



For Immediate Release
December 3, 2007

Contact: Caitlin Kelleher
505.476.2299

Governor Bill Richardson to Lower Flags In Memory of Robert O. Anderson

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson will order flags to fly at half-staff in memory of Robert O. Anderson, 90, who passed away at his home in Roswell on Sunday evening. Robert Anderson was a well known petroleum executive, environmentalist, diplomat and rancher.

“Robert Anderson was an outstanding New Mexican, known for his impeccable reputation in the oil industry and his dedication to civic and environmental issues,” said Governor Richardson. “He has left an everlasting impression on the petroleum industry and New Mexico.”

Robert Anderson was born in Chicago on April 13, 1917. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1939 and went on to work for the American Mineral Spirits Company. After two years at the Chicago oil company, a strong interest in the oil industry spurred Anderson to purchase a small oil refinery in Artesia, New Mexico. For the next fifteen years, Anderson would buy and expand several refineries in southeastern New Mexico.

Anderson retired in 1986 from the Atlantic Richfield Company after serving as Chief Executive Officer for 17 years and as Chairman of the Board for 21 years. He then went on to form the Hondo Oil & Gas Company in Roswell, where he served as CEO until 1994.

Robert O. Anderson was well respected in the oil industry, but his other interests included mining, milling and raising cattle. He served on a number of boards including Chase Manhattan Bank, First National Bank of Chicago, the National Petroleum Council, Pan American Airlines, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Mr. Anderson founded the International Institute for Environment and Development in London. He is also a lifetime trustee of the California Institute of Technology and the University of Chicago.

He received numerous honors and prestigious awards during his lifetime; Anderson was the first recipient of the Charles A. Lindbergh Award for Significant Achievement in 1978 and was also the first to receive the Dwight D. Eisenhower Medal of Excellence in

1989. In 2000, Robert was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Petroleum Engineering from New Mexico Tech.

The Robert O. Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico is named in his honor.

###