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THE HISTORY CHANNEL® NAMES LOCAL TEACHER AS 2007 SAVE OUR HISTORY® TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALIST

Washington Court House, Ohio May, 2007— Underscoring the nation's celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Preservation Act, The History Channel is honoring Paul LaRue in Washington Court House as one of 25 outstanding teachers across the country who have creatively brought the preservation of local history to life in the classroom. As a 2007 *Save Our History* Teacher of the Year finalist, he is recognized for distinguished efforts that include instilling a preservation ethic in HIS students, providing students with an in-depth understanding of their local history's importance, and enabling students to take an active role in the preservation process.

Washington Senior High's Research History class worked to preserve the history of the Gist Settlement in Highland County, Ohio. In 1815, Samuel Gist's will emancipated his slaves and set aside land throughout Ohio for them and their descendents. The Highland County settlement is the only original settlement remaining in the descendents hands. Students worked to create a digital map of the Gist Settlement cemetery. They also installed two African American Civil War veteran headstones within the cemetery. The class researched Gist, and wrote biographies on the eight African American Civil War veterans located in the Gist cemetery. Their work will be published in the May edition of the Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal. This is the third year in a row that Washington Senior High's Research History class has been a national finalist.

"The History Channel is delighted to recognize Paul LaRue for his outstanding work in historic preservation, both inside the classroom and out in the field with his students," said Dr. Libby O'Connell, Chief Historian and Senior Vice President, Corporate Outreach at The History Channel. "He is a true innovator in the world of the history education."

Hundreds of applications were received for 2007 *Save Our History* Teacher of the Year, - with hands-on projects ranging from a documentary focused on local Vietnam War Veterans to the preservation of a Revolutionary War-era home. LaRue, is one of 25 recipients of a \$500 cash prize from The History Channel, and will be celebrated at the History Channel *Save Our History* National Awards Breakfast, taking place in Washington, D.C. on May 16 with the Historic Preservation Caucus. At the breakfast, The History Channel will name one of the 25 teachers as the 2007 *Save Our History* Teacher of the Year, and will award that individual a \$5000 cash prize. The breakfast will also honor the 2007 *Save Our History* Student of the Year as well as the 10 *Save Our History* National Awards finalists.

The History Channel has created the *Save Our History* Grant Program to provide resources for schools and youth organizations that collaborate with historic societies on preserving local history. This year \$250,000 has been awarded to execute hands-on projects that not only help students take pride in their local history, but also leave a lasting legacy for future generations. By the end

of 2007, The History Channel *Save Our History* Grant program will have provided \$1,000,000 in grant funding.

Program Sponsors

For 2006-2007, Lowe's continues as one of the primary sponsors of *Save Our History*, as the official home improvement sponsor. American Express joins the *Save Our History* program in this third year as the official financial sponsor.

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Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (www.rockpa.org) is an independent, nonprofit service that develops and manages effective giving programs throughout the world. In 2005 Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors advised on and managed more than \$130 million in giving to more than 30 countries. Headquartered in New York City with offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles, it traces its antecedents to John D. Rockefeller, Sr., who in 1891 began to professionally manage philanthropy "as if it were a business." He set the style of family giving by specifying that grants would be used "for the well-being of people throughout the world." Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors also includes The Philanthropic Collaborative, a special donor-advised fund for international giving and special projects.

About AASLH

AASLH was born in 1904 as a department within the American Historical Association. Now, one hundred years later, AASLH is the only national association dedicated to the people and organizations that practice state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH provides a variety of programs and services, as well as leadership in the national arena.

About Save Our History

Save Our History is an Emmy® Award-winning strategic philanthropic initiative of The History Channel that launched in 1998, designed to further historic preservation and history education. The program supplements the teaching of history in America's classrooms, educates the public on the importance of historical preservation and motivates communities across the country to help save endangered local historic treasures. The *Save Our History* campaign includes original documentaries, special teachers' materials, national promotion on The History Channel, broadband activities in schools, and has worked with The Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National World War II Memorial, American Rivers and The White House 200th Anniversary.

Additional information about the grassroots *Save Our History* program, including a comprehensive school manual containing suggested lesson plans for grades two through 12 and details about working with local preservation organizations can also be found at www.saveourhistory.com.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

The History Channel® is one of the leading cable television networks featuring compelling original, non-fiction specials and series that bring history to life in a powerful and entertaining manner across multiple platforms. The network provides an inviting place where people

experience history in new and exciting ways enabling them to connect their lives today to the great lives and events of the past that provide a blueprint for the future. The History Channel has earned six News and Documentary Emmy® Awards and received the prestigious Governor's Award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for the network's *Save Our History*® campaign dedicated to historic preservation and history education. The History Channel reaches more than 91 million Nielsen subscribers. The website is located at www.History.com.

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