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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAMBER CELEBRATES BINATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congressman Juan Vargas gives keynote address at International Tribute Awards Gala

SAN DIEGO (October 16, 2015) In celebration of the dynamic, binational San Diego-Tijuana region, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce will host the International Tribute Awards Gala this evening. The event honors those outstanding individuals and businesses that have made a significant impact in the effort to bridge the U.S. and Mexican economies. Honoree Congressman Juan Vargas will give the evening's keynote address.

"As an international gateway, we are reminded every day of the importance of working together to enhance our region's position in the global economy," said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President & CEO. "The Chamber is proud to take a leading role as a coalition builder, policy advocate, and resource for businesses on both sides of the border. The Tribute Awards are our opportunity to recognize those in the community who share this vision and are leaders in strengthening the shared commerce of our region."

The 2015 International Tribute Awards Gala honorees are:

- Congressman Juan Vargas, "Cross Border Leadership" award recipient, in recognition of his long-time commitment to our border region and leadership in securing full funding for the San Ysidro Port of Entry.
- Pacific Imperial Railroad and Baja California Railroad, "Cross Border Collaboration" award recipients for their joint efforts to reestablish the binational railroad.

"Our binational region has made great strides to improve cross-border relations. Advances to our regional ports of entry will continue to bolster the strengths in our human and business capital and help our border realize its full economic potential," stated Rep. Juan Vargas (CA-51). "I want to thank the San Diego Regional Chamber of

Commerce for honoring me with the Cross Border Leadership Award and I would like to thank them for working to ensure that our region taps into our greatest resources. Their collaborative efforts truly demonstrate the positive impacts an organization can bring to improving our mega region.”

San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Xavier Peniche, Secretary of Economic Development for the City of Tijuana, will also take part in the evening’s program to provide an update on the cross-border agenda of their respective cities.

Through its international work, the San Diego Regional Chamber drives the development of global policies that boost the economy through efficient cross-border commerce and robust international business, political, and cultural relationships. Over the past year the Chamber led several successful campaigns to advance policy for the benefit of the region including securing “yes” votes on the Trans-Promotion Authority earlier this year from San Diego Congressional Representatives, Susan Davis, Scott Peters and Darrell Issa. This year the Chamber also celebrated the historic vote by Mexico’s Congress to support firearms reforms for law enforcement officers, legislation the Chamber has been supporting for several years which allows for joint inspection facilities at our ports of entry.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.

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