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NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO RECOGNIZE $1.3 MILLION GIFT FROM ACCOMPLISHED NEBRASKA HISTORIAN WITH DEDICATION

Capitol View Room at NSHS Headquarters to be Named Dr. Don R. Gerlach Capitol View Room

Lincoln, NE, September 28, 2017– The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) will dedicate the Capitol View Room in its Lincoln headquarters building as “The Dr. Don R. Gerlach Capitol View Room” during a reception on Friday, September 29.

According to the NSHS, the naming and dedication is being done, “in grateful recognition of Dr. Gerlach’s long-time advocacy for the study of American History in higher education; his vigorous dedication to the preservation of Nebraska history, especially that of the Harvard, Nebraska area; and his generous philanthropic support of the NSHS Foundation.”

Gerlach recently made a charitable gift of $1.3 million to the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, which is a private charity that raises money and in-kind donations in support of the mission of NSHS.

The aptly-named Capitol View Room provides a stunning view of the iconic Nebraska state capitol building and the newly renovated Centennial Mall. The room, located on the second floor of the Nebraska State Historical Society headquarters, hosts the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees meetings, a variety of Society and Foundation events, and many other important gatherings throughout the year.

Dr. Don R. Gerlach, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Akron, Ohio, received bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Nebraska from 1954 – 1961, and was an instructor there before moving to the University of Akron in 1962. He retired in 1994 and returned to his hometown of Harvard, Nebraska in 2010, where he resides in the 1919 home that his grandparents acquired in 1929. Gerlach has written numerous books and articles on Philip Schuyler and the American Revolution, and other subjects of early American history, such as Samuel Johnson of Connecticut – an Anglican convert and missionary and first president of King’s College, which became Columbia University.

“Dr. Gerlach has shown tremendous ongoing support for Nebraska history and our mission at the Nebraska State Historical Society. His gift will help us provide the resources needed to share that history with future generations. It is an honor to dedicate the Capitol View Room in his name,” said Trevor Jones, NSHS Executive Director, and CEO.

When asked about his support of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Dr. Gerlach says that preserving our history speaks to the core of who we are. “The Nebraska State Historical Society is a valuable institution for preserving and publicizing our remarkable heritage,” said Dr. Gerlach. “To quote Sir Walter Scott, ‘Breathes there a man with soul so dead who never to himself hath said, this is my own native land.’”

The naming of an NSHS asset is one of the highest honors the Nebraska State Historical Society may confer upon an individual, family, or organization. Namings such as this are reserved for those who have demonstrated and exemplified the highest degree of support and leadership toward the cause of Nebraska History. Last year, the NSHS named its Research and Publications Suite after Dr. Harl and Mrs. Kay Dalstrom of Omaha.

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 and Facebook.

About Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation
The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) supports the preservation, interpretation, and appreciation of Nebraska history. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the NSHSF works directly with donors on their funding priorities in support of Nebraska State Historical Society programs, projects, and events. https://www.nshsf.org

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