



WILLAMETTE HERITAGE CENTER

HERITAGE CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 18 2019

Media Contact: Liz McIntire, Marketing and Events Specialist
503.585.7012 lizm@willametteheritage.org

Willamette Heritage Center Announces 2019 Heritage Award Winners

Willamette Heritage Center presented the following awards at the Annual Fall Gala & Heritage Awards event on October 18, 2019.

The annual Heritage Awards honors and recognizes leaders and organizations who have contributed significantly to the preservation of our community's heritage. Awards cover five areas. All five awards may not be presented every year. This year, three awards were presented:



Award accepted by (from left) Renee Miller, Eileen Fitzsimons, Amy Hancock, and Janis Pearson

Heritage Center Service Award – Oregon Quilt Documentation Project Volunteers

This award recognizes meritorious efforts by individuals, groups or organizations in support of the Heritage Center's mission and vision.

Oregon Quilt Documentation Project's (OQP) mission is: "In order to conduct a multi-year, statewide survey of quilts in Oregon, OQP is dedicated to documenting, collecting, and preserving information about the quilts and quilt makers of Oregon, past and present." 29 active volunteers are members of the core group of the OQP. The OQP has been in partnership with the Willamette Heritage Center since 2014.



Award accepted by (from left) Juliene Poppinga, Stacy Nalley, and Lisa Van

Heritage Education Award – Capitol History Gateway Program

This award recognizes programs, projects and other endeavors which have provided high quality history-focused educational opportunities to area residents for any age group or a wide range of age groups.

The Capitol History Gateway Program is celebrating five years of rotating exhibits featuring museum and cultural heritage sites like Oregon Black Pioneers, Willamette Heritage Center, Aurora Colony, Oregon Historical Society, End of the Oregon Trail, and others. The program also includes a Speaker Series featuring authors that preserve and tell of Oregon's history such as: Jane Kirkpatrick, Barbara Mahoney, Former Gov. Barbara Roberts, Secretary of State Bev Clarno Dede Montgomery, and many more.



Award accepted by Tom Golden, Jr.

Heritage Enterprise Award – Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service

This award recognizes a business enterprise which has made a significant long-term contribution to the economy and quality of life of the community.

October, 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of providing services in Salem. Virgil T. Golden Company Mortuary, the original partnership, later changed to Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service. The company was founded by Virgil T. Golden, a Salem area funeral director for 22 years, and his wife, Grace S. Golden, a registered nurse. Three generations of Golden's have run and operated the business.

The Willamette Heritage Center, unification between Mission Mill Museum (1964) and Marion County Historical Society (1950), is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an American Treasure by the National Park Service. As a private non-profit association, for more than sixty years WHC has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, publications, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit www.willametteheritage.org.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

###

1313 Mill Street SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97301-6591 • 503.585.7012 • willametteheritage.org