

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Dec. 5, 2014

**CONTACT:** Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,  
Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us

### **State Historical Society Program to Feature Story of Billy Mills**

PIERRE, S.D. – The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society will host a special webcast of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) program entitled, “Native Sports with Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills” at 2 p.m. CDT on Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The program, in the center’s education room, is sponsored by the NMAI and the Smithsonian Affiliations program. The program was originally broadcast July 14, 2012, in the Smithsonian’s Rasmuson Theater as part of the programming for the exhibition “Best in the World: Native Athletes in the Olympics.” Mills and his wife Pat are the featured speakers in the program.

In the program, Native South Dakotan Mills (Oglala Lakota) shares his experience and knowledge with visitors in an informative discussion and presentation. Mills became the second American Indian in history to win an Olympic gold medal when he finished first in the 10,000-meter run at the 1964 Games. He is now the national spokesperson for Running Strong for Native American Youth.

“This is a terrific program to end the 2014 Smithsonian Sunday series,” said Jay Smith, director of the Museum of the State Historical Society. “The story of Billy Mills is uplifting, interesting, and worthy of emulation. We hope many patrons will come and enjoy the program and learn from the life lessons Mills passes along.”

There is no fee to view the program, but standard admission fees apply for visitors wanting to go into the museum galleries.

The State Historical Society became a Smithsonian Affiliate in January 2013, and it is the only affiliate in South Dakota. Since 2013, the museum has hosted a “Smithsonian Sunday” program on the second Sunday of each month.

-30-

#### ***About the South Dakota State Historical Society***

*The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society’s world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit [history.sd.gov](http://history.sd.gov) for more*

information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.

**About Smithsonian Affiliations**

*Established in 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. The long-term goal of Smithsonian Affiliations is to facilitate a two-way relationship among Affiliate organizations and the Smithsonian Institution to increase discovery and inspire lifelong learning in communities across America. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at <https://affiliations.si.edu>.*