



**News Release: For immediate release**

## **CHUCK FOWLER RECEIVES THE ROBERT GRAY MEDAL**

*Presented by the Washington State Historical Society*

**TACOMA –May 5, 2014** –Chuck Fowler, an Olympia resident and noted maritime historian, has been awarded the Robert Gray Medal by the Washington State Historical Society Board of Trustees.

Chuck Fowler grew up on the water and in boats in Tacoma and on Puget Sound. He is past president of the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society in Seattle, and was the founding co-coordinator of the Pacific Northwest Maritime Heritage Council of maritime organizations in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia.

Before entering his “semi-retirement” years in 2000, for 20 years Chuck co-owned and operated two consulting firms with his wife Karla. His personal consulting interests focused on maritime, marine environment and waterfront revitalization projects. Among the firms’ consulting projects were three associated with the Washington State Centennial--the Washington Ships Flotilla to the EXPO 86 World’s Fair in Vancouver, B.C., Wilkes Heritage Flotilla through Puget Sound in 1987, and the maiden voyage of the *Lady Washington* in 1989. In the early 2000s, he served in a three year transitional role as the founding executive director of the Working Waterfront Maritime Museum on the Foss Waterway in Tacoma.

An active volunteer throughout his life, Chuck was a board member of the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) in Seattle, a former trustee of the Washington State Historical Society, and board president of the State Capital Historical Association and Museum in Olympia. He has also been a board member of Tall Ships America (formerly the American Sail Training Association) in Newport, Rhode Island, and currently serves on its National Advisory Council.

As an author, Chuck has researched and written many articles for *Sea Chest*, the quarterly journal of the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society, as well as for several other publications. He has also co-authored three pictorial maritime history books in his “on Puget Sound” series, “Tall Ships” in 2007, “Tugboats” in 2009 and “Patrol and Rescue Boats” in 2011. He is scheduled to co-author another local maritime history book, “Maritime Olympia and South Puget Sound,” to be published in 2016.

A graduate of the University of Puget Sound, he holds a masters degree in journalism from Northwestern University, and completed doctoral course work in mass communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society on June 21, 2014 at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma at the noon luncheon. To reserve seats, contact Laura Berry at (253) 798-5899 or [lberry@wshs.wa.gov](mailto:lberry@wshs.wa.gov).

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Founded in 1891, the Washington State Historical Society is dedicated to collecting, preserving and vividly presenting Washington's rich and varied history. The Society is comprised of a family of museums, research centers, and programs offering a variety of services to researchers, historians, scholars, and lifelong learners. This includes the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma and the State Capital Museum in Olympia. The Washington State Historical Society is a non-profit 501 c 3 membership organization, open to any and all individuals, families, or firms. The Society is also recognized in statute (RCW 27.34) as a trustee agency of the state of Washington with enumerated powers. For more information, or to become a member, please call 1-888-BE-THERE, or visit [WashingtonHistory.org](http://WashingtonHistory.org).

The Washington State History Museum, flagship of the Washington State Historical Society, is located at 1911 Pacific Avenue in downtown Tacoma, just off 1-5. The museum presents exhibits, programs, and events that bring to life the stories of Washington's history.