

**Retired Santa Monica Ophthalmologist Donates \$100,000 to the
Santa Monica Historical Society Museum**

SANTA MONICA – (October 9, 2006) – The Santa Monica Historical Society Museum (SMHSM) announced today that it recently received a donation of \$100,000 from longtime resident of Santa Monica, Dr. John E. Gilmore.

The SMHSM \$5 million capital campaign for the build-out of the new museum was launched last month, which to-date has raised \$200,000. The honorary spokesperson for the campaign is Joe Regalbuto, who is best known for his 10-year run on CBS'

***Murphy Brown*, and for directing episodes of *Titus*, *Veronica's Closet*, and *George Lopez*.**

"We greatly appreciate Dr. Gilmore's generous donation. It has helped our fundraising efforts enormously," said Louise Gabriel, president/CEO of the museum. "His generosity and dedication to the museum has touched us deeply, and we are very thankful."

Today, Dr. Gilmore is extremely active in the community, and continues to support many organizations like the YMCA, Kiwanis and the Boys & Girls Clubs. "Santa Monica is full of culture, and being able to help preserve its history for future generations means a lot to me," said Gilmore. "For those who feel that Santa Monica has been a big part of their lives, I urge them to join the campaign and to help make this museum a major attraction."

Gilmore was raised in Murray, Nebraska, and studied mechanical engineering at the University of Nebraska and later applied for an orthopedic surgery residency, which lead him to volunteer for the Army Air Corp where he became a flight surgeon. During his time as a flight surgeon, he realized that plastic fragments from scattered windshields did not cause inflammatory reaction to the eye. This encouraged him to embrace a new method of cataract surgery - intraocular lens implants.

Dr. Gilmore became one of the first to implant intraocular lens, and later taught ophthalmologists his technique through classes at the Santa Monica Hospital. He performed his last cataract surgery at the age of 76.

The money which is being raised will allow the museum to be relocated to a new 5,000-square-foot facility situated on the Santa Monica Main Public Library campus (located on 7th Street in Santa Monica) in mid-2007. SMHSM is appealing to the city's



John E. Gilmore

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residents and business owners for support. Leading the museum's fund-raising efforts are Jean McNeil Wyner, chair person of the SMHSM Board of Directors, and Bob Gabriel, chairman of the museum's Permanent Home Committee.

Contributions to the \$5 million campaign will help provide the following: overall design, development and construction of the new facility, state-of-the-art exhibitions, an expanded research library, educational programs, children, senior and family events, expanded outreach programs, collection preservation, online access to historical images and documents and ongoing maintenance and operations.

The museum's Board of Directors also has established a Donor's Circle honoring contributors who will receive special recognition on the Wall of Legacy, a permanent fixture in the new museum. To contribute, or for more information, the public should call 310-395-2290 or visit www.santamonicahistory.org.

Founded in 1975 under the City of Santa Monica Centennial Committee, the non-profit Historical Society Museum has been operating in various temporary venues and is currently located at 1539 Euclid Street. Due to increased donations of artifacts, documents, textiles and images, space became a critical issue and prompted museum officials to begin exploring new locations to contain the many historical treasures.

About the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum:

The Santa Monica Historical Society Museum is a non-profit organization whose mission is to collect, preserve and make accessible the rich history, art and culture of the Santa Monica Bay Area. Through the advancement of historical information, educational programming and the preservation of its archival collections and historical objects, the museum aims to give residents a sense of roots, belonging and an appreciation for the unique qualities of their city, and to instill a sense of pride in the diverse, multi-cultural past of Santa Monica. The museum's goal is to provide public access to its extensive collections through interpretive exhibitions, on- and off-site programs, and through archival research services for youths and adults. To learn more about SMHSM, please call 310 395-2290 or visit www.santamonicahistory.org.

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