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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Vietnam Exhibit Re-opening & *Sisterhood of War: Minnesota Women in Vietnam* Program at Dakota County Historical Society

November 3, 2011, South St. Paul, MN – Following the emotional opening of From the Front IV: Vietnam in January, Vietnam veterans from across Dakota County have come forward to share their stories as well and the exhibit has doubled in size. On November 17 at 6 p.m. the public is invited to attend the FREE re-opening of the expanded exhibit. The exhibit opening will be followed at 7 p.m. by a presentation by Kim Heikkila on her new book, [\*Sisterhood of War: Minnesota Women in Vietnam\*](#), about the women who served as nurses during the war in Vietnam.

***Sisterhood of War*** – Author, historian, and instructor at St. Catherine University, Kim Heikkila provides a look at 15 nurses from Minnesota who served in Vietnam. She explores their experiences in Vietnam and how they coped with re-entry into civilian life in a United States that was indifferent or openly hostile to veterans. All told, there were about 6,000 military nurses that served in Vietnam. The 15 nurses profiled in *Sisterhood of War* formed a group that successfully campaigned for veterans services for female veterans and the Vietnam Women’s Memorial that opened in Washington DC in 1993.

[More about Kim Heikkila.](#)

***From the Front IV: Vietnam*** – “Welcome home and thank you for your service!” It is taken for granted that citizens respect the sacrifice of soldiers today, yet those eight simple words were rarely uttered to the veterans returning from Vietnam. America’s most controversial war left tens of thousands of veterans to fend for themselves, often with tragic consequences. For decades many veterans refused to speak about what they saw. This has left a hole in our understanding of the price they paid and the lessons they learned that could help today’s service members were lost for all these years. The Dakota County Historical Society’s exhibit tells the stories of 14 local veterans. The collection of personal recollections, photographs, uniforms, weapons, propaganda material, and other objects create a series of windows into the lives of the soldiers serving in Vietnam. Welcome home ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

When: Thursday, November 17, 6:00 p.m. - Exhibit re-opening  
7:00 p.m. – *Sisterhood of War* program

Where: Lawshe Memorial Museum  
130 Third Avenue North  
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Cost: FREE

**About the Dakota County Historical Society**

The Dakota County Historical Society has been collecting, preserving, promoting and presenting the history of Dakota County since 1939. 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, Dakota County Libraries, government centers, and the Burnsville Performing Arts Center.

For more information about DCHS, see: [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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