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Cultural Heritage Center Exhibits Vietnam War Items, Other Recent Donations

PIERRE, S.D. -- Select items recently donated to the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society and the South Dakota State Archives are currently on display in the lobby of the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The museum is featuring a number of items from the Vietnam War. Some of the items include a uniform, a flak jacket, boots and goggles worn by machine-gunners on convoys, military issued literature, and souvenirs from Vietnam.

“We’ve wanted to showcase our recent donations from the Vietnam War for sometime, and are so thrilled to now have the opportunity,” said Helen B Louise, museum director. “It is an extreme honor and very humbling that these incredibly brave men and women, or their families, selected the State Historical Society to be the new home for their war-related materials. We are grateful in so many ways.”

In addition to the museum donations from the Vietnam War, several other recent donations to the State Archives are on display.

“The State Archives’ recent donation display includes a variety of collections that demonstrate the wide array of items that can document South Dakota’s history,” noted Chelle Somsen, state archivist.

The State Archives recently donated items include:

- a photograph of the 5th Annual Amateur Radio Convention in Vermillion in 1926,
- a signed letter sent to Frank Crane of Watertown from Theodore Roosevelt dated November 14, 1900,
- a rent book for property of the Hyde Holding Corporation in Pierre 1914 to 1920,
- a 1906 German hymn book from St. John’s Lutheran Church in Agar,
- booklets from various South Dakota Garden Clubs organizations from the 1950s, and
- a DVD of various Davis all-school reunions.

The exhibit is on display through the end of March.

If you have any items that you would like to donate to the South Dakota State Historical Society, please contact Dan Brosz, curator of collections, at (605) 773-6013, or Matthew Reitzel, manuscript archivist, at (605) 773-3615.

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The society 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 www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.