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Brant Ward / The Chronicle

California Hall of Fame inductees laugh at a joke by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger during the ceremony at the California Museum in Sacramento. At left are Carol Burnett and Stuart Milk, Harvey Milk's nephew who accepted his award.

HISTORY

13 inducted in state Hall of Fame

Luminaries in variety of fields, from Harvey Milk to George Lucas

By Marisa Lagos

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

One became the nation's best known gay rights advocate. Another created the world's first prepaid health plan. A third helped harness the power of the microchip. And a fourth inspires millions with his films.

Harvey Milk, Henry J. Kaiser, Andrew Grove and George Lucas were among 13 individuals inducted into the California Hall of Fame on Tuesday.

In addition to Lucas and Grove, the other living inductees this year are entertainer Carol Burnett; athlete Rafer Johnson; football icon John Madden; San Francisco au-

thor Danielle Steel; bodybuilding pioneer Joe Weider and Gen. Chuck Yeager. Milk and Kaiser will join former Gov. and U.S. Sen. Hiram Johnson, artist Fritz Scholder and philanthropist Joan Kroc in being inducted posthumously.

"This is a passion of mine — to tell the story of California
Hall continues on C6



Photos by Grant Ward / The Chronicle

Rafer Johnson, who won the 1960 Olympic decathlon, looks over the Harvey Milk exhibit adjacent to his.

13 inducted in Hall of Fame

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nia, its past, its present and to inspire people to contribute to its future," said California first lady Maria Shriver, who conceived the Hall of Fame four years ago.

Shriver and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger chose the 13 inductees earlier this year after being given a list of 20 nominees. Previous Hall of Famers include labor leader Cesar Chavez and baseball star Willie Mays.

All of the inductees were chosen for being "remarkable individuals who embody the innovative spirit of the Golden State and who have changed the world by pursuing their dreams," according to the museum.

The inclusion of Milk — a former San Francisco supervisor who was the first openly gay elected official in San Francisco and one of the first in the nation — is especially poignant for many gay rights advocates. Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated in 1978, and Milk was honored earlier this year with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In October, Schwarzenegger also signed a bill — which he had vetoed in previous years — creating Harvey Milk Day on May 22, his birthday.

Stuart Milk, Milk's nephew who is also gay, accepted his uncle's award Tuesday. Stuart Milk has become an ambassador of sorts for the late politician, traveling to 19 countries and more than 100 U.S. cities in recent years — and this year going from the



Carol Burnett (left) and Maria Shriver take in the scene at the California Museum in Sacramento. Burnett was one of 13 inducted into the state Hall of Fame, Shriver's brainchild.

White House to California's Capitol to accept his uncle's honors.

"Wherever I go — Istanbul, Turkey; Madrid, Spain; Panama City, Panama — Harvey's story gives people hope. Even though we still have a long way to go in the world and U.S. ... he really is a beacon of light for the community," he said. "And I'm very proud that the governor signed the Harvey Milk holiday bill. I think it will save lives, and it makes this event so much more meaningful."

Milk's exhibit features a time capsule created by his lover, Scott Smith, that includes a lock of Milk's hair, a tape recording of one of his

speeches and a rainbow flag. The exhibit also includes the supervisor's groundbreaking 1978 sexual discrimination ordinance and the Medal of Freedom.

Each of the exhibits are different. A number of Scholder's striking works — which focus on fighting stereotypes of American Indians — are on display, and Lucas' area includes R2-D2 and C-3PO, the "Star Wars" robots, as well as Indiana Jones' jacket, whip and hat from the 1989 film "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade."

Visitors can learn about the effect Kaiser — best known for his namesake health care organization and ground-

breaking approach to health care — had on a wide range of industries and policy. Kaiser oversaw the construction of some of the nation's most important infrastructure, then went into shipbuilding during World War II, hiring minorities and women — and keeping them on staff after the war ended, said Tom Debley, Kaiser Permanente's director of heritage resources. Four of those shipyards were in the city of Richmond.

The California Museum, in downtown Sacramento, will display the 13 exhibits through October.

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