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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United States Marshals Museum Director of Education Honored with State Award Leslie Higgins Applauded For Efforts with Nationally-Scoped Program

FORT SMITH, Ark. (April 16, 2019) – The United States Marshals Museum (USMM) announced today that Director of Education, Leslie Higgins, has been honored by History Day Arkansas as the 2019 Friend of History Day Arkansas recipient for her outstanding and productive efforts to promote and sustain National History Day (NHD) in Fort Smith area schools.

NHD, a highly regarded academic program for 6th-12th grade students, aims to improve history education across the country. The largest NHD program is the National History Day Contest, which encourages more than half a million students around the world to conduct historical research on a topic of their choice.

Higgins began her efforts to revive NHD in 2012 by hosting an annual workshop for area educators interested in bringing this opportunity to their students. In 2016, Spradling Elementary, through the efforts of Librarian Susan Echols, reintroduced the program to its 6th grade students. Since then, five area schools have participated in the regional competition; two have sent students to the state competition and one made it to Nationals.

“Leslie is a champion for all students,” Spradling Elementary School Principal and Fort Smith City Director Robyn Dawson said. “Her passion and wisdom shines through as she works to pour the love of history into students. She inspires us all to love the past and embrace the future. Spradling is a better place because of Leslie Higgins!”

“It’s inspiring to watch these students develop a passion and a love for American history,” Higgins said. “I hope the program continues to expand in our area, and more students are able to participate.”

NHD is one of several educational programs offered by the USMM. Other programs include: Constitution Week, Educator Resource Guides, Spring Lecture Series and Spring Break Day Camps to name a few. Additional educational programs are being created now and will be available to the public once the Museum opens.

About the United States Marshals Museum

The future United States Marshals Museum will be a national Museum located on the riverfront in Fort Smith, Ark. Once open, the United States Marshals Museum will tell the story of our

nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency from its establishment by President George Washington through current day. The Museum will honor the sacrifice of Marshals killed in the line of duty, as well as those who continue to place their lives in harm's way, as they enforce the Constitution. For more information, visit usmmuseum.org.

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