

DONALD W. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2009

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**DONALD W. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION Awards \$5 Million Grant to
Preserve Historic Thunderbird Lodge at Lake Tahoe**

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation based in Las Vegas, Nevada has awarded the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society a \$5 million grant. The grant funds will be held in a permanent Preservation Fund and the earnings from the fund will be used to restore, renovate and preserve the George Whittell Thunderbird Lodge National Historic District located on the east shore of Lake Tahoe. The Reynolds grant is the lead gift in a \$10 million capital campaign that will ultimately ensure that the Thunderbird Lodge historic site remains open for public tours under the Preservation Society's stewardship for generations to come.

In return for the substantial gift from the Reynolds Foundation, the programs at the Thunderbird Lodge will be named the Donald W. Reynolds Lake Tahoe History and Culture Program in memory of the media entrepreneur and philanthropist who founded the private foundation bearing his name in 1954. Reynolds maintained a residence at Lake Tahoe on land he purchased in Incline Village from the late George Whittell, tycoon builder of the Thunderbird Lodge.

“Lake Tahoe was one of Mr. Reynolds’ favorite places,” stated Donald W. Reynolds Foundation chairman Fred W. Smith. “Because of his love for the area he would spend much of his free time relaxing at his Incline Village home. He would be pleased to know that his Foundation has played a part in preserving the historic Thunderbird Lodge for current residents and visitors to enjoy and as a historic resource for many generations to come.”

Upon his death in 1993 Reynolds’ estate provided the funds the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation uses today for its philanthropic purposes. Over the past fifteen years the Foundation has committed nearly \$1.39 billion to fund programs and buildings for a variety of qualifying nonprofit organizations including nearly \$290 million in grants within the state of Nevada. The Foundation maintains national initiatives in journalism, clinical cardiovascular research and aging and quality of life.

The Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society is a 501 (c) 3 public charity committed to preserving and protecting the Thunderbird Lodge as a historic site with national significance; promoting public appreciation and education regarding the unique historical, cultural, and architectural resources of Thunderbird Lodge and the Lake Tahoe region; and assisting the region-wide efforts and programs committed to the study and preservation of the fragile Lake Tahoe environment.