

May 16, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TALLSHIP *IRVING JOHNSON* RE-COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

*Grounded in Ventura County Last Year, the Boat has Undergone
Extensive Repairs and Will Resume Youth Sail Training Activities*



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After 5:00 p.m.:

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SAN PEDRO, Calif. – The *Irving Johnson*, one of two Official Tallships of the City of Los Angeles, is being re-commissioned after 11 months of repairs for damage sustained when the boat ran aground in Ventura County. The re-commissioning ceremony will take place at Berth 78 in the Port of Los Angeles, 11:00 am on Saturday, May 20, 2006.

The *Irving Johnson* and the *Exy Johnson* are twin Brigantine tallships built at the Port of Los Angeles and the heart of the Los Angeles Maritime Institute's TopSail Youth Sail Training program. The TopSail program has been successfully teaching at-risk youth in Los Angeles the joys of sailing while instilling the values of teamwork, cooperation and confidence.

Garnering national press coverage in March 2005 with the heartbreaking image of the beautiful tallship aground just offshore in Ventura County, the *Irving Johnson* sustained substantial damage in the incident. The boat spent four days aground before being freed and towed back to Los Angeles. Repairs to the Irving Johnson were done by Gambol Industries in Long Beach, who did an impressive job of bringing the boat back to its original – if not better! - glory.

The re-commissioning ceremony is a public celebration, and all are invited to attend. Berth 78 is located at Ports O' Call Village at the Port of Los Angeles. For more information, call the Los Angeles Maritime Institute at (310) 833-6055.

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