



For Immediate Release

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Col. John Morrissey, to speak at Geneseo Historical Museum, Harold Neumann Exhibit.

Harold Neumann Mural Ribbon Cutting and Museum Exhibit Event

Geneseo, IL-September 7, 2024- 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 back lawn of the Geneseo Historical Museum.

The Geneseo Chamber of Commerce will be dedicating the Harold Neumann Mural with a Ribbon Cutting at 9:00am, downtown Geneseo, at the Mel Foster Building by the train tracks.

Col. John Morrissey will be speaking at the Harold Neumann Museum exhibit at 10:30am, back yard of the museum. Harold was a great influence on John in life as well as in aerobatics. In an article in 1978 for the Sport Aerobatics Get to Know Your Member page, he wrote, "I'll always remember that God may have given me the sky, but it took a gentle man in a white Monocoupe to show me how to enjoy it."

At 11:30 a Q & A panel has been put together, to include Col. Morrissey, to answer questions about Harold growing up in Geneseo, IL and his career in racing, commercial flying and barnstorming. This will be held outside of the Geneseo Museum Carriage House.

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 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. Hours and hours have been spent reading letters, logbooks, and notes of Harold's, 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."

From 12:30-2:30 this event will include activities and games for all ages to include, plane ball pit, making your own balsa wood airplane, rubber duck matching game, make and race paper airplanes, photo booths and , 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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