

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MUSEUM HOSTS CELEBRATION TO END SEASON
AT GAY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE
Sunday, October 9th from 4:00-5:30pm at the Gay Head Light**

Edgartown, MA—September 27, 2016 — The Martha’s Vineyard Museum is inviting the Island community to help celebrate the 2016 season at the Gay Head Lighthouse as the summer winds down. After a summer of nearly 20,000 visitors, the Light will close on Columbus Day for the winter, and re-open Memorial Day Weekend 2017.

At the celebration, Len Butler, building committee chairman of the Save the Gay Head Light project, will be recognized for his leadership role in the lighthouse relocation. Lighthouse keeper Richard Skidmore will speak about Len’s contributions to the project. The numerous other individuals and organizations, as well as the Island’s six towns that contributed to the move through Community Preservation Act funding, will also be recognized. Finally, the lighthouse visitor guides and volunteers who have opened the Light to the public daily all summer long will be thanked.

Len Butler chaired the committee that moved the Lighthouse in 2015. He is a senior site supervisor and founding member of John G. Early Construction where he has worked on countless Vineyard homes since 1972. Len had to navigate a number of complex problems involving many stakeholders during the more than three-year process of moving the Light away from the eroding cliffs. He oversaw geological and erosion rate studies, helped solicit bids for moving the beacon, and consulted with our neighbors on Nantucket where a similar group moved the Sankaty Light in 2007. Len was eager to educate the community about the Lighthouse move, especially Island schoolchildren. Moving the Light became Len’s day job. He was known as Aquinnah’s “steady hand on the tiller,” a responsibility that consumed countless hours.

The 2016 Celebration at the Gay Head Lighthouse will take place on Sunday, October 9th at 4pm at the base of the Light, 9 Aquinnah Circle, Aquinnah. Admission is free. The Lighthouse will be open to the public until 5:30pm.

Visit www.mvmuseum.org for more information about upcoming programming and exhibits. The Martha's Vineyard Museum inspires all people to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections to this Island and its diverse heritage. The Museum is open year round. Summer hours are Monday-Saturday 10am to 5pm, and Sundays Noon to 5pm. Admission is free to Members; admission for non-Members is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$5 for children 6 to 12 and free for children under 6.