

## **HF152 (Jordan, DFL) - SF619 (Howe, IR)**

### **Designating the Bill and Bonnie Daniels Firefighter Hall and Museum as the State Fire Museum**

#### **Background Information:**

Bill and Bonnie Daniels Fire Hall and Museum  
664 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55418

Established in 1974, the Museum moved to its present day location in 2003 thru the generous estate gift of Wilton “Bill” and Bonnie Daniels. Bill Daniels retired from Minneapolis Fire as a captain. The Museum is organized under Minnesota Non-Profit statutes 317A and has an IRS 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status. Operation is overseen by a nine-person board of Directors of which former State Fire Marshal Tom Brace is the Chair. A cadre of volunteers maintain the collection, deliver public education programs, staff the operation when open to the public (Saturdays from 10-5), and care and maintain the collection, building and grounds.

At 12,000 square feet it is one of the larger fire museums in the ten state region and displays a number of fire apparatus that was donated, acquired, or on loan from the Minnesota Historical Society. These include a 1919 Tiller – Mankato, 1894 Steamer –Fergus Falls and a 1949 LaFrance – Robbinsdale. There are numerous exhibits, substantive archives, public education programs, and meeting space. Revenue is generated from hall rental, memberships, merchandise sales, and donations.

#### **Strategic Plan:**

The Museum component/operation is embarking upon an “expansion” in terms of increasing its effort/role in the collection and preservation of Minnesota fire history and telling the stories of the fire departments and firefighters in throughout the State of Minnesota. Via collaboration with the Minnesota Alliance of Local Museums which provides access to Collective Access; a massive digital database; the museum is poised to increase its collection, digital archives, web presence, exhibits and displays. Our vision is to become a comprehensive operation that provides and meets the needs of visitors (virtually or in person), researchers, and/or the families & friends of current and former firefighters from across the state seeking information about the brave men and women who served their communities. We are in the process of developing an interpretive plan, doing a complete rebuild of our web page and database interface, and finalizing our archive/data storage system.

#### **Legislation:**

The Museum is seeking legislation that would “designate” the Museum as the “States Fire Museum.” This designation will strengthen the museum in the following specific ways.

- Greater awareness of this unique and significant asset.
- Establishes legitimacy and designation assuring donors of preservation and interpretation.
- Increase our ability to obtain state, federal and philanthropic grants.
- Imposes an obligation upon current and future trustees to ensure mission success.

#### **This effort enjoys broad fire service association support:**

Minnesota State Fire Department Association (MSFDA)  
Minnesota Fire Explorers Association (MNFEA)  
Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA)  
Extra Alarm Association  
National Fire Sprinkler Association, MN Chapter (NFS MN Chapter)  
MN Chapter, International Fire Investigators Association (MNIAAI)  
Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board (MFSCB)

Sent to the State Gov Cmte by Tom Brace (Chair) and Nyle Zikmund (Treasurer) with the Bill and Bonnie Daniels Firefighter Hall and Museum, Feb. 7, 2021.

Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota (FMAM)

**Fiscal Request:**

There is no fiscal note or fiscal request attached to this legislative effort. The legislation will enhance the non-profit's ability to successfully fundraise via grants and the private sector to meet current and future needs.

**Minnesota Fire Service Facts:**

784 Fire Departments staffed by 20,040 firefighters of which 2,225 are career and remainder volunteer or paid on call. Minnesota ranks 45<sup>th</sup> to 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation in per capita fire expense (How Does MN Compare), as well as 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation in fewest firefighters (career and volunteer) on a per capita basis (Empty Boots and Quiet Sirens). We are a highly efficient fire service!

Exterior Entrance to Museum



East Gallery



1894 Steamer



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