

For Immediate Release

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Santa Monica History Museum Presents Warriors of Flames: 125 years of fighting fires in Santa Monica

Exhibition charts the evolution of the Santa Monica Fire Department from a small grass-roots organization to one of the premiere, most progressive fire departments in the United States.

SANTA MONICA, June 6, 2014 – Over the past 125 years, the Santa Monica Fire Department has evolved from a small-town bucket brigade to a cutting-edge fire department. On view at the Santa Monica History Museum from June 20 through September 27, **Warriors of Flames: 125 years of fighting fires in Santa Monica** chronicles the Santa Monica Fire Department’s fascinating timeline.

The exhibit focuses on three areas of the Santa Monica Fire Department’s history: equipment, fire and community service. Presented are over 100 artifacts and photos from the Santa Monica History Museum and Santa Monica Fire Department’s collection. The historical retrospective features all four helmets used by the fire department: an 1889 fire helmet, a Valentini model, an authentic Eastman helmet and a present day helmet. Also featured are original fire log books dating back to 1902, Johnny Ross’s Medal of Valor, legendary fire chief Mohr’s badges, a gavel and a nozzle used by the fire department.

“The Santa Monica Fire Department is one of the premiere and most progressive fire departments in the United States,” said Santa Monica History Museum Operations Manager and Senior Curator Danielle Lewis. “They were the first fire department in the nation to deliver paramedic services in 1974.”

Organized firefighting began in Santa Monica in October 1875, when six citizens created The Crawford Hook and Ladder Company. As Santa Monica grew in size and population, a need for a larger fire department was needed. On March 22, 1889, the Santa Monica Hose and Ladder Company was initiated, the beginning of 125-years of organized firefighting. The fire department has fought several dangerous fires on the world-renowned Santa Monica Pier. (Fill in the history: hotels, Johnny Ross Valor award, California wildfires and 9/11) I would divide this into a couple of paragraphs.

The exhibit opens on June 20th with the Santa Monica’s Fire Department’s 1952 Mack fire engine on display at the Santa Monica History Museum. The museum is donating \$1 from admission proceeds to help restore the historic fire truck.

About the Santa Monica History Museum

The Santa Monica History Museum, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1975 by the Santa Monica Centennial Committee to collect and preserve the history, art and culture of the Santa Monica Bay Area and to be the guardian/caretaker of the history. Its mission is the advancement of historical information and education, and the collection, documentation and preservation of objects and memorabilia relating to the Santa Monica Bay Area; and to give residents, particularly children, a sense of roots, belonging, and a strong appreciation for the unique history and qualities of their own city, and pride in the diverse, multi-cultural past of Santa Monica.

The museum's goal is to provide public access to its extensive collection through interpretive exhibitions, on- and off-site programs, and through archival and research services for youth and adults.

The museum is open Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 8 pm, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am-5pm. It is closed on Sunday and Monday.

To learn more visit <http://santamonicahistory.org>