
HEROES OF THE SKY TRAVELING EXHIBIT DEBUTS AT MAAM WITH CLYDE CESSNA DRAMATIZATION

Contributed by 1st Lt. Jeff Roberson
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The traveling exhibit Heroes of the Sky: Adventures in Early Flight, 1903-1939 debuts this week at the Mid-America Air Museum with a costumed first-person portrayal of Clyde Cessna (1879-1954), founder of Wichita-based Cessna Aircraft. Performances in the role by actor Gary Krehbiel are scheduled for 7:00 PM on Friday, March 31, and 2:00 PM on Saturday, April 1. There is no specific admission fee, but free will donations are appreciated.

Heroes of the Sky celebrates more than 100 years of flight through the stories of men and women who transformed the airplane from the novel invention of tinkerers into sophisticated machines of transportation. Along the way, a vast aviation industry emerged. The exhibit will run at MAAM through April 30. Using artifacts, photographs, multimedia, and interactive panels, Heroes of the Sky introduces the visionaries who saw the potential of powered flight: inventors Orville and Wilbur Wright, female fliers Bessie Coleman and Louise Thaden, explorer Richard Byrd, record breakers Jimmy Doolittle and Charles Lindbergh, and entrepreneurs Clyde Cessna and Donald Douglas.

This exhibition has been made possible through NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. ExhibitsUSA, a national program of the Mid-America Arts Alliance, brings it to you. Heroes of the Sky was organized by the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. The Kansas Aviation Council and the Kansas Museums Association have provided additional funding. Myriad Machine and Air Tech Heating & Air Conditioning are local sponsors.

The Mid-America Air Museum is located at 2000 West Second Street in Liberal, Kansas. Regular public hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. For more information, please contact Donald Westfall at (620) 624-5263 or liberalcityamd@swko.net.