FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Garrison Elementary School Teacher Chosen as 2019 Montana History Teacher of the Year

Debra L. Crow, a 4th-6th grade teacher at Garrison Elementary School in Garrison, MT, has been chosen winner of the 30th Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award as Montana History Teacher of the Year. She was selected for the honor by a panel of Montana history advocates.

Crow has a degree in elementary education and began teaching in 1986. Since 2014, she has taught at Garrison Elementary School.

In her classroom, Crow uses the lesson plan *Mapping Montana, A-Z*. Her students work in pairs to discover the state of Montana by virtually traveling from a town that begins with A to a town that begins with Z.

Crow also teaches cultural diversity to her students to ensure sensitivity for others through the Gilder Lehrman American History “A Nation of Immigrants” packet, which reinforces that “we all come from somewhere.”

In her nominating letter, retired teacher Shirley Peters said, “Debra’s classroom is full of enthusiasm for active learning. There is a true interest in Montana history and the desire to learn more about the state where they live.”

Student Riley Harrison adds, “I believe Mrs. Crow is an amazing history teacher. She invited two Native Americans to our school. They brought many beaded items that the class could look at. We also learned about the buffalo and how the Indians used every part of it. They taught us a lot.”

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Crow and her students will be guests of honor at a ceremony on Montana Statehood Day, Friday, Nov. 8, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in the State Capitol in Helena. Crow will receive a plaque and $3,000 from the award sponsors: the Montana Television Network, the Montana History Foundation and the Sons & Daughters of Montana Pioneers. They will ring the Centennial Bell at 10:40 a.m., the exact minute Montana became the 41st state on Nov. 8, 1889. The Montana Historical Society is also a partner in this program.

For more information, contact Norma Ashby Smith, Bell Award Coordinator, at (406) 453-7078.

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