

PRESS RELEASE

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State Archivist Sue Holbert is the second recipient of the John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information Award, an honor sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition on Government Information. Holbert has served as deputy state archivist from 1976 to 1979 and has been state archivist since that time.

Chief Justice Peter Popovich of the Minnesota Supreme Court will present the award at a recognition ceremony at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 16, 1990 in the Rotunda of the Minnesota State Capitol. Keynote speaker at the noon awards ceremony will be Donald Fraser, Mayor of Minneapolis.

The Ceremony caps a day-long recognition of Freedom of Information sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition on Government Information. Other events scheduled for the noon-time event at the State Capitol include a gubernatorial proclamation of Freedom of Information Day and a visit by a strolling Uncle Sam, replete with "documents for the people."

In honoring Holbert the Coalition recognizes the role of the Minnesota State Archives, a department of the Minnesota Historical Society, as a key link in the state's information chain. The State Archives exist to assure the preservation of government records with lasting value. Holbert and her staff assist government in determining what should be saved and by storing permanent records for agencies which do not wish to retain them.

The Minnesota State Archives assists the public by providing information about the contents of the records and by making the records at the Archives available for public use.

Leadership of the Minnesota Coalition for Government Information cite the importance of this archival function in an electronic era when new practices require re-emphasis on the significance of the permanent public record.

The Freedom of Information Award is named for John R. Finnegan, retired senior vice president and assistant publishing of the St. Paul Pioneer Press/Dispatch. Recipient of the first Award in 1989 was Mary Alice Harvey, Director of the Grand Marais Public Library.