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Media Advisory

Released: November 20, 2009
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Airport Authority to Celebrate Legacy of Airport Icons with Plaque Unveiling *--Ceremony to honor namesakes of airport's decommissioned terminals*

- WHAT:** Airport Legacy Plaque Unveiling Ceremony
- WHO:** **Congressman John Dingell**
Robert Ficano, Wayne County Executive
Michael Berry, Honoree
Lester Robinson, Wayne County Airport Authority CEO
- WHEN:** Tues., Nov. 24, 2009 – 11:00 a.m.
- WHERE:** Detroit Metropolitan Airport
North Terminal – Check-in Lobby

DETROIT (Nov. 20, 2009)—On Tuesday, Nov. 24, Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), along with Congressman John Dingell and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, will unveil a plaque honoring the legacy of airport icons during a special ceremony in the check-in lobby at Detroit Metropolitan Airport's new North Terminal.

“The three men honored by the plaque to be unveiled Tuesday forged the history and built the skyline of Detroit Metro Airport,” said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. “While the buildings named for them are no longer used as passenger terminals, their imprint on the history of the airport will last forever.”

The plaque features images of the namesakes for each of Detroit Metro Airport's now decommissioned terminals flanked by the words, “In 2005, the North Terminal Redevelopment Project at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport set out to design a contemporary air transportation facility built upon the rich legacy of Metro Detroit's many transportation innovators. Today, this terminal sits on the site of three former passenger terminals each named for an individual whose commitment and dedication remains at the foundation of Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.”

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The North Terminal, which opened in Sept. 2008, stands on the site of the former Davey Terminal, which was replaced by the McNamara Terminal in 2002 as Northwest Airlines' largest hub facility. The Davey Terminal was commissioned in 1966 and named for the late former DTW airport manager James M. Davey, who was instrumental in moving commercial airline service to the airport at the dawn of the "jet age."

Demolition of the Davey Terminal began in 2005 as the first stage of developing the new North Terminal, which now serves the airlines previously housed in former L.C. Smith and Berry terminals. The Smith Terminal, commissioned in 1958, was named for the late Leroy C. Smith, former Manager and Engineer with Wayne County Road Commission, who was instrumental in the establishment of Detroit Metro Airport.

In 1974, the Berry Terminal was added to accommodate the growing number of international flights to and from DTW, and was named for Wayne County Road Commission Chairman Michael Berry, who expanded DTW as it became one of the busiest and most important airports in the world.

As the sole surviving namesake of Detroit Metro Airport's three legacy terminals, Michael Berry will be present to accept the honor of all three gentlemen's legacies on behalf of Messrs. Davey and Smith.

The commemorative plaque to be unveiled Tuesday will hang near the elevators in the center of the North Terminal check-in lobby to remind travelers and visitors of the rich legacy upon which the new facility stands.

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