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SHE LOVES A PARADE! GRAND MARSHALL FOR STATE FAIR PARADE ANNOUNCED

ALBUQUERQUE—September 2, 2011—“Shocked, flattered, humbled and proud” are the words Mary Ann Weems uses to describe being chosen Grand Marshall of the 2011 New Mexico State Fair parade. Well-known and respected in the arts community, owner of Weems Art Gallery, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, and founder of the 29-year-old Weems Art Fest , Mary Ann states unequivocally that she “loves the State Fair” and remembers when coming to the Fair from Carlsbad, where she grew up, was “a big, exciting occasion.” She adds that the State Fairgrounds is “like our own Central Park and so much history has taken place there.” The parade committee selected Weems because of “her accomplishments within the national artistic community and her admirable charitable contributions.”

The annual parade steps out from the fairgrounds at Central and Louisiana on Saturday, September 10, at 8:45 a.m. rain or shine and travels east on Central for about two miles. Larry Trujillo, parade director, relates some interesting facts about some of this year’s participants: the organization with the longest participation record is Ballut Abyad Shrine which has been in the parade since 1956; whereas it’s the first time in the High School AFJROTC category for Albuquerque Volcano Vista; a trendy new entry is Thriller World Program Dancers featuring 50 dancing zombies performing to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller”; a Wells Fargo Stagecoach pulled by a team of Clydesdale Horses; 21 Car Clubs; a VIP Vehicle entry – Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry and his 1950’s truck; a new Royalty Category – Anna Apache, Ms. Elderly of Alamo; a new Sports Team participant – the new Women's Semi-Pro Football Team, The New Mexico Sundevils; and another first time entry – The Old Town Gunslingers. Total entries this year are 228 compared to 212 in 2010.

For more information, please contact EXPO New Mexico’s parade director, Larry Trujillo, at 505 222-9727 or visit www.exponm.com, click on State Fair then on 2011 Parade.