



For Immediate Release

April 4, 2013

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IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF PRESTIGIOUS 'ESTO PERPETUA' AWARDS

BOISE, ID – The “Esto Perpetua” award will be presented to seven individuals and one organization for outstanding accomplishments in preserving and promoting Idaho’s heritage at the Idaho State Historical Society’s (ISHS) annual awards celebration on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 5:30 p.m., at the Old Idaho Penitentiary, 2445 Old Penitentiary Rd., Boise, Idaho.

“Each recipient has demonstrated a truly exceptional level of achievement in their efforts to preserve a part of Idaho’s heritage,” said Janet Gallimore, ISHS Executive Director. “They represent a geographical balance, which clearly illustrates the widespread care that Idahoans share when it comes to our state’s historical preservation.”

Named for the state motto which translates to “let it be perpetual,” the Esto Perpetua Awards began in 1999 to honor individuals or groups for professional accomplishments, public service, volunteerism and philanthropy related to preservation of Idaho’s heritage. The Esto Perpetua awards program has been sponsored by the Idaho State Historical Society for the past fourteen years to engage communities by building on shared experiences and inspiring further action and understanding.

The 2013 awardees are:

Representative Linden Bateman of Idaho Falls has been a tireless advocate of preserving Idaho’s history. That effort began long before he entered the legislature. He instilled his love of history to his students during a teaching career spanning more than four decades. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Bonneville County Historical Society and served as its President. He also served on the Idaho Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and frequently credits Lincoln for his own political temperament.

Byron Bovey, Craigmont is one of those Jack’s of all trades that every organization should have. When the Ilo-Vollmer Historical Society needed new insulation, he installed it. When it needed someone to chop new door openings through solid brick, he chopped. When it needed new cabinets and shelving, he built them. But his contributions have also including digitizing Lewis County marriage, veterans, death, and naturalization records; updating records for county cemeteries, locating unmarked graves, and resetting headstones; and publishing a book on the Camas Prairie Railroad.

Dennis Colson, Viola, received recognition for nearly four decades of work enlightening Idahoans about the significance of the Idaho constitution in their daily lives. Colson, retired from the University of Idaho College of Law, is the author of *Idaho’s Constitution: The Ties That Bind* and has given presentations on constitutional history throughout the state, often in the person of one of the attendees at the Idaho constitutional convention of 1889.

James Gentry, Twin Falls, was recognized for his years of work documenting and interpreting Idaho history, particularly in the Twin Falls Area. He is the author of *In the Middle and on the Edge: The*

Twin Falls Region of Idaho, as well as numerous articles about Idaho, including a regular column on Idaho history for the *Twin Falls Times News*. A frequent presenter on Idaho history for more than four decades, he has also served on the Twin Falls County Historic Preservation Commission since the 1980s.

David Leroy, Boise, has long been recognized as Idaho's outstanding scholar of Abraham Lincoln. As chairman of the Idaho Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission he coordinated a statewide traveling exhibit, authored a book on Lincoln in Idaho, and gave public presentations introducing thousands of Idahoans to the significant role Lincoln played in the development of Idaho Territory. In 2012, David and his wife Nancy donated to the Idaho State Historical Society one of the largest collections of Lincoln memorabilia in the West. In 2013, the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's signature on the act creating Idaho, this outstanding collection will serve as the nucleus of a permanent exhibit at the Idaho State Archives depicting Lincoln's close, but often overlooked, connection to Idaho.

Lewiston will be remembered for producing the most significant lasting legacy of the Idaho territorial sesquicentennial, the reconstruction of Idaho's first territorial capitol. While the project was the effort of many Lewistonians, it was the vision of **John Mock of Lewiston**. That alone would be worthy of an Esto, but John has done much more. A longtime member of the Lewiston Historic Preservation Commission, he spearheaded the effort resulting in a special Lewiston license plate, with sales benefitting the city's preservation efforts. As a member of the Nez Perce County Historical Society, he has been instrumental in the preservation of valuable documents and artifacts depicting Nez Perce County history.

Over the course of more six years, **Janie Schautt, Emmett** has not only identified the graves of more than 1,000 veterans interred in Gem County cemeteries, but has also compiled biographical sketches and photos for the vast majority of them. The records are maintained at the Gem County Historical Society, an invaluable resource for historians and genealogists.

For 30 years, Idaho Public Television's **Outdoor Idaho** has explored the incredible diversity of our state, documenting Idaho's intriguing people and places. A great many of those programs have introduced thousands of Idahoans to the state's rich history, with programs on Lewis and Clark, the gold rushes, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Frank Church wilderness, and many more.

The ceremony will also honor two recipients of the 2012 American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) Award of Merit. The highest national awards given in the field, the AASLH bestows these awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. The Idahoans who received this prestigious award were **Lila Hill Meridian** for her three decades of work to preserve Meridian history and **Mary Reed**, for 23 years the Executive Director of the Latah County Historical Society in Moscow and currently vice president of the Idaho Association of Museums.

Tickets to the awards ceremony and reception are \$20 and reservations must be made by Monday, June 3, 2013. For information and tickets call (208) 334-2682 or toll free (877) OLD-GEMS or order online at www.history.idaho.gov.

About the Idaho State Historical Society:

The ISHS is a state government agency with a goal of protecting the cultural heritage of Idaho by preserving historic and prehistoric resources and providing access to documents, artifacts, sites, and information of historic significance for the benefit and appreciation of the public. Dedicated to serving its statewide community, the agency carries out its mission through education programs, technical assistance, development of publications and exhibits, and by encouraging local, state and regional entities to preserve history. Learn more about ISHS at www.history.idaho.gov.