

NEW RELEASE

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From the State House to the Hangar:

Oklahoma Leader Tony Caldwell Brings Aviation History to Life in El Reno

EL RENO, OK — Oklahoma entrepreneur, former legislator, and community visionary Tony Caldwell is no stranger to building things that last. The consistency with which he has delivered to the state of Oklahoma can be seen from launching one of the most successful independent insurance alliances in the country to his commitment to restoring trust in public service. Now, he's channeling his passion for aviation and Oklahoma history into his most ambitious project yet: The Caldwell Collection at Mustang Field, a nonprofit museum opening this fall at the historic El Reno Regional Airport.

Housed in a fully restored 30,000-square-foot World War II hangar, the museum will spotlight the Golden Age of Aviation, showcasing over 25 vintage aircraft, many of which Caldwell has

restored with the help of partnerships he has built while venturing into the antique aviation community with a sense of curiosity and ever-growing knowledge. Ultimately, the museum is a love letter to Oklahoma grit, innovation, and legacy.

“Every airplane we’ve had the privilege to own comes with a story,” said Caldwell. “The aircraft are flying testaments to resilience, ingenuity, and adventurous aviation spirit.”

Caldwell, who served two terms in the Oklahoma House of Representatives and made a bid for U.S. Senate in 1994, is known for his wide-ranging leadership. That footprint comes from chairing the Oklahoma Board of Juvenile Affairs to founding One Agents Alliance (OAA) in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City, an insurance master agency company that has helped build up over 250 small businesses. In 2020, he was elected Chairman of the Board at Prism Bank, formerly known as Oklahoma State Bank, further cementing his role as a pillar in both the business and civic spheres.

This project represents a full-circle moment for Caldwell: “I’ve spent my life helping to open doors and create opportunities, whether in politics, business, or now aviation. The Caldwell Collection is a chance to preserve stories that deserve to be remembered and shared with future generations.”

“The Caldwell Collection at Mustang Field is a reinforcement of Oklahoma’s aviation roots, told by a man who’s made a career out of building dreams from the ground up.”, says Emily Overand, Caldwell’s Strategic Executive Assistant and Communications/Coordination lead on this project.

With contributions from notable aviation preservationist Rob Lock of Waldo Wright’s Flying Service, architect Dan Welle, and contractor David French, the museum is designed to be both

immersive and educational. Visitors will witness aircraft restoration in real time and step into a living exhibit that reflects the airport's storied role in training WWII pilots.

A centerpiece of the museum's launch will be a Grand Opening Celebration in conjunction with the El Reno Community Day and Airshow. This event is a city-wide effort featuring aircraft demonstrations, local vendors, and aviation-themed festivities. The event will be held at the El Reno Regional Airport, where the museum is also located. It is free for the public to attend! All are welcome and encouraged to join!

About The Caldwell Collection at Mustang Field: The Caldwell Collection at Mustang Field is a nonprofit aviation museum located at El Reno Regional Airport in El Reno, Oklahoma. The museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories and aircraft of the Golden Age of Aviation while highlighting the historic role Mustang Field played in training pilots during World War II.

To learn more, visit www.thecaldwellcollection.org

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