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MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FOREST SERVICE HISTORY HONORS MISSOULA RESIDENT AND FORMER STATE FORESTER GARY G. BROWN

Missoula, Montana, September 8, 2009 – The National Museum of Forest Service History’s Board, volunteers, staff and partners gathered tonight at the Museum’s Annual Meeting to recognize Gary G. Brown, a man of remarkable vision and perseverance, for his leadership as a founder of the Museum. As a long-time Missoula resident, a former Montana State Forester and the past president of the Museum, Brown spearheaded the establishment of the nonprofit organization and led the Museum through its formative years.

“Gary’s strong desire to see this Museum become a reality has carried us to where we are today,” said Gray Reynolds, president, National Museum of Forest Service History. “We have garnered support from across the nation, designed a state-of-the-art building and formed a strong organization.”

Working with members of the Board, the US Forest Service and partners who have shaped the development of the US Forest Service in the community and across the country, Brown established the Museum as a national organization, launched the Museum’s Collections, Archives, Research and Education (CARE) Program and set the stage for development of the 36-acre site and future \$12 million national museum, repository and conservation education center.

“I thank my colleagues and friends on the Board for this award. I have a high regard for the people of the Forest Service and their accomplishments. It was always known as an agency that could do anything they set their mind to or were asked to do by the government. Now we need to recognize those efforts, the resource protection and the cooperative work with industry and state foresters of the nation,” said Gary G. Brown.

“We are still enjoying the results of that first 100 years of the Forest Service. Most of the people in the US today are somehow influenced by what the Forest Service has done in the past. They have either worked for the Service in the summers or as a career, or they

have come from across the nation and around the world to recreate in national forests,” Brown continued.

The Museum’s Board, volunteers, staff and partners have just completed three years of site preparation, building design and exhibit planning for the \$12 million, 30,000 square-foot national museum, repository and conservation education center. As a showcase for its collection of more than 21,000 objects, the Museum will encourage visitors to explore the cultural, ecological, economic, political, and social history of the lands and people that have defined the nation and gave meaning to the very word, conservation.

To honor his more than 14 years of volunteer service and achievements, Brown was recognized by the Museum Board with the Museum’s Founder’s Award. Henceforth, the award will be named the Gary G. Brown Founder’s Award to honor extraordinary volunteer service on behalf of the Museum.

“Gary has been a driving force in the organization and we will honor his commitment to the Museum by fulfilling his vision of completing the building and developing programs that recognize the achievements of the Forest Service and its partners, provide conservation education and promote dialogue,” said Dave Stack, vice president, National Museum of Forest Service History.

“Gary is a thoughtful individual and has had a splendid career as a forester. He is the one who had the insight, dedication and drive to get this museum off the ground. I hold him in the highest regard,” said Fred Haeussler, past president, Society of American Foresters and board member, National Museum of Forest Service History.

About the National Museum of Forest Service History

The National Museum of Forest Service History, a national nonprofit organization founded in 1988, is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the entire national history of the USDA Forest Service for the education and enjoyment of the general public, scholars, and historical researchers. For more information, visit www.nmfs-history.net
