



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

San Francisco Maritime  
National Historical Park

Building E, Fort Mason,  
San Francisco, CA 94123

415-561-7000 phone  
415-556-1624 fax

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## San Francisco Maritime News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mark Neuweld 415-556-5787

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMEMORATES 1906 EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE **Activities at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Include: Evacuation Reenactment, Art Exhibit, Author Lecture/Book Signing, and Visitor Center Slide Program**

*Living History Reenactment on Saturday, April 15, 2006 - Art Exhibit Opens April 18, 2006*

San Francisco – San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park commemorates the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906 with a special living history reenactment, a fine art exhibit, a lecture/book signing by bestselling author Dennis Smith, and a new slide program in the park’s visitor center. All of these activities are free of charge.

In 1906, a heroic maritime rescue occurred at the location where San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and Fisherman’s Wharf are now located. After the earthquake, raging fires forced 30,000 frantic residents to flee to the waterfront for evacuation by boat from the burning city.

On Saturday, April 15, 2006, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the public can “relive” this evacuation with the park’s Living History Players as they present “Hyde Street 1906: Escaping The Flames.” Watch sailors running a bridge of boats away from the fire, soldiers restoring order out of chaos, and distraught citizens desperate to escape! Bring the entire family for this special living history event on the park’s Hyde Street Pier (Hyde and Jefferson Streets). Admission is free.

The first comprehensive, retrospective exhibit of renowned West Coast marine artist William A. Coulter opens on April 18, 2006. From 1869 to 1936, Coulter created more than 1,000 oil paintings and 5,000 illustrations, including the famous 10-foot-long painting “San Francisco Fire, 1906.” His art captured some of the most significant moments in San Francisco’s maritime history, and his illustrations regularly appeared in the pages of the historic *San Francisco Call* newspaper.

The exhibit, “William A. Coulter: A Master’s Brush with the Sea,” will be presented in the park’s visitor center (Hyde and Jefferson Streets), open seven days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The exhibit will run through October 2006. Admission is free.

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#### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Dennis Smith, historian and bestselling author of *San Francisco Is Burning: The Untold Story of the 1906 Earthquake and Fires*, will present an illustrated lecture at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 in the park's maritime museum (900 Beach Street, Polk and Beach Streets). The author will share his research into the devastating 1906 earthquake and fire, and will sign copies of *San Francisco Is Burning*. Admission is free, but reservations are required: please call 415-561-6662 x32.

Rangers will explore the park's connection to the 1906 earthquake in the new slide program "Maritime Heroics in the 1906 Earthquake and Fire." This illustrated talk presents the compelling story of the largest maritime rescue effort in United States history, including the brave actions of a naval lieutenant and his crew who fought the waterfront fires. This free program will be offered daily at 2:00 p.m., from April 18-April 22, in the park's visitor center theater.

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park includes a magnificent fleet of historic ships, visitor center, maritime museum and library. The park offers both regular programs and special events. For more information about the park, or its public programs, please call 415-447-5000 or visit the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/safr>.

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