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Chuck Norris to give graduation address

March 26, 2008 | Ron Brown

Actor Chuck Norris has been selected to speak at Liberty University's graduation on May 10.

Norris, the star of numerous feature films and the long-running CBS television show, "Walker, Texas Ranger," was a mainstay this year in the campaign of former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, whom Liberty University Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. endorsed for president.

Falwell said he chose Chuck Norris after speaking with Huckabee recently. "He [Huckabee] and Chuck have become close friends and he told me how he had been impressed with Chuck as a very thoughtful and intelligent person and as a strong conservative Christian. I can't imagine any profession where it is more difficult to remain true to your conservative Christian values than the entertainment field."

In addition to his acting career, Norris won many state, national and international karate titles in the mid-to-late 1960s.

He fought in and won the World Professional Karate Championship and retired undefeated in 1974. He was inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame as a fighter and instructor.

"The more I read about Chuck Norris, the more I am convinced that he is an excellent choice," Falwell said. "LU is committed to placing graduates in every profession to make a positive difference in the world. That includes the entertainment industry. In fact, we had two students obtain major roles in a Hollywood feature film this week. There are so few conservative Christians in Hollywood, I believe we need to recognize, honor and hear from those who have been successful in swimming against the tide."