

A historian for the ages

Recognitions piling up for Kaul

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NLJ Reporter

Maxine Kaul knows history – especially local history – and for that she was recently recognized by two organizations. The first award was from the Wyoming State Historical Society in October, and the second was from the Wyoming Daughters of the American Revolution, Inyan Kara Chapter. It was presented in November.

The state historical society recognized Kaul, who had been nominated by the society's Weston County chapter, with a first-place award in education projects for her 2016 Wyoming Day Celebration presentation in Upton. The presentation featured three poets who spoke about their lives and shared their poetry.

"Historically, we always do something to honor the women in the area for Wyoming Day," Kaul said. "Last year (chapter) President Mike Jording couldn't think of an idea for the presentation, and I came up with poets and he was enthralled."

Kaul said that the group featured poets Josephine Fulton, Rhonda Stearns and Pat Bock, and she called the event "a delightful afternoon of poems and stories."

"I don't do these things for the recognition," Kaul said. "I am almost embarrassed because I was not the only fish in the pond on this project."

For as long as she can remember, Kaul said, she has been a part of the Weston County Historical Society, a chapter of the state society. She recalled a time when everyone seemed to be interested in the county's history, but noted that deaths and moves have created a smaller historical society, with less involvement and more sporadic meetings.



of Weston County for many years. She has raised her family in Newcastle, and she has a deep appreciation of the benefits of living here," the nomination letter says. "Because of her participation in Veterans of Foreign Wars, she has been instrumental in capturing the oral histories of many Weston County veterans."

Kaul's work with veterans earned her an award through The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, who are providing Vietnam Veteran lapel pins for veterans as part of the 50th anniversary

of the Vietnam war to individuals who served between Nov. 1, 1955, and May 1975. The commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025, and was established by presidential proclamation on May 25, 2012.

Kaul does this work as part of the Wyoming Daughters of the American Revolution, Inyan Kara Chapter, a commemorative partner.

"The Commemoration is providing Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins to Commemorative Partners for dignified public presentations to living U.S. military veterans who served during the Vietnam War period as a lasting memento of the nation's thanks," according to the website, vietnamwar50th.com. "Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces

at any time during the period of Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin."

"They say I gave over 700 Vietnam War commemoration pins," Kaul said. "The DAR started this program to honor the veterans. They came to events to ask for help, and I commented that 'I can do that' and I started giving out the pins to local veterans."

Kaul was invited to Washington, D.C., to receive the award, but was able to attend.

Weston County Historical Society Awards

Presented by the Wyoming
State Historical Society

- *First Place, Education Projects: Maxine Kaul
- *First Place, Young Historian (Grades 3-5): Samuel Scribner
- *Honorable Mention, Young Historian (Grades 3-5): Raisa Dutcher
- *First Place, Junior Activities (Grades 3-5): Delaney Fullerton
- *Second Place, Junior Activities (Grades 3-5): Aidan Butler
- *Third Place, Junior Activities Award (Grades 3-5): Hailey Beastron

The 5 objectives for the Commemoration

*To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including those who were held as