



**Mount Rushmore Society
Mount Rushmore Institute**

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1524
Rapid City, SD 57709
1-605-341-8883
FAX 1-605-341-0433
info@mtrushmore.org

Location:

711 North Creek Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57703

**Mount Rushmore Bookstores
Mount Rushmore Audio Tour**

Location:

Mount Rushmore
National Memorial
13036 Hwy 244
Keystone, SD 57751
1-605-574-3142
1-800-699-3142
FAX 1-605-574-3144
bookstores@mtrushmore.org

www.mountrushmoresociety.com
www.mtrushmorebookstore.com

[www.facebook.com/
MountRushmoreSociety](http://www.facebook.com/MountRushmoreSociety)

Mission

The Mount Rushmore Society—through the Mount Rushmore Bookstores, the Mount Rushmore Audio Tour, the Mount Rushmore Institute and other activities—is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and enhancement of Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the values it represents through a partnership with the National Park Service.

For Immediate Release:

January 23, 2012

Mount Rushmore Society's Annual Meeting Honors Rushmore Contributors

The Mount Rushmore Society celebrated 82 years of supporting Mount Rushmore National Memorial at its annual meeting held January 14, 2012, at the Ramkota in Rapid City. Society President Ruth Samuelsen opened the meeting with approximately 80 members and guests in attendance. As part of the agenda, Mount Rushmore carver Nick Clifford was honored with the 2012 Individual Friend of the Faces Award, and Bill and Alice Groethe of First Photo were awarded the 2012 Corporate Friend of the Faces Award.

Clifford began working on the mountain at age 17 and is the only living worker. He was recognized for his consistent promotion of Mount Rushmore and education of visitors through personal interactions at the park and his book, *Mount Rushmore Q & A*.

Groethe bought his first camera at the age of seven. At 12 years old, he became an apprentice to well-known photographer Burt Bell of Bell Studio. He began building a photography collection that documents the carving of Mount Rushmore, as well as the first blasts at Crazy Horse and the last nine survivors of the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1948.

As part of the business meeting, President Samuelsen announced that the Society contributed more than \$310,844 to Mount Rushmore National Memorial in FY 2011.

Society contributions in 2011 included the following:

- Event support for the Independence Day Celebration and other events;
- Promotion of park events and services;
- More than \$201,018 in educational and interpretive funding for the park through the Mount Rushmore Bookstores and Mount Rushmore Audio Tour.

The source of funding for these contributions included revenue from the Mount Rushmore Bookstores, Mount Rushmore Audio Tour, sponsors, parking revenue, in-kind donations and unrestricted contributions.

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For 2012, **Ruth Samuelson** of Rapid City will continue to lead the organization as president. Other officers include Past President **Gene Lebrun** of Lynn Jackson Shultz & Lebrun, Vice President **Andy Knight** of Kahler Prudential Realtors; Secretary **Judy Allen** of Rapid City; and Treasurer **Leroy Ketel** of Ketel Thorstenson, LLP.

Lee Groskopf of Rapid City was elected as a new board member. He joins current board members **Roxann Basham, Joe Bruch, Justin Cutler, Judy Olson Duhamel, Dr. Sidney Goss, Tom Griffith, Bill Honerkamp, Kay Jorgensen, Phil Lampert** and **Tim Raben**. Emeritus directors include **Glenn Barber, Johnny Brockelsby, Mike Derby, Al Johnson, Royal McCracken, Jim Nelson** and **Nancy Gowen**. Outgoing emeritus director **Jim Bell** was recognized for more than 18 years of service to the board.

More information on the Society's contributions and activities during FY 2010-2011 is detailed in the 2011 Annual Report found at www.mountrushmoresociety.com or may be requested by calling 605-341-8883.

Founded in 1930, the Mount Rushmore Society is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and enhancement of Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the values it represents through a partnership with the National Park Service. As a committee of the Society, the Mount Rushmore Bookstores and Mount Rushmore Audio Tours support the educational, historical and interpretive activities at the park. The Mount Rushmore Institute is a division of the Society as well which provides an environment of learning and dialogue, inspired by Mount Rushmore, to advance the cause of freedom and the principles of democracy.

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Caption: Mount Rushmore Society President Ruth Samuelson presents Bill Groethe of First Photo the 2012 Corporate Friend of the Faces Award for his contributions in the preservation of Mount Rushmore National Memorial in film.