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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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VALLEJO FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY FEATURED AT VALLEJO MUSEUM

VALLEJO - On Saturday, March 18, 2006 the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum will open a new exhibit that tells the story of Vallejo's firefighters, both past and present.

"Forged in Fire" explores how history, daily duty, and family tradition have shaped Vallejo's Fire Departments since the city's earliest days. The exhibit runs through September 23, 2006.

Today's Vallejo Fire Department grew from diverse origins. The city originally was protected by private hose companies. During its many years as a U.S. Navy base, Mare Island had its own fire department. East Vallejo was also protected by a separate fire department for many years. Today, all of those fire protection duties have been consolidated under one department.

The exhibit will feature numerous historic fire department photos and artifacts, but will also examine Vallejo's 21st century firefighters. One aspect of the exhibit will be a photo-journalistic essay depicting the daily life of two Vallejo Fire Stations: an urban station and a suburban station. Another aspect will be an exhibit of paintings by local artist Carlo G. Carlucci, depicting firefighter family portraits, trucks & engines, and fire stations.

Carlucci has spent much of the past year documenting the daily lives of Vallejo firefighters – riding along on calls, spending many hours at firehouses, and talking with firefighters and their families.

"I'm inspired by the quiet commitment of these men and women," says Carlucci, "and how their daily work shapes their personalities. Their daily drill, from recruitment to retirement, has trained them to ignore emotional considerations – whether political, cultural, or personal - and focus solely on the task at hand. For both better *and* worse, generations of Vallejo firefighters have had their personalities forged by fire, trauma, and disaster."

"Forged in Fire" will include numerous hands-on exhibits to engage the interest of families and children. Several special programs are being planned to coincide with the exhibit including speakers, films, disaster preparedness demonstrations, and more. A complete schedule of these upcoming events is attached. An opening reception for "Forged in Fire" will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2006 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum is located at 734 Marin Street, Vallejo. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call (707) 643-0077.

"Forged in Fire" is presented in part through a generous grant from the Vallejo Community Arts Foundation.

WHAT: New Exhibit: "Forged in Fire"

WHERE: The Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum
734 Marin Street, Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 643-0077
www.vallejomuseum.org
valmuse@pacbell.net

WHEN: March 18 – September 23, 2006
Museum Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CHARGE: Regular Museum admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors & students, children under 12 free. There is no additional charge for the special exhibit.

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