



**Union Fire Company
Historical Marker
Steering Committee**

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"Ben Franklin"

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The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has accepted a proposal put forth by the volunteer fire service to erect an Historical marker to commemorate the establishment of the **First Volunteer Fire Company** in the nation, the Union Fire Company, begun in 1736 by Benjamin Franklin and other civic minded artisans. This 275th anniversary will include a dedication and unveiling of the marker near 2nd and Market Streets in Philadelphia. This marker was obtained through the generous support of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies. Grindstone Alley, where the Union housed their engine and ladder still exists and the marker will be placed at the Market Street side of the alley.

You and several members of your company are cordially invited to this historic event. There will be several fire service and government officials who will speak briefly. The marker will be unveiled and you are then invited for traditional Philadelphia refreshments as the Philadelphia Fire Department will host us at Fireman's Hall on North Second Street. Festivities will begin promptly at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 1, 2011, on Market Street between Second and Third streets, in Philadelphia.

The Union Fire Company has served for nearly three centuries as a remarkable template for every fire company formed since. The legacy of this peculiarly American institution continues to keep our fellow citizens and our own neighbors safe in their homes and businesses. A commemoration of this small band of brave men is long overdue. The fires they fought then were no different than the fires we fight now. They however, fought fire with buckets and small cisterns. They would be astounded by the modern firefighting equipment we use every day. Join us to celebrate the rich history of the volunteer fire service and the progress we have made.

RSVP by Aug. 8, 2011 via email at UnionFireMarker@gmail.com. Please include your company name and the number of firefighters that will be attending. Due to limited parking, utility vehicles are preferred. Further details will be provided via email upon receipt of RSVP.

Thanks,
Steering Committee, Union Fire Company Historical Marker

