Photo attached: Former Taylor resident Captain Donald Erickson (1927-2012) in the pilot house of the William Clay Ford at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. Erickson led the crew of the William Clay Ford on the night of November 10, 1975 when they left safe harbor to search for survivors of the Edmund Fitzgerald in Lake Superior. Erickson died March 26 of this year and will receive a tribute at this year's Lost Mariners Remembrance event Saturday, November 10 at the Dossin Museum.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact: Bob Sadler
(313) 833-7937
(313) 819-5761 (cell)
bobsadler@detroithistoric.org

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM TO OBSERVE THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE EDMUND FITZGERALD AT ITS ANNUAL LOST MARINERS REMEMBRANCE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th
Also remembering the late Captain Donald Erickson and sailors lost on the Detroit River

DETROIT -- The Detroit Historical Society’s Dossin Maritime Group hosts its annual remembrance for sailors lost on our inland seas Saturday, November 10 at 6 p.m. at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

The date marks the 37th Anniversary of the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald in the waters of Lake Superior. The event will remember the life of former Taylor resident Captain Donald Erickson (1927-2012), who led the crew of the freighter William Clay Ford out of safe harbor that fateful night to search for any survivors of the Fitz.

This year’s Lost Mariners Remembrance will also focus on the Pine Lake, which sank in the Detroit River 100 years after being rammed just east of Belle Isle with loss of life. The Detroit River, once the busiest waterway in the world, has been the site of hundreds of wrecks that claimed the lives of many mariners. Congested traffic resulted in collisions that sent innumerable vessels to the bottom. Uncharted waters and shifting currents put many boats aground. Mechanical failures and human error claimed ships through explosion and fire. Society senior curator Joel Stone tells these stories via a presentation entitled “Danger at Every Turn.”

The evening’s activities begin with a lantern vigil at the Edmund Fitzgerald anchor, followed by a performance by Great Lakes balladeer Lee Murdock, a color guard escort of a memorial wreath to the Detroit River for receipt by an honor flotilla of Great Lakes vessels, and Stone’s program. More than 20 international maritime agencies are participating in this year’s event.
Admission is $5 for Society/Dossin Maritime Group members, $10 for guests and $25 for a family of up to six people.

For more information or reservations, call (313) 833-1801 or visit our website at www.detroithistorical.org. In addition, the event will be made available as a live webcast at www.detroithistorical.org for those unable to attend.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- **6 p.m.** – A lantern ceremony at the *Edmund Fitzgerald* anchor outside the museum remembers her crew on the 36th anniversary of the ship’s sinking.
- **6:20 p.m.** – Lee Murdock performs as guests enter the museum.
- **6:50 p.m.** – Assembly of the Lost Mariners honor guard, including members of the United States Coast Guard, Canadian Coast Guard, International Shipmasters Lodge #7, Apostleship of the Sea – Port of Detroit, Lake Carriers Association, Mariners Church of Detroit, Ontario Provincial Police – Commissioner’s Pipe and Drums, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Royal Canadian Armored Corps, and the U.S. Navy – Bugles Across America. The honor guard will be escorted by bagpipers and a bugler to the river’s edge with the Lost Mariners memorial wreath.
- **6:58 p.m.** – Reading of lost crew names by Kathy McGraw of the Dossin Maritime Group with a bell toll for each name.
- **7:00 p.m.** – Out on the Detroit River, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter escorts and lights up a flotilla of U.S. and Canadian vessels as they approach the Museum to receive the wreath. The ships include a 41-foot U.S. Coast Guard utility boat with uniformed crew at attention on deck, the Canadian Coast Guard cutter *Cape Dundas*, the Windsor Police Department service boat *Julian Fantino*, a Detroit Police Department search and rescue vessel, the Detroit Fire Department’s fire boat *Curtis Randolph* and the mail boat *J.W. Westcott*.
- **7:03 p.m.** – The Reverend Paul Innes, acting rector of Mariners’ Church, offers a prayer to dedicate the memorial wreath, followed by Fr. Russell
Kohler, pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Corktown and chaplain of the Port of Detroit, with a prayer for the lost mariners.

- **7:05 p.m.** – The memorial wreath is passed from shore to the U.S. Coast Guard vessel followed by a playing of “Taps” on the river with a Canadian echo of “Last Post.”
- **7:10 p.m.** – The wreath honoring those lost on the Great Lakes is laid out in the river with a salute of all water cannons by the Detroit Fire Department’s Curtis Randolph.
- **7:25 p.m.** – The program continues inside the Museum with a Tribute to Captain Erickson and Stone’s presentation of “Danger at Every Turn.”
- **8:10 p.m.** – The event concludes with a memorial prayer and benediction by Rev. Innes, followed by Lee Murdock’s rendition of “Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald” and a video collage of the ship’s history.

Special thanks to the Canadian Shipowners Association and the Lake Carriers Association for sponsoring the event.

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum, located at 100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle, is open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free at the Museum, however, donations are welcome. Permanent exhibits include the Miss Pepsi 1950s championship hydroplane, a bow anchor from the Edmund Fitzgerald, the pilothouse from the Great Lakes freighter S.S. William Clay Ford, and one of the largest known collections of scale model ships in the world. For more information, call (313) 833-5538 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

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