



March 1, 2023

Re: SF1658 (Dziedzic) HF194 (Jordan) Designating Bill & Bonnie Daniels Firefighter Hall and Museum as the Minnesota State Fire Museum

To: Chair Erin Murphy and Members State and Local Govt. & Veteran Affairs

Dear Chair Murphy and Members;

We respectfully request your support of SF 1658 which designates the Bill and Bonnie Daniels Firefighter Hall & Museum as the Minnesota State Fire Museum. There is no opposition to this bill and it is supported by the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association. The bill has been heard in the house, passed out of committee, and second reading occurred on January 23, 2023.

- The museum was established in 2003 utilizing a \$1 million trust left by retired Mpls. Fire Captain Wilton “Bill” Daniels. The trust documents state his wishes of a museum to preserve and share the history of the Minnesota Fire Service.
- There are no other “fire” museums in the state. (Hinckley is a fire event museum).
- At 12,000 square feet and 10,000 artifacts, it is one of the largest fire museums in the nation.
- The Museum has been the recipient of 5 Minnesota Historical Society Legacy Grants over the past decade. The most recent is currently underway – a full inventory of the collection that upon completion, will all be uploaded into the digital/virtual museum allowing access to anyone with an internet connection.

Respectfully,

Tom Brace

Board Chair and former Minnesota State Fire Marshal (1987 – 2003)

Made Possible by Bill and Bonnie Daniels Trust

664 22nd Ave NE | Minneapolis, MN 55418 | PH: 612-623-3817

www.firehallmuseum.org

Firefighters Hall & Museum is a 501 (c) 3

Federal Tax ID 41-6330321