



Historic preservation is vital to maintaining our city's heritage and character. The City of Glendale has many structures and areas that have helped to create the "story" of our city. Revitalization and maintenance of the significant aspects of our city help us to keep this story alive and establish Glendale's identity. Additionally, historic preservation serves as an economic development tool since new progress and development is less valuable if we do not preserve and restore our longstanding areas.

The City of Glendale recognizes outstanding contributions by individuals or organizations for historic preservation activities in Glendale with the annual Ruth Byrne Historic Preservation Award. Ruth Byrne, the award's namesake, has made significant contributions to historic preservation in our city, is past president of the Glendale Historical Society and presently serves on the Historic Preservation Commission. For many of us, Ruth is our beacon and guide as we learn more about Glendale and so grow to love it more.

At our May 26 City Council meeting, Nelda Crowell, the archivist at Thunderbird School of Global Management, was presented the 2009 Ruth Byrne Historic Preservation Award. The Thunderbird school also has a long and significant history and we are lucky to have Nelda who has worked so hard to preserve its legacy.

In 1941, Thunderbird Field was constructed and began training 57 pilots for World War II. Southwest Airways contracted with the Army Air Corps to provide flight training for American, British and Chinese pilots. It was later revealed that some of the major financial contributors for the field included some of the day's biggest Hollywood stars, including Jimmy Stewart, Henry Fonda and Cary Grant. By the end of the war, more than 10,000 pilots had passed through Thunderbird Field.

After the War was over in 1945, Luke Field was no longer necessary as a training base. Anticipation of a much more global economic market led to the proposal for a progressive college that would specialize in training young people for positions in overseas commerce. Lieutenant General Barton Yount helped negotiate a purchase of the field for \$1.00 from the federal government and became the first president of the new school, which is today the Thunderbird School of Global Management located at 59th Avenue and Greenway.

The Thunderbird School is a legendary area of our city that helps to establish our city's identity. Nelda Crowell was an ideal recipient of this year's award because her vested interest and appreciation for the school's history has kept its story alive through the numerous documents, publications, memorabilia and photographs that she has collected and

organized.

Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com, if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.