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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Looking to the Past and Future: Annual Membership Meeting of the Dakota County Historical Society**

*January 11, 2011, South St. Paul, MN* – Your Dakota County Historical Society celebrates 72 years of collecting, preserving, promoting and presenting the history of Dakota County on Saturday, January 29, 2011, starting at 11 a.m. at the Lawshe Memorial Museum, 130 Third Avenue North, South St. Paul, Minnesota, 55075. All members and friends of the Society are invited to attend. The keynote speaker is Bill Wittenbreer, presenting on “Looking Forward: Mid-Nineteenth-Century Predictions for Minnesota’s Future” from the new book, *The State We’re In: Reflections on Minnesota History*. Authors Steve Werle and Gerald Mattson will also provide short updates on the Governor Harold Stassen biography and the re-release of *Church on the Seven Mile Prairie*, respectively.

The short business meeting will include the election of new board members, election of officers, and an update on the state of the Society. *DCHS 2020*, the new strategic plan, will be unveiled and after a short presentation members will have a chance to participate in a Q & A session.

Following the meeting and the keynote presentation, Mike Labovitch, Director of Dakota County Veterans Services, will make a few remarks on the opening of the new exhibit *From the Front IV: Vietnam*. This new exhibit profiles seven veterans from Dakota County that served in the war in Vietnam, one of the most divisive conflicts in which the United States has been engaged. The *From the Front* series was established in 2006 as a way to honor our Dakota County veterans as well as educate our visitors regarding the conflicts that touched the lives of Minnesotans.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information please call (651) 552-7548. While reservations are not required, RSVPs are appreciated.

**About the Dakota County Historical Society**

The Dakota County Historical Society has been collecting, preserving, promoting and presenting the history of Dakota County for 72 years. Serving all of Dakota County, the Society provides more than 70 public programs annually at a variety of sites, including the Lawshe Memorial Museum in South St. Paul, the LeDuc Historic Estate in Hastings, and at Dakota County Libraries, government centers, and the Burnsville Performing Arts Center.

For more information contact Chad Roberts, Executive Director, at (651) 552-7548 or [chad.roberts@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:chad.roberts@co.dakota.mn.us). For more about DCHS, see website: [www.dakotahistory.org](http://www.dakotahistory.org) or visit us at the Lawshe Memorial Museum at 130 Third Avenue North, South St. Paul, MN 55075.

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