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Cabinet Members to Address USD Commencement

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FOR RELEASE AFTER May 20

CABINET MEMBERS TO ADDRESS USD COMMENCEMENT

San Diego......The University of San Diego, an independent Catholic university, will hold two commencements on the campus on Sunday, May 24. Edwin Meese will address the Law School and Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger the undergraduate/graduate commencement.

The 24th commencement of the School of Law will be held at 10:30 a.m. Degrees will be conferred upon 283 graduates. The class will include the recipients of the first Master's of Comparative Law to be awarded by USD.

Commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient will be Presidential Counsellor Edwin Meese. Meese, a member of the Law faculty and Director of the Center for Criminal Justice Policy and Management, is on leave from USD. Meese is a graduate of Yale University and holds a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley. Formerly, Mr. Meese served as Governor Reagan's Executive Assistant and Chief of Staff in California from 1969-1974.

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Honorary degree recipient Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger will address the undergraduate/graduate ceremony to be held the same day (May 24) at 3 p.m. 400 undergraduate and 130 graduate students are eligible for degrees.

Secretary Weinberger took the oath of office as Secretary of Defense on January 21, 1981. He earned his A.B. degree, Magna Cum Laude, at Harvard College. He received an LL.B. degree from Harvard Law School and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Weinberger's government service began in 1952 when he was elected to the Assembly of the California Legislature. He was re-elected in 1954 and 1956. His background includes work as a journalist and television moderator.

In 1967, he was named Chairman, Commission on California State Organization and Economy. He was appointed by then Governor Reagan as Director of Finance of California in 1968. In 1970 he was appointed Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission and six months later he was named Deputy Director of that office in 1972. In 1973, Weinberger was appointed Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. He entered private business in 1975 as vice president of the Bechtel Group of Companies. In 1981, he returned to government service.

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NOTE: Media will be informed of news conferences when scheduled. Press I.D. required for admittance.
Caspar Willard Weinberger was nominated by President Reagan to be Secretary of Defense on January 20, 1981, was confirmed by the United States Senate on January 20, 1981, and took the oath of office on January 21, 1981.

Born in San Francisco, California, on August 18, 1917, Mr. Weinberger graduated from public schools and earned his A.B. Degree, Magna Cum Laude, at Harvard College in 1938. He received an LL.B. Degree from Harvard Law School in 1941 and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He has also received honorary degrees from the University of the Pacific, University of San Francisco, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Elmira College.

Following law school, he joined the Army as a Private in the Infantry and was released from active duty four years later with the rank of Captain. During that time, he served with the 41st Infantry Division in the Pacific Theater of Operations and as a member of General Douglas MacArthur's intelligence staff.

After World War II, Secretary Weinberger served as Law Clerk to U.S. Court of Appeals Judge William E. Orr for two years until 1947, when he joined the law firm of Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe in San Francisco. He was a partner in the firm from 1959 to 1969.

In November 1952, he was elected to the Assembly of the California State Legislature and was re-elected in 1954 and 1956 without opposition. In 1956 Secretary Weinberger was selected in a poll of California newspaper correspondents as the most effective member of the Legislature.

While continuing his law practice, Secretary Weinberger wrote a semi-weekly column for a number of California newspapers, moderated a weekly local public affairs television program in San Francisco and was a staff book reviewer for a San Francisco newspaper and magazine from 1959 to 1968.

In 1967, he was named Chairman, Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy (called Little Hoover Commission) and he was appointed by then-Governor Ronald Reagan as Director of Finance of California in March 1968. He served until January 1970, when he was appointed by President Richard M. Nixon as Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission. Six months later he was named Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget and became Director of that office in June 1972.

President Nixon appointed Secretary Weinberger, in February 1973, as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and he continued to head that Department under President Gerald Ford until he resigned to enter private business in August 1975.

Until resigning to accept his present office he was Director of Pepsi Co., New York; Director of Quaker Oats, Chicago; a member of The Trilateral Commission; a member of the Advisory Council of the American Ditchley Foundation; Treasurer of the Episcopal Diocese of California; a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco; and Chairman of The National Trustees of The National Symphony Orchestra, Washington.

Secretary Weinberger is married to the former Jane Dalton of Maine and they have two children, a son Caspar Willard Weinberger, Jr., and a daughter, Arlin.

Before being nominated by President Ronald Reagan to be Secretary of Defense, Mr. Weinberger was Vice President, Director, and General Counsel of the Bechtel Group of Companies.

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The University of San Diego is privileged to honor Edwin Meese, III, lawyer, scholar, teacher and distinguished public servant.

Edwin Meese graduated from Yale University in 1953, having majored in political science with a public administration emphasis. He earned his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1958, where he excelled, among other things, in moot court competitions.

This skill and training were soon put to use when Ed Meese began his legal career as an effective, hard-working Deputy District Attorney for Alameda County. In this capacity, Ed tried several major cases, worked closely with the State Legislature, skillfully handled civil disruptions and potential riots, and came to the attention of then Governor Ronald Reagan.

In 1967, Ed was appointed as the Legal Affairs Secretary to the Governor and two years later became Governor Reagan's Executive Assistant and Chief of Staff. While he served the Governor, Ed Meese impressed virtually all of those who dealt with him, whether as political friend or foe, liberal or conservative, with his fairness, knowledge, and general competence.

In 1975, Ed Meese came to the San Diego area, first as a corporate executive and then as a member of a La Mesa law firm. The University of San Diego became his employer and the beneficiary of his talents in 1977 when he founded and became the Director of the USD Center for Criminal Justice Policy and Management. While overseeing the Center's educational, research and public service projects, Ed also taught basic Criminal Law and a seminar in Criminal Justice. He was a very popular teacher and active member of the Law School faculty.
When Ronald Reagan entered the 1980 Presidential campaign, Ed Meese once more heeded the call for public service. He served as the campaign Chief of Staff and Senior Issues Advisor, and, after the election, he headed the President-elect's transition efforts. Remarkably, during the campaign, although on leave from most of his Law School responsibilities, Ed continued to return to San Diego almost every week to teach his Criminal Justice seminar and check in on his Center's activities.

One of President Reagan's first appointments was to select Edwin Meese, III, as Counsellor to the President with Cabinet rank. In this capacity he is the President's chief policy advisor with responsibilities for policy direction of the National Security Council, Office of Policy Development, and the administration of the Cabinet.

Ronald Reagan was asked once who was the one man to whom he would turn when he was in trouble. Ed Meese was the man he immediately named. Ed is a team player who asks of his teammates, as he does of himself, hard work and loyalty to President Reagan and the institution he represents.

Columnist George Will has portrayed Meese as looking "like a cherub who fell, astonished, from a Rubens canvas." Despite his genial and patient nature, Ed works extremely effectively as a strong administrator who combines discipline and organization under pressure.

In addition to his numerous official duties, Ed Meese has actively participated in state and local bar associations, criminal justice and governmental advisory projects, Army Reserve duties, higher educational consultantships and boards and a multitude of other professional and civic activities.

It is therefore with great pride that the University of San Diego recognizes the achievements and services of Edwin Meese, III and hereby publishes and proclaims that Mr. Meese be awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa.
The University of San Diego, in common with the traditions of the great universities of the past and present, and in accordance with its own avowed purposes to search for truth, to pursue academic excellence, and to emphasize "the potentialities of men and women as human beings and creatures of God" today honors a man who has for many decades dedicated himself to the pursuit of learning and to distinguished performance in the tasks to which he has been called.

The Honorable Caspar Weinberger was born in the State of California and received his undergraduate education at Harvard College, graduating magna cum laude in 1938, and his Bachelor of Laws degree from Harvard Law School in 1941. His scholastic achievements were recognized particularly by his election to Phi Beta Kappa. He is indeed no stranger to the world of learning and scholarship.

After World War II Army service during which he rose from Infantry Private to Captain, today's honoree embarked upon a legal career spanning roles as a United States Appeals Court Justice's Law Clerk to full partnership in a major San Francisco law firm. While engaged in this latter activity he simultaneously devoted his energies to professional journalism, writing semi-weekly columns appearing in a number of California newspapers. His media activities also included moderating of telecast public affairs. It is significant to note how successfully he has been able to blend several talents and several vocations.

Secretary Weinberger's long public service is both commendable and noteworthy. He has served as an elected member of the California Assembly, Chairman of the Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy, and as Director of Finance for California. In these offices he demonstrated striking administrative abilities and earned a reputation for hard work and fiscal wisdom.

Early in 1970 Secretary Weinberger's talents were transferred to Washington, D.C. where his talents were utilized first as Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, later as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and finally as its Director. He served in the cabinets of two presidents as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, bringing to that office wide experience in state and local problems, administrative skills, and a knowledge of governmental procedures seldom matched.
After five years committed to private business affairs and to the promotion of various public and private endeavours such as the Episcopal Diocese of California, San Francisco's St. Luke's Hospital, and the National Symphony Orchestra, Caspar Weinberger was once again selected for service in a president's cabinet--this time as Secretary of Defense. As before, he has brought to the challenge of high position a wealth of empirical knowledge and firm convictions.

It is, therefore, with a sense of privilege and with respectful regard to the tradition of acknowledging recognized achievements in public service, in the pursuit of justifiable life goals, and in the furtherance of cultural and benevolent projects, that the University of San Diego takes this opportunity to single out and to confer upon The Honorable Caspar Willard Weinberger the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Chairman, Board of Trustees

President

May 24, 1981
BIOGRAPHY

EDWIN MEESE III

EDWIN MEESE, III, currently holds the position of Counsellor to the President with Cabinet rank. In this capacity he functions as the President's Chief Policy Advisor with responsibilities for policy direction of the National Security Council, Office of Policy Development (formerly the Domestic Policy Staff) and the administration of the Cabinet.

Mr. Meese headed the President-Elect's transition efforts post-Election. During the Presidential campaign, Mr. Meese served as Chief of Staff and Senior Issues Advisor for the Reagan-Bush Committee.

Formerly, Mr. Meese served as Governor Reagan's Executive Assistant and Chief of Staff in California from 1969-1974.

Before joining Governor Reagan's Staff in 1967, Mr. Meese served as Deputy District Attorney of Alameda County, California.

Mr. Meese is also the Director of the Center for Criminal Justice Policy and Management at the University of San Diego, being on a partial leave of absence at present. For the past two years, he has been a Professor of Law at the University of San Diego Law School, specializing in Criminal Justice.

In addition to his background in both the study and practice of law, Mr. Meese has held executive posts in the aerospace and transportation industries. From January 1975 until May 1976, he served as Vice President for Administration of Rohr Industries, Incorporated, in Chula Vista, California. He left Rohr to enter private law practice in La Mesa, California, which continues today, in addition to his teaching.

Mr. Meese is a graduate of Yale University, Class of 1953, and holds a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He has retired recently from the United States Army Reserve with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Mr. Meese is married; has three children; and resides in McLean, Virginia, near Washington, D.C.