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## **NEW YORKERS TO CELEBRATE AT FRENCH CONSULATE**

### **\* Black-tie soirée to launch record setting FHS grant \***

**New York, NY** (October 31, 2007) – The Consul General of France Mr. François Delattre and Mrs. Sophie L’Hélias-Delattre will welcome French Heritage Society (FHS) – for a New York Chapter black-tie gala wine tasting at the Consulate General of France in New York City on November 1. The event will be hosted by prominent New Yorkers Mr. and Mrs. George P. Sape. The gala will be the first step in a campaign to raise funds for the FHS New York Chapter’s planned grant to restore rooms in the Consulate General of France, which is located at 934 Fifth Avenue.

The goal of raising \$100,000 for the project represents the largest American grant ever undertaken by French Heritage Society, which is in its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. The November 1 event is the first of two dinners aimed at raising a total of \$100,000, to be matched by future contributions. In attendance will be members of New York society and major figures in the city’s Franco-American community.

Consul General and Mrs. François Delattre will serve as Honorary Chairs of the evening. French Heritage Society Chairman Elizabeth F. Stribling and President Princesse Marie-Sol de La Tour d’Auvergne will attend to represent French Heritage Society. Organization of the event is under the leadership of Mrs. Odile de Schiètere Longchamp and Mr. Guy N. Robinson, FHS’s New York Chapter Co-Chairmen.

Prominent New Yorkers on the event’s guest list include Baron and Baronne Bruno Bich, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Black, Mr. and Mrs. Laurent Levasseur, Mr. and Mrs. John Milne, Mr. and Mrs. Peter O. Price, Mr. Robert de Rothschild, Mrs. Mary Sharp Cronson, Mr. Christopher Forbes, Mr. Andrew Malik, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rockefeller, Hon. Fred Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Pei, Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Tober, Mrs. John French, III, Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Jacques Ogier and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Zilkha.

The oversubscribed event will begin with a 7 p.m. cocktail reception, to be followed at 7:45 p.m. by a dinner prepared by Feast and Fêtes with menu created by Daniel Boulud, famed chef and New York restaurateur of Daniel and Café Boulud. Mr. Boulud was appointed Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by the French government in 2005. The evening's superb wine selection is the generous donation of event host and renowned wine collector George Sape.

The Consulate General of France in New York is as much a New York landmark as an outpost of French culture within the United States. In 1942, having outgrown its space at Rockefeller Center, the French government purchased the townhouse at 934 Fifth Avenue that houses the Consulate. Consulate building dates to 1926 and is the work of architects Walker and Gillette, whose design paid tribute to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Parisian decorative arts. The building was given formal landmark status on May 19, 1981. French Heritage Society has pledged a grant of \$100,000 to restore the coffered ceiling of the Salon Rose and the windows of the Salon Vert. Past French Heritage Society grants in New York City have enabled historic preservation projects at City Hall and Harlem's Morris-Jumel Mansion, Manhattan's oldest house, as well as other locations within the state, including Fort Ticonderoga and Old Westbury Gardens.

The mission of the French Heritage Society (FHS) is to protect, preserve, and celebrate architectural treasures of jointly shared French-American culture and history. FHS, with several thousand members, comprises 14 American constituent Chapters in major U.S. cities, and a Paris Chapter. The achievements of French Heritage Society have had a significant impact in both France and America. FHS has raised over \$10 million to assist in the preservation and restoration of more than 450 sites and gardens. This achievement demonstrates the leading role that FHS plays in caring for the architectural heritage that is the common property and shared responsibility of both countries. Founded in 1982, French Heritage Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and enjoys the ongoing support of its members, as well as foundations and corporate sponsors.

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