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PASO ARTIST TO BE HONORED AS DISNEY LEGEND

Frank Armitage Will Receive The Award For His Contributions As Artist & Animator

July 10, 2009 – Paso Robles, CA – Roblan Frank Armitage, a founding artist at Paso Robles Studios on the Park, is being honored on July 18, 2009 as Disney Legend for his legacy as an artist and animator. He will be traveling to the Anaheim Crowne Plaza Resort to receive this honor from the National Fantasy Fan Club (NFFC) along with five fellow designers.

The NFFC, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich legacy of Walt Disney, created the NFFC Disney Legend Awards in 1993 to honor individuals who "have made a substantial contribution to the Disney legacy."

Honorees are recognized for their unique artistry, imagination and craftsmanship. Each has helped create lasting memories for Disney fans, and their work continues to delight new generations of Disney fans. It is work that has stood the test of time.

The public is welcome to visit Mr. Armitage's workshop at Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine Street, across from the downtown park on Thursdays through Sundays. He is currently working on a piece inspired by the popular Australian song, *Waltzing Matilda*.

A native Australian, Frank Armitage and his wife, Karen, reside in the Geneseo area east of Paso Robles. In his early career, Frank became involved with the Mexican mural painting movement and, in 1949, after winning an international mural contest sponsored by David Alfaro Siquieros, world-renowned Mexican muralist, he became his assistant on several murals in Public Buildings in Mexico. He moved to Los Angeles in 1952 and worked at the Walt Disney Studios on animation backgrounds and layout for such feature films as *Peter Pan*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Man In Space*, *Mary Poppins*, and *The Jungle Book*. Frank joined Disney Imagineering in 1977. His artwork of anatomical subject matter was a prime factor in paving the way for the *Wonders of Life Pavilion* at EPCOT Center in Florida.

Some of the most prominent work by Frank Armitage includes illustrating the function of the brain, a project for *LIFE Magazine*. In 1971, partnering with the extraordinary photographic work of Lennart Nilsson, Frank also did the production illustration for Academy Award winning film, *Fantastic Voyage* for 20th Century Fox.

Since retiring from Disney in 1989, Frank completed a course in Oriental Medicine and pursued postgraduate work in Acupuncture in China. He volunteers in rural Mexico with the *Flying Doctors*.

At present time the artist has produced oil paintings and murals for private homes in Woodside, Saratoga, Los Angeles and Paso Robles, California. Mr. Armitage is available for commissioned work.