



Idaho State Historical Society, *Preserving Idaho's Past*

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ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTINGS ON CAPITOL GROUNDS WILL HONOR FORMER LAWMAKER VERNON RAVENSCROFT; AMERICAN SOLDIERS

State Tree Western White Pine Planted in Veteran Lawmaker's Honor Will Be First Capitol Grounds Arbor Day Planting Since 1966 When Red Maple Was Planted by Former Gov. Arnold Williams

BOISE – The first Arbor Day tree plantings on the grounds on the Idaho State Capitol in nearly 40 years will unfold Friday, April 25 when a Western White Pine and a Swampwhite Oak will find new homes in the soil of the Idaho Statehouse grounds in ceremonies to honor former legislator Vernon Ravenscroft and American soldiers of all generations through the Pioneer chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The ceremonial plantings are being sponsored by the Idaho Capitol Commission, the Idaho State Historical Society, the University of Idaho and the Pioneer chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They will begin at 11 a.m. at the northeast corner of the Capitol Building grounds.

“It is fitting that this Western White Pine – the state tree – is planted in honor of the long and distinguished career of Mr. Ravenscroft, who has devoted more than a half century of service to his community and state,” said Steve Guerber, Executive Director of the Historical Society and master of ceremonies for the event. Lt. Governor Jim Risch will also be participating in the White Pine ceremony. The tree for the planting was provided by the University of Idaho’s forestry department.

“The Western White Pine is a truly representative tree for the people of Idaho,” Guerber said. “It grows tall and strong, and is a versatile and much sought after building product.” The White Pine planting ceremony will include the placement of north Idaho spring creek water, Mt. St. Helen’s volcanic ash and salmon remnants brought to Boise by University of Idaho forester Ron Mahoney to symbolize the strengths of the Western White Pine and the people it represents.

The Swampwhite Oak is being planted by the Pioneer Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on the northwest corner of the Capitol Building grounds “to help perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence and all American soldiers past and present who strive to help secure for all peoples the blessings of liberty,” said Toni Meeuf, regent of the Pioneer Chapter of the DAR. Directing the planting of the DAR tree will be Meeuf and Roy Eiguren, chairman of the Idaho State Capitol Commission. The new tree will replace a tree planted by the now defunct Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic shortly after the Capitol Building was constructed, and which died two years ago.

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