Campaign for Solvang Festival Theater*. Ed and Rachel Skytt selected to name the Theater's Control Booth in memory of their father.

"We are honored by the generosity of the Skytt family," said Carol Anders, Solvang Theaterfest Board Member. "Their legacy and longtime commitment to our valley will now be an integral part of our refurbished theater."

Hans F. Skytt was born on June 18, 1920 in Solvang, the youngest child of Hans C.D. Skytt and Betty R. Skytt. He grew up in Solvang, a place where his father, a Danish trained carpenter, was an integral part of the town's origins. The first building constructed in Solvang, a hotel to house new arrivals, was actually built by Hans C.D. Skytt in 1911.

In 1940, Hans F. Skytt joined the United States Army Air Corps and spent the duration of World War II in the Air Transport Command. During this time he met his future wife, Kathryn C. Sweetser in Kansas City, Missouri. The two were married in Norton, Kansas after his discharge at the end of the war.

They returned to Solvang where Hans joined his father and brother, Evald, in the family business, the Solvang Mill and Lumber Yard. He actively pursued other commercial ventures including the development of the Royal Copenhagen Motel.

Hans was proud of his Danish heritage and was a strong supporter of the continued maintenance of the City of Solvang's Danish atmosphere. For example, the giant clock located on Mission Dr. and Atterdag Rd. was restored by Hans himself.

At age 92, Hans Skytt passed away peacefully in his sleep on Saturday January 26, 2013, on what would have been his 67th wedding anniversary.

After decades of enjoyment, the Solvang Festival Theater now requires a renewed investment from the community to sustain the vibrant legacy as a cultural and community anchor for

decades to come. The capital campaign has reached 53 percent of the \$4.7 million goal. The project will strengthen and modernize the Theater, address aging infrastructure, and improve accessibility, technical capability and audience amenities. The construction project is slated to start in the Fall of 2021.

The Solvang Theaterfest looks forward to being able to bring back the magic of live performance in the Theater to Solvang residents and its visitors as soon as possible. For more information, visit us at www.solvangfestivaltheater.org

Contact:

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Caption to picture:

Left to right: Ann Foxworthy Lewellen, Solvang Theaterfest Capital Campaign Chair; Ed Skytt, Carol Anders, Theaterfest Board Member; Scott Coe, Theaterfest Executive Director .