



For Immediate Release

Paula Chapa
Harold Neumann Project
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The Harold Neumann Project along with the Geneseo Historical Museum will be hosting a
“Trains, Planes and Automobiles” event for kids of all ages.

Date 9/6/25 10:00am – 2:00pm

On the lawn of the Geneseo Historical Museum

205 South State Street

Geneseo, IL 61254

Geneseo, IL-September 6, 2025- The Harold Neumann Project along with the Geneseo Historical Museum will host an event during the Geneseo “Trains, Planes & Automobiles” in the Carriage House and lawn of the Geneseo Historical Museum.

During Harold’s flying career of 70 years, he accomplished much more than that farm boy from Geneseo, IL, ever imagined he could. In 1935 Harold Neumann won the Greve Trophy, the Thompson Trophy along with earning the award of America’s #1 Pilot by the National Aeronautical Association. He is acknowledged in the Smithsonian; he was a barnstormer, skywriter, and a Captain for TWA for 30 years. From Jenny’s to Jets, this man was not just a pilot, he was a genius.

Paula Neumann Chapa, Chair, Harold Neumann Project shared, “Collecting memorabilia of Harold’s from museums & family members across the country has been nothing less than thrilling for us. We have his Greve Trophy and his Thompson Trophies, and they were just the tip of the iceberg. On loan from Special Collections & University Archives, University of Illinois Chicago, we will have the original Eiffel Tower that Harold presented to Mayor Daley after his celebrated flight from Paris to Chicago in 1958. That flight made O’Hare Airport an International Airport that day.

We recently acquired the fuselage, tail and wing skin from his aerobatic monocoque, “Little Mulligan”. We now have the original pilots license signed by Orvil Wright with his original racing cap. The TWA Museum in Kansas City gifted a handmade, 6 ft wing span, model of Mr. Mulligan with smoke details on cowl for the engine.

Hours and hours have been spent reading letters, logbooks, notes of Harold’s and traveling to interview those that flew with Harold, trying to put together the stories of his life with the memorabilia we collected. We want this museum exhibit to be educational as well as informative.”

On Sept. 6th, 2025, from 10:00-2:00, this event will include activities and games; airplane ball pit, making your own balsa wood airplane, rubber duck matching game, make and race paper airplanes, card board plane races, and photo booths just to name a few. So, bring out your kiddos and your lawn chairs and enjoy an afternoon on the museum lawn, learning about Geneseo’s Aviation Pioneer, Harold E. Neumann.

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