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The Junior League of Springfield Announces 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

SPRINGFIELD, MO, May 10, 2017 — Marthe Drummond Close has been named the 2017 Junior League of Springfield (JLS) Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. The purpose of the JLS Lifetime Achievement Award is to recognize the significant contributions being made in our community and the League by Sustaining Members. Lifetime Achievement Award honorees are active in the community, support the activities of the League and represent the ideals of Junior League membership.

Close was awarded this honor at the Sustainer luncheon held at Hickory Hills Country Club on April 20, with formal announcement made to membership at the JLS Annual Meeting on May 2 at Highland Springs Country Club. The award was presented by Sally Hargis, former JLS president and the 2016 JLS Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, and past JLS president Mary Keyes. “Our award recipient this year has devoted her life to making the lives of others better. Not just for those she is close to, but for future generations,” noted Keyes.

Close grew up in a household where she was encouraged from an early age to lead and serve her community. Her mother, Anne Drummond, often encouraged her to “pass it on” by volunteering joyfully and with commitment. Close served as the treasurer for the Community Service League founded in 1959, a precursor to JLS which was accepted into the Association of Junior Leagues International in 1976 as its 231st member.

A dedicated volunteer her whole life, Close was active in the PTA at Delaware Elementary, Jarrett Middle and Parkview High schools. She has served on the Drury Women’s Auxiliary for over 50 years and remains active today. Close has also served on the Vestry (Board of Directors) at St. John’s and Christ Episcopal churches and was a leader for the Cancer Drive of Springfield for many years. One of her most notable achievements and closest to her heart was the development of Close Memorial Park. The 55-acre park was established in 1998, in cooperation with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, through a donation by the C.M. Close family. The gift stipulated that the park be for the enjoyment of the public free of charge. Her devotion to the fu-

ture of this park and her love of beautiful natural surroundings gave birth to the idea of the inclusion of an arboretum. Today, the botanical garden, arboretum, and all that adjoins Close Memorial Park showcase Springfield at its best.

Current JLS President, Angela Blevins notes, “Marthe Drummond Close sets the standard as a servant leader, her dedication to the community and poise is unmatched. The Junior League of Springfield is proud to have her as a sustaining member that our active members can learn from.”

A list of past recipients of the JLS Lifetime Achievement Award may be found at: www.jlspringfield.org/about/awards.

About the Junior League of Springfield

The Junior League of Springfield is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers The Junior League of Springfield reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism. Its purposes are exclusively educational and charitable.

Since 1959, the Junior League of Springfield has contributed more than \$4 million and more than 1.3 million hours of volunteer service to the Springfield community. For more information, please visit the Junior League of Springfield website at www.jlspringfield.org.