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Nebraska State Historical Society Announces 2017 award winners

Awards to Be Presented October 12th During Annual Banquet

Lincoln, NE, August 14, 2017– The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) is proud to announce the winners of the 2017 NSHS Awards. The Nebraska State Historical Society annually recognizes Nebraskans that provide significant contributions to the organization and historic preservation.

2017 Robert W. Furnas Memorial Award – City of Lincoln/LNKTV and John Strope of Lincoln, NE  
2017 Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award – Eugene Cromwell of Genoa, NE and Paul Orman of Maywood, NE  
2017 James L. Sellers Memorial Award – Jim Potter of Lincoln, NE (posthumously)  
2017 Nebraska Preservation Award – Willa Cather Foundation and Mark and Vera Mercer of Omaha, NE

The **Robert W. Furnas Memorial Award** will be given jointly to the City of Lincoln/LNKTV and John Strope of Lincoln for their instrumental support of the NSHS Brown Bag lecture series.

The Robert W. Furnas Memorial Award**,** created in 1991, recognizes "outstanding contributions or assistance to the Nebraska State Historical Society," in the form of either long-term service or a significant one-time contribution by an individual or organization. A committee drawn from the current NSHS Board of Trustees, the Emeritus Trustees, and the NSHS staff nominates/selects the recipient. The award consists of a plaque and a one-year membership with the Nebraska State Historical Society.

The **Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award** will be given jointly to Eugene Cromwell from Genoa, a 93 year old gentleman who has been restoring antique farm tools and equipment and has been educating area youth on the importance of and the value in restoring these items and continuing to use them. He has also volunteered at the Genoa Indian School doing maintenance and restoration. The second Sheldon Award winner is Paul Orman of Mayfield, who has been restoring and reserving old homesteads throughout the Mayfield area. Two homesteads that he has purchased and restored the buildings on have already been recognized by the Knights of the Ak-Sar-Ben for the Pioneer Farm Award.

The Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award was created in 1973. The award consists of a plaque and a one-year membership to the Nebraska State Historical Society, and is given annually to an individual or organization for "outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation in the field of Nebraska History." Individuals or organizations may qualify for the Sheldon Award for long-term contributions to history or for an important one-time accomplishment.

The **James L. Sellers Memorial Award** will be given posthumously to author Jim Potter of Lincoln, NE for his Spring 2016 article, “The Greatest Gathering of Indians Ever Assembled: The 1875 Black Hills Council at Red Cloud Agency, Nebraska.” The award honors the best article in *Nebraska History* and is judged by the history faculty of a Nebraska college or university. The author receives a plaque and $1,000 from the NSHS Foundation, through the support of Catherine Sellers Angle. Potter joins Kingsley Bray and Dennis Mihelich as the only two-time Sellers winners. He won previously for his 2012 article on lynching in Nebraska.

The James L. Sellers Memorial Award was created in 1967. The award consists of a plaque and a one-year membership with the Nebraska State Historical Society, is given each year for the “best article” published in a volume of *Nebraska History*. The author receives a plaque and $1,000 from the NSHS Foundation, through the support of Catherine Sellers Angle.

The **Nebraska Preservation Award** will be jointly given to the Willa Cather Foundation in Red Cloud, NE for the restoration of the Moon Block and Mark and Vera Mercer of Omaha, NE, who rebuilt the building occupied by M’s Pub in Omaha after fire destroyed it last year.

The Nebraska Preservation Award was created in 1988 to recognize significant achievements in historic preservation in Nebraska by an individual or organization. The award is given for one of two categories: "brick and mortar projects," or "individual or group achievements."

About The Nebraska State Historical Society  
The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) collects, preserves, and opens to all the histories we share.  In addition to the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln and historic sites around the state, NSHS administers the State Archives and Library; the State Historic Preservation Office; the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, Omaha; the Office of the State Archeologist; publishes *Nebraska History* magazine and *Nebraska History News*; and is responsible for the administration of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission. More at History.nebraska.gov or follow us on Facebook.

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