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SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- NEWS RELEASE -

MERRILL DEDICATES 2014 ‘BLUE BOOK’ TO THE HARTFORD COURANT – CELEBRATING 250 YEARS IN PUBLICATION

SECRETARY OF THE STATE ALSO HONORS THE LATE FORMER STATE TREASURER
GERALD LAMB, 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, DUAL
NATIONAL CHAMPION UCONN MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAMS IN
ANNUAL DEDICATION OF STATE REGISTER AND MANUAL

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today announced that the 2014 State Register and Manual, otherwise known as the “Blue Book,” is dedicated to *The Hartford Courant*, the nation’s oldest continuously published newspaper, celebrating 250 years in publication this year. The 2014 State Register and Manual also contains special sections remembering the life and contributions of former Connecticut State Treasurer Gerald Lamb, the first African-American to be elected to the position of State Treasurer in American history, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 80; and Air Force Staff Sergeant Todd J. Lobraico Jr. of Sherman who was killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan on September 5, 2013. Secretary Merrill also paid tribute to the dual 2014 NCAA National Champion University of Connecticut Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams, and the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Civil Rights Act. (A copy of the full 2014 ‘Blue Book’ dedication is attached to this news release).

“Throughout the years, *The Hartford Courant* has reported, documented, and highlighted thousands of stories ranging from unfortunate tragedies to incredible athletic successes and plenty of political scandals in between that gave more than one elected official reason to fret,” wrote Secretary Merrill. “Accuracy, thoroughness, speed in reporting news and satisfying the needs of the reader are what characterize the quality of news coverage that has made *The Courant* so successful throughout its storied history. No matter what type of event or situation warranted press coverage, through good and bad, the *Hartford Courant* was there to witness and document the collective history of Connecticut. In honor of its 250-year commitment to reporting the news, bearing witness to human events, and making our state so well-informed, we dedicate

the [2014 State Register and Manual] to some of the highlights from the last 250 years of the *Courant's* pages.”

The Office of the Secretary of the State publishes the State Register and Manual every year, which is also referred to as the “Blue Book.” This book contains the state and federal constitutions, and is essentially an encyclopedia of demographic and political information on elections in Connecticut and all 169 municipalities. 2014 is the 127th year that the Secretary of the State’s office has published the Blue Book. Each year this official register and guide serves as a valuable reference for everyday citizens, along with lawmakers, reporters, historians, teachers and students.

In 2014 Secretary Merrill’s office has published more than 5,700 of these books and many will be distributed to schools, municipalities, and libraries across the state, as well as lawmakers, government officials and private citizens. Far beyond containing the interesting and trivial, the Blue Book serves an official snap shot of Connecticut.

“Among other things, the Blue Books will inform people when their local taxes are due and help residents learn about the state they live in. For instance, it contains the entire federal and state Constitutions and historical information such as the State Hero (Nathan Hale) and even the state Fish (the American Shad) but also a historical record of who served in various positions in state government dating back to the mid 1600s (for instance, Connecticut’s first Secretary of the State was Edward Hopkins, who served who served from 1639-1641),” said Secretary Merrill. “The Blue Book also contains a list of newspapers, radio and television stations in Connecticut and gives a guide to all branches of state government. It is a valuable resource!”

The online version of the State Register and manual also contains a wealth of political information such as historical election statistics, as well as political district information and maps. It can be found by going online at www.sots.ct.gov and following the link to the “State Register and Manual.

In recent years, the State Register and Manual has been dedicated to the victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting massacre, the Girl Scouts of America, the women’s suffrage leaders who won passage of the 19th Amendment allowing women to vote, Americares® humanitarian organization, women who represented Connecticut in Congress, pioneers of scientific research in Connecticut, civil rights leaders Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King and Constance Baker Motley, writers Harriet Beecher Stowe and Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), members of the military from Connecticut, victims of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, former Congressman and explorer Hiram Bingham IV, and many others.

For more information about the Blue Book and to order a hard copy, visit the Secretary of the State’s web site www.sots.ct.gov or call 860-509-6200.