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For Immediate Release

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City Officials Present and are Honored at the Staten Island Museum's 130th Anniversary Celebration

(Staten Island, NY – November 15, 2011) Congressman Michael Grimm and Council Member Debi Rose joined Staten Island Museum President & CEO Elizabeth Egbert, Museum Board Chairperson Ralph Branca, along with Museum trustees and supporters to honor Helen M. Granatelli, Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Edith Susskind and the New York Council for the Humanities with the Leng & Davis Award at the Staten Island Museum's 130th Anniversary Celebration at the Hilton Garden Inn last Thursday, November 10, 2011.

"The entire staff and Board are proud to be a part of the Museum's rich 130-year history and are energized by the expansion of the Museum at Snug Harbor, where the full range of the Museum's collections in natural science, the visual arts and local history will have a venue truly appropriate to the scope and quality of the Museum's holdings", said Staten Island Museum President & CEO Elizabeth Egbert

Staten Island Museum Beginnings

The Staten Island Museum traces its beginnings to 1881, when a group of 14 young naturalists on Staten Island had the foresight to pool their collections and research efforts out of a concern that "the rapid growth of the community [has already] obliterated many of our most interesting natural objects." Their goal was to keep a record for future generations against the anticipated loss of plant and animal species, and to advocate for environmental preservation long before it was fashionable to do so.

Today, the Staten Island Museum maintains and continues to build, in authentic specimens, photographs and field notes, an unbroken record of the changing biodiversity of the region, spanning more than 150 years. The Museum remains the only general interest museum in New York City, and continues to build distinctive collections in three disciplines: natural science, visual and decorative arts and local history.

Staten Island Museum Future

The Museum is well underway to establish a new flagship location within Building A at Snug Harbor Cultural Center. In this NYC landmark building, within an Historic District of National Registry, the Museum will have a facility combining 19th and 20th century elements that are appropriate to fulfilling its mission to preserve the heritage, showcase the talent, and educate the communities of Staten Island and the surrounding

metropolitan area. This historic Greek Revival building will add over 10,000 square feet of public space and will become the nexus of the Museum's activities and will exemplify the goals of preservation, history and respect for the natural environment that are at the core of the Museum's mission.

Photos by Henryk J. Behnke

Top Row:

Staten Island Museum Board Chair Person Ralph Branca and Staten Island Museum President & CEO Elizabeth Egbert

Bottom Row:

Honorees: Elizabeth Granatelli (accepting on behalf of Helen M. Granatelli), Edith Susskind, and Council Member Domenic M. Recchia

Photo 2:

Jane McNamara accepting the award for New York Council for the Humanities, Staten Island Museum Board Chair Person Ralph Branca and Staten Island Museum President & CEO Elizabeth Egbert

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About the Staten Island Museum: For 130 years, the Staten Island Museum has been fostering and sustaining scientific and cultural heritage on Staten Island. Founded in 1881, NYC's only general interest museum explores the arts, natural science, and local history through permanent and changing exhibitions and welcomes about 80,000 adults and school children to a comprehensive array of programs every year. Located two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark in the Hall of Natural Sciences; and experience the lives of Staten Island's first inhabitants. Down the road in Building H on the Snug Harbor Campus, visitors can explore the latest exhibitions in the History Center Gallery, or make a research appointment for the History Archives & Library. Staten Island Museum is owned by the City of New York and benefits from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. For current exhibitions, visit statenislandmuseum.org.

Staten Island Museum (St. George)

75 Stuyvesant Pl.

Staten Island, NY 10301

Museum Hours:

Monday – Friday: 11am– 5pm

Saturday 10am–5pm

Sunday 12pm-5pm

Main number: (718) 727-1135

The museum building is wheelchair accessible. Call (718) 727-1135 for assistance.

Admission

Adults \$3.

Students and Seniors: \$2.

FREE to members and children under 12.

FREE Lunchtime Break: Every Tuesday between 12–2pm

History Center & Archives *New Location*

1000 Richmond Terrace

Snug Harbor Campus, Building H

Staten Island, NY 10301

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am – 4pm by appointment

Please contact Cara Dellatte at (718) 727-1135, ext. 122

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 1pm – 4pm

Free admission