

# Superstar Extravaganza On The Fourth

(NAPSA)—This July 4, one of America's favorite Independence Day traditions celebrates a birthday of its own. PBS' multi-award winning event marks 25 years on air with a musical extravaganza, a bevy of celebrities, and a fireworks display to rival all others.

*A Capitol Fourth* will be televised on PBS from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, Monday, July 4, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. ET (check local listings). It can also be heard live in stereo over National Public Radio and is broadcast to U.S. military personnel in more than 135 countries by the American Forces Radio and Television Network. The program is viewed by millions at home and attended by more than half a million people at the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Grammy award-winning Latin music star Gloria Estefan, iconic pop group The Beach Boys, recent Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees The O-Jays, and renowned Irish tenor Ronan Tynan will take part in the gala celebration—along with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of top pops conductor Erich Kunzel.

As part of this year's special 25th anniversary show, multi-Grammy award-winning duo Gloria and Emilio Estefan will be presented with the National Artistic Achievement Award in recognition of their dedication to the arts and their contribution to enriching the national legacy of the performing arts. This is only the second time the award has been presented. The



**This year *A Capitol Fourth*, America's national Independence Day concert, celebrates its 25th anniversary.**

first recipient was composer John Williams, who was recognized for his incomparable film scores.

The works of John Williams will also be featured during the 2005 concert in a salute to the music of *Star Wars* performed by the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of conductor Erich Kunzel. The musical medley is inspired by the summertime release of the final film in the blockbuster series, "*Star Wars* Episode III—Revenge of the Sith."

The show will be capped off by a rousing rendition of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" complete with live cannon fire provided by the United States Army Salute Battery, an audience favorite and now *A Capitol Fourth* tradition.