Washington State History Society announces annual award winners

Tacoma, WA – The Washington State Historical Society’s 126th Annual Meeting will take place Saturday, September 23, 2017. One of the highlights will be the presentation of awards, celebrating the men and women whose accomplishments promoted state history and reflected the Historical Society’s mission during 2016. The following individuals will be honored:

Quintard Taylor, Robert Gray Medal, in recognition of his distinguished career as a professor of history and his far-reaching commitment to researching, preserving, and promoting the history of African Americans in the Pacific Northwest.

Leonard Forsman and Angela Swedberg, Peace and Friendship Award. This award is bestowed annually on two recipients. Forsman is celebrated for his local, regional, and national leadership in championing the fabric of Suquamish culture heritage, including his work as director of the Suquamish Museum, his contributions as chairman of the Suquamish Tribal Council, and his appointment to the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Swedberg receives the award in recognition of her unparalleled commitment to the techniques, creation, and preservation of historic beadwork, reflecting materially a reverence for Native art and bringing historic pieces back to life.

John Zingale, Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching History, in recognition of his outstanding contribution as a teacher of Pacific Northwest History and for mentoring students as they developed and produced Fort Vancouver Virtual Reality, an online tour of this national park that focuses on the archaeology and history of the Fort and features rarely seen artifacts. Zingale’s leadership with this project, and as mentor for students in the National History Day Program in Washington State, have advanced his students’ dedication to the study of history.

Junius Rochester, David Douglas Award, in recognition of his work as president of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, including publishing articles, and presenting a series of history tours, public programs and college courses across the Northwest. Most significantly, Rochester led an
expansion of the Pioneer Association’s operations through the acquisition of artifacts, important additions to their library, and the retrofit of Seattle’s 105-year-old Pioneer Hall.


**Tyler S. Sprague, Charles Gates Memorial Award**, as author of “Products of Place: The Era of Reinforced-Concrete Skyscrapers in Seattle, 1921-1931,” recognized as the year’s greatest contribution to the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*.

**Penny Drost, R. Lorraine Wojahn Award**, for outstanding volunteer service advancing the work of the Washington State Historical Society.

The Annual Meeting will take place at the Washington State History Museum on Saturday, September 23, 2017, at 12:00 PM. Registration is $40.00 and includes lunch. Contact Development Director Laura Berry at lberry@wshs.wa.gov or (253) 798-5899, by Friday, September 15 to reserve your place.

### About The Washington State Historical Society

The Washington State Historical Society partners with our communities to explore how history connects us all.

**Address**: 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402  
**Hours**: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday. On the Third Thursday of each month, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM.  
**Admission**: Free for members; Adults $12 through September 25, $14 beginning September 26; seniors (age 65+), students (age 6-17) and military (with ID) $8 through September 25, $11 beginning September 26; free for children 5 and under; beginning September 26, family rate $40 (up to two adults and four children under age 18). Patrons with a Washington Quest card can attend for $1 per person or $2 per family. Admission is free 3:00 – 8:00 PM on the Third Thursday of each month.

Washington State Historical Society’s most visible activity, the Washington State History Museum (WSHM) is located in Tacoma’s downtown core along Pacific Avenue among a thriving cultural scene. The museum features permanent exhibitions about Washington’s past in the Great Hall; unique rotating exhibitions highlighting the Society’s collections; and dynamic traveling exhibitions. WSHM is one of six downtown Tacoma museums, and is walking distance to Tacoma Art Museum, the Museum of Glass, and Children’s Museum of Tacoma. WSHM is also within blocks of the recently renovated Marriott Courtyard and boutique Hotel Murano.