FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:  Bob Sadler
313.833.7937
313.819.5761 (cell)
bobsadler@detroithistorical.org

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM TO OBSERVE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE SINKING OF THE BENJAMIN NOBLE AT ITS ANNUAL LOST MARINERS
REMEMBRANCE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

The date marks the 39th Anniversary of the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald in the waters of Lake Superior. The event will also remember the lives of sailors who perished on the Benjamin Noble in the spring of 1914 on Lake Superior.

Special guest Ken Merryman of Minneapolis, MN will share a video presentation on the final voyage of the Benjamin Noble, featuring details about how the ship left Conneaut, OH with a load of rails, information about some of the crew and the inside story of the November 1, 2004 discovery of the shipwreck in 360 feet of water in Lake Superior 20 miles east of Duluth. Merryman, who owns a scuba diving charter service, has participated in three different dives of the wreck of the Benjamin Noble over the last 10 years.

The evening’s activities begin with a lantern vigil at the Edmund Fitzgerald anchor, followed by a performance from Great Lakes balladeer Lee Murdock, a honor guard escort of a memorial wreath to the Detroit River for receipt by a flotilla of Great Lakes vessels and Merryman’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 detroithistorical.org. In addition, the event will be made available as a live webcast at detroithistorical.org for those unable to attend.

The approximate 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 39th anniversary of the ship’s sinking.
- 6:15 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 Association Lodge #7, Port of Detroit, Lake
Carriers Association, Canadian Shipowners Association, Mariners Church of Detroit, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Port of Windsor, Detroit Caledonian Pipe Band and the U.S. Navy. 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 sailors’ names from the *Benjamin Noble* by Kathy McGraw of Mariners’ Church of Detroit with a bell toll for each.
- **7:00 p.m.** – Out on the Detroit River, a helicopter 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 II*.
- **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*. Roses will be provided for guests to give their own personal blessing before release in the river.
- **7:25 p.m.** – The program continues inside the Museum with Merryman’s presentation.
- **7:55 p.m.** – The event concludes with a memorial prayer, 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 Detroit Historical Society’s Dossin Maritime Group (DMG) is dedicated to preserving our region’s rich maritime history. In addition to all the regular benefits of Society membership, members of the DMG have access to special events and programs at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and receive a quarterly maritime history publication called *Telescope*. To become a member of the Detroit Historical Society and the Dossin Maritime Group, call **313.833.0158** or click on “Membership” from our homepage.
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. Permanent exhibits include *Built by the River* in the John A. and Marlene L. Boll Foundation Gallery, the *Miss Pepsi* vintage 1950s championship hydroplane, the Gothic Room from the *City of Detroit III* in the Polk Family Hall, a bow anchor from the *S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald*, the pilothouse from the Great Lakes freighter *S.S. William Clay Ford* in the Wayne and Joan Webber Foundation Gallery, 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](http://www.detroithistorical.org). # # #