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## **Event for South Dakota Historical Society Foundation to take place at Fort Meade Museum**

PIERRE, S.D. – One of the most historic locations in South Dakota will be the site of a fundraiser for an organization whose mission is to “Keep South Dakota History Alive.”

The Fort Meade Museum near Sturgis will host a fundraiser for the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation from 6-8:30 p.m. MDT on Thursday, Aug. 18. The foundation is the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society and is based at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The event is open to the public.

“History was made at Fort Meade,” said foundation President Michael Lewis. “The cavalry horse Comanche was brought to Fort Meade and officially retired with military honors after being found alive on the Little Bighorn Battlefield. The ‘Star-Spangled Banner’ was the official music for the military retreat ceremony at Fort Meade long before it became the national anthem. It is appropriate that an organization dedicated to preserving South Dakota’s history would be held at a museum that preserves the history of Fort Meade.”

Fort Meade was established in the winter of 1878-79 by units of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the reorganized 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. Fort Meade outlasted other frontier posts in the region, surviving as a military installation until 1944 when it became a Veterans Administration Hospital.

The Fort Meade Museum is located one mile east of Sturgis on S.D. Highway 34, on the grounds of the Fort Meade VA Hospital.

People will be able to tour the museum and its three floors of exhibits during the event.

“This provides a great opportunity to see what the Fort Meade Museum has to offer,” Lewis said.

Pegie Douglas will provide entertainment. Douglas has performed shows about Badger Clark throughout the Black Hills. Clark was South Dakota’s first poet laureate. Douglas has set some of the cowboy poet’s work to music. Beverages and hors d’oeuvres will be available. People will have the opportunity to meet Lewis and members of the foundation’s board of directors and learn more about the foundation.

Because this is a fundraiser, there is a suggested donation of \$25 per person, payable at the door. Those planning to attend are encouraged to RSVP by calling (605) 773-6298 by Monday, Aug. 15.

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***About the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation***

*The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation is a private charitable nonprofit that seeks funding to assist the South Dakota State Historical Society in programming and projects to preserve South Dakota's history and heritage for future generations.*

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

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