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SOUTH DAKOTA HEROES TO BE HONORED IN NEW ART GALLERY IN PIERRE

Pierre-Fort Pierre Rotary Club sponsors exhibit featuring distinguished WWII aviators at Pierre Regional Airport

(Pierre, SD)—“The Eagles Gallery” featuring the aircraft flown by four highly decorated South Dakota WWII veterans will be unveiled at a public ceremony held at the Pierre Regional Airport, Friday, October 16 at 4pm Central (a new time to accommodate airline schedules at the airport).

The four art pieces, created by South Dakotan artist, writer and filmmaker John Mollison, will honor the two South Dakotan “Doolittle Raiders,” Distinguished Flying Cross recipient Harold Thune, father of Senator John Thune, and Navy Cross recipient, Curtis Cameron. The art will accompany the existing art honoring Battle of Midway hero, John Waldron.

The Pierre-Fort Pierre Rotary Club is sponsoring The Eagles Gallery. Club President, Ann Schwartz, stated “Rotary’s motto is Service Above Self. The men whose airplanes and stories will be displayed in The Eagles Gallery embodied that motto and represent the extraordinary actions of South Dakotans who responded and continue to respond to the call of service. Our Club is proud to support this effort.”

Pierre Airport Manager, Cameron Howard stated, “An especially interesting aspect of these stories is that they each have a connection to the Pierre/Fort Pierre area. When people go through the airport and take a quick look, they’ll know of our community’s amazing heritage.”

Artist John Mollison believes in the power of history. “History is nutritious as it feeds our understanding of how we work. If we know our history, we can better guide our future. These airplanes represent moments that affect all of us in some way today.”

The unveiling will begin at 4pm and feature a special gallery installment of Curtis Cameron’s actual Navy Cross by the Cameron family.

An additional aspect of the unveiling will be the inauguration of a multimedia display produced by the South Dakota Air and Space Museum designed to broaden the impact of South Dakota’s contribution to the Doolittle Raid of April 18, 1942.

For information on the event, contact The Pierre-Fort Pierre Rotary Club via Larry Lyngstad, 605.280.3119 or John Mollison, john@johnmollison.com, 605.261.6070.