



FIREBOAT FIRE FIGHTER MUSEUM P.O. BOX 457 GREENPORT, NY 11944

January 1, 2020

For Immediate Release:

Fireboat Fire Fighter Museum Receives \$200,000 in donations for 2020 Shipyard Restoration work;
Funds will support preservation and restoration work to its hull, fire pumps and sea suction piping.

GREENPORT: The Fireboat Fire Fighter Museum has been awarded a **\$100,000 grant from Robert David Lion Gardiner** to support restoration work to the 134 foot vessel. The Fireboat Fire Fighter Museum was founded in 2012, and is essentially the Fireboat “Fire Fighter”, a National Historic Landmark vessel, Gallant Ship Award winner (1974), 9/11 Hero Ship, and Queen of the FDNY Fleet. She also is the longest serving fireboat in FDNY history (72 years). When built, it was the largest and most powerful fireboat in the world; and responded to some of New York Harbors’ most powerful explosions and extreme fires. The funding will contribute to the larger capital project which will cost in excess of **\$700,000** before all objectives are met of the preservation plan. The group looks forward to raising more money this coming year and having a return visit to the shipyard in 2021

Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation: The foundation will sponsor work this winter in a nearby shipyard to address the vessels ability to cool its engines and improve its maneuverability, enabling it to safely visit ports on Long Island and beyond. New steel supports to strengthen the foundation of the 82 year old centrifugal fire pumps, will also be installed. Lastly, the entire hull will be checked for any steel deterioration and receive a new paint job.

Established in 1987, the Robert David Lion Foundation primarily supports the study of New York State history. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in 2004, the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner’s Island, NY. The Gardiner family and their descendants have owned Gardiner’s Island since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from King Charles I of England. The Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner’s personal passion for New York history. For more information, please visit rdlgfoundation.org

Match Donations: This funding from the Gardiner Foundation is also being matched by two private donors with donations of **\$50,000 each for a total of \$100,000**. **The Charles and Helen Reichert Foundation** has also donated **\$50,000** toward the Gardiner grant match funding. Mr. Reichert is a well-known local businessman who has been a supporter of the fireboat’s activities since 2016. The foundation has funded numerous projects that are Long Island based; most notably the recent renaming of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Planetarium to be The Charles and Helen Reichert Planetarium. The foundation has promised a total of **\$1.7 Million** in funding for the Planetarium over 20

years beginning in 2013. **John and Kim Lazarich of Hope, Idaho** have donated **\$50,000** toward the Gardiner grant's match funding. Mr. Lazarich's Father John was a former member of the Fire Department of New York; being both a Captain of the Fire Fighter and its Commanding Officer, during the time that Mr. Lazarich grew up on Staten Island in the late 1950s and 60s. The Lazarich's also have contributed **\$25,000** to its general operating fund for 2020 and been consistent donors and supporters since 2018.

PRESS CONTACT: Charles Ritchie, ceritchie1@aol.com, 845-612-1950