

Six from Bay Area named to Hall of Fame

November 29, 2009

■ Madden, Lucas, Milk among 13 to be honored by state Tuesday

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SACRAMENTO — Six Bay Area luminaries — who achieved a wide spectrum of feats — have been chosen to California's Hall of Fame, a growing list of legends that showcases the deep talent of the Golden State.

Thirteen will be inducted Dec. 1 in the fourth class of hall of famers, including those with Bay Area roots or connections: football legend John Madden, filmmaker George Lucas, politician Harvey Milk, author Danielle Steel, Intel co-founder Andy Grove, and industrialist Henry Kaiser.

Also to be inducted are comedian Carol Burnett, Olympian Rafer Johnson, former Gov. Hiram Johnson, philanthropist Joan Kroc, artist Fritz Scholder, U.S. Air Force Gen. Chuck Yeager and fitness guru Joe Weider.

The inductions will take place at the Sacramento Museum, which will have displays of all of the new inductees.

Madden, 73, of Pleasanton, former head coach and broadcasting legend guided the Oakland Raiders to an overall record of 103-32-7, leading the team to seven AFC Western Division titles and a victory over the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl XI. His .750 winning percentage is the best of any head coach in NFL history. NBC Chairman Dick Ebersol called Madden "the best analyst of any kind in sports television history."

Milk (1930-1978), the first openly gay person elected to a significant public office in the United States, was elected to San Francisco's board of supervisors in 1977, and pushed through enactment of California's first ordinance barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, then the most progressive law in the nation.

He was assassinated in 1978, and has since become an iconic figure to the gay community, inspiring the 2008 film "Milk," which was nominated for the Academy Awards' Best Picture.

Lucas, 65, started out strong as a filmmaker, enjoying great success with his second feature

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film, the low-budget surprise hit "American Graffiti" (1973). But it was his third film, "Star Wars" (1977), that catapulted him into the pantheon of great filmmakers. "Star Wars" broke all box-office records, set new standards for sophistication in film visuals and sound, and earned eight Academy Awards. His Lucas-film studio is based in Marin County.

Grove, Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1997, was known for harnessing the power of the microchip. A refugee from Soviet-occupied Hungary, Grove, 73, graduated from UC Berkeley in 1963 and went on to cofound Intel Corp. in 1968, became its president in 1979, and later served as CEO and chairman.

Kaiser (1882-1967), an industrialist whose company helped build the Hoover Dam and the Bay Bridge, was known as the father of modern shipbuilding, based at the Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond. But his greatest legacy is founding what would become Kaiser Permanente, the nation's largest health maintenance organization,

based on Oakland.

Steel, 62, is one of the most prolific authors of her generation, writing 108 books, a majority of which have earned best-seller status. Raised in Paris and New York, her writing career took bloom when she moved to San Francisco in the early 1970s, publishing her first book, "Going Home," in 1973.

Burnett was most widely known for her variety show, "The Carol Burnett Show," which won 22 Emmy Awards over its 11-year run. She also played the irascible Miss Hannigan in the 1982 movie "Annie," among hundreds of roles in film, TV and on-stage.

Rafer Johnson, 74, was a UCLA track star who won gold and silver medals in the 1956 and 1960 Olympic Games. Johnson wrestled the gun out of the hands of Robert F. Kennedy's assassin, Sirhan Sirhan. He later founded California Special Olympics and lit the torch at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Hiram Johnson, (1866-1945) was one of California's early political reformers and known as the father of the referendum, initiative and recall. He served as governor, was the Progressive Party's

nominee for vice president on the ticket with Theodore Roosevelt in 1912, and served in the U.S. Senate from 1916 until he died in 1945.

Kroc (1928-2003), the wife of the late founder of McDonald's Corp. and the San Diego Padres owner, Ray Kroc, became one of the most prolific philanthropists in history. She gave away billions of dollars to causes such as hospice care and peace-advocacy, and fought to provide children with safe places to play.

Scholder (1937-2005) was a leader of what was sometimes called the New American Indian Art movement. He eschewed traditional Indian art with a series of paintings depicting what he called "the real Indian."

Yeager, 86, is a retired U.S. Air Force general and noted test pilot widely considered to be the first pilot to break the sound barrier in 1947. He lives in Oroville.

A pioneer of the modern health and fitness movement, Weider, 89, brought strength, fitness and healthy living to the public's consciousness around the globe for the past 70 years.

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