Restored B&O No. 545 “A.J. Cromwell” Steam Locomotive Returns to Historic Roundhouse of the B&O Railroad Museum

WHAT: The B&O Railroad Museum is proud to announce the completion of the restoration of one of America’s rarest steam engines, the #545 “A.J. Cromwell and its return to the Roundhouse. The historic locomotive was one of the twenty-two locomotives and railcars that were severely damaged by the roundhouse roof collapse during the President’s Day blizzard of 2003. The locomotive will be unveiled and commemorated by the museum’s executive director, Courtney Wilson and chief curator, David Shackelford on the morning of Saturday, October 20th. To honor the efforts of the Museum’s restoration team, public programs on the engine will take place throughout the day.

Built in 1888, at the B&O’s Mt. Clare shops, the No. 545 “A.J. Cromwell” was as a “no frills,” work horse intended to replace slow and outdated freight engines such as the distinctive Camel locomotives. The No. 545 and engines similar to it were the backbone of late 19th century rail service and were known as “Consolidations,” based on the name of the first engine built for the Lehigh Valley in 1866. They were heavier, more powerful, and utilitarian and served well into the 1920s. The No. 545 served until it was retired and preserved by the B&O in 1927 for the railroad’s 100th anniversary celebration known as the Fair of the Iron Horse. The locomotive was renamed A.J. Cromwell after Alexander J. Cromwell, the B&O’s Chief Mechanical Officer, and the locomotive’s designer. It is the only B&O Consolidation locomotive in existence.
WHEN:    Saturday, October 20, 2012
        10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WHERE:   Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum
         901 West Pratt Street
         Baltimore, Maryland 21223
         410-752-2490
         FREE PARKING

NOTES:   The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, a full affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is
dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on
American society, culture and economy. The Museum is home to the oldest, most comprehensive collection
of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere including an unparalleled roster of 19th and 20th century
railroad equipment. The 40-acre historic site is regarded as the birthplace of American Railroading and
includes the 1851 Mt. Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse and first mile of commercial railroad
track in America. For further information on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-
2490 or visit www.borail.org.

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