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**Wednesday, August 10, 2011**

**Media Contacts:**

Janie Van Halen, High Profile Media for ELVH, Inc.

(818) 461-2971, [janie@highprofilemedia.com](mailto:janie@highprofilemedia.com)

Jason Farrell, Fender Musical Instruments Corp.

(480) 596-7130, [jfarrell@fender.com](mailto:jfarrell@fender.com)

**EDDIE VAN HALEN'S "FRANKENSTEIN REPLICA" GUITAR NOW ON DISPLAY AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY**

***New Acquisitions Display Features National Treasures of American Pop Culture***

Eddie Van Halen's "Frankenstein Replica" guitar, recently acquired by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, is now on display as part of the National Treasures of American Pop Culture Collection.

The "Frankenstein Replica" or "Frank 2" was made in 2006 as part of a joint venture between the artist and Fender Musical Instruments to produce a limited edition number of the iconic guitars for the EVH Brand.

In 1975 Eddie Van Halen realized that no existing guitar had the features he needed to create his signature sound. A constant tinkerer, he set out to construct a guitar to fit his standards, needs and playing style, combining different elements of long-established guitar designs into one instrument. Fans nicknamed the custom creation "Frankenstein." By 2006, the original "Frankenstein" had been in service for more than 30 years and was retired from performances. Chip Ellis, a master guitar builder at Fender, replicated every detail of the original guitar, which, when presented to Eddie Van Halen, appeared to be indistinguishable from the original. During the Van Halen 2007-08 North American tour with original lead singer David Lee Roth, Eddie Van Halen used the replica guitar, "Frank 2" for the majority of the performances.

"The museum collects objects that are multidimensional, and this guitar reflects innovation, talent and influence," said Brent D. Glass, director of the museum. "The guitar moves the museum's instrument collections into more contemporary history."

The National Museum of American History collects, preserves and displays American heritage in the areas of social, political, cultural, scientific and military history. To learn more about the museum, visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu>. For Smithsonian information, the public may call (202) 633-1000, (202) 633-5285 (TTY).

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