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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

David Lewis, curator, Aurora Regional Fire Museum, Aurora, Illinois:

"This meticulously researched yet seldom-told story proves that everyone can be a firefighting hero. It is sure to inspire generations of young children to serve their communities."

MOLLY, BY GOLLY!

The Legend of Molly Williams, America's First Female Firefighter

by Dianne Ochiltree

Illustrated by Kathleen Kemly

*With thanks to all firefighters, volunteer and paid,
who routinely risk their own lives to save the lives of others.
You're an inspiration to us all!*

One winter day in the early 1800s, New York City's Fire Company Number 11 is in trouble. A deadly snowstorm is blowing, and many of the volunteers are sick in bed. When the fire alarm sounds, who will answer the call? Who will save the neighborhood? Molly Williams, the company's cook, for one!

Clapping a weathered leather helmet on her head, strapping spatterdashes over her woolen leggings, and pulling on heavy work gloves—it's Molly, by golly, to the rescue.

Young readers will enjoy this spirited re-telling of a unique heroine and her thrilling adventure drawn from firefighting lore, while learning how fires were fought in early America. Author Dianne Ochiltree and artist Kathleen Kemly worked closely with firefighting experts and relied on historic records and pictures to capture the heroic legend of Molly Williams—the first known female firefighter in America.

MOLLY, BY GOLLY! provides several helpful resources such as firefighting websites and links, a select bibliography, Frequently Asked Questions, other books about firefighting, and information on finding fire museum locations across the U.S.

Dianne Ochiltree has been writing poems and stories since she was a kid growing up in a small Midwestern town. Dianne is the author of several acclaimed picture books for the very young, including *Ten Monkey Jamboree*; *Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins*; and *Lull-a-bye, Little One*. Dianne lives in Sarasota, Florida, with her family and pets in a house by the bay. Find out more about Dianne at dianneochiltree.com.

Kathleen Kemly's research for *Molly, by Golly!* included a trip to the New York City Fire Museum. While in New York, she was able to imagine Molly's life there and what the city was like many years ago. Kathleen has wanted to create children's books since the third grade. She illustrated *You Can't Do That, Amelia!* by Kimberly Wagner Klier and *A Fishing Surprise* by Rae A. McDonald, among other books. Kathleen lives in Seattle with her husband, and when she's not hiking in the mountains, skiing, or kayaking, she can be reached at kathleenkemly.com.

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Calkins Creek/Boyd's Mills Press

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