

As if the air show, displays and demonstrations at Fly Iowa 2005 weren't enough, a full line-up of entertainment also awaits visitors to Clarinda on September 10 and 11. "The entertainment options at Fly Iowa 2005 are as diverse as the airplanes that will grace our skies," says Judi Coppock, Entertainment Chairperson. "What started out as the task of procuring a dance band has blossomed into working with numerous groups and individuals to provide top-notch informational and entertainment venues for the thousands that will attend the two-day show."

Taking their cue from the theme of the event, "Heroes and Legends", the Southwest Iowa Theatre Group will present "U.S.O. on Tour" at 11 AM and 5:30 PM on Saturday, September 10. The musical presentation will take the audience back in time to the 1940's, when U.S.O. shows were a staple for entertaining the troops. The show features a female trio of area talent – Judi Coppock of Clarinda, Belinda DeBolt of Shenandoah and Stephanie McIntosh of Tarkio, Missouri singing tunes such as "Dream", "I'll Never Smile Again", "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy". "This music is timeless, not only in its popularity, but the feelings and emotions that this music conveys are just as valid today with the troops in Iraq as they were when our boys were fighting in WWII", director Terry McIntosh said. McIntosh will do double duty as director and as announcer for the fictitious war-time radio show, which will also feature Beverly Jones Kimes of Tarkio on keyboard and John Davis of Shenandoah on bass fiddle. "We have even pressed the light/sound technician, Rick Keeton, into a brief appearance on stage," added McIntosh. No World War II-era show would be complete without the music of Clarinda's native son, Glenn Miller, and "U.S.O. on Tour" will not disappoint the audience. "In the Mood", "Moonlight Serenade", and "Jukebox Saturday Night" are among the list of hits to be performed by the trio.

Bob Dorr and The Blue Band will provide music for the hangar dance on Saturday night. "The chamber of commerce has had several requests over the years for an outdoor dance. We are pleased to

be able to fill those requests at Fly Iowa by holding a dance in one of the hangars,” explained Coppock. The Blue Band legacy started in 1981 and throughout their 24-year endeavor, they have become one of Iowa’s most revered and requested bands. The Blue Band is a 6-piece group performing original and cover blues, soul, rockabilly and R&B grooves. Band leader and founding member Bob Dorr is talented on various instruments including the harmonica and percussion, but his voice is his best instrument. Dorr, who was inducted into the Iowa Rock ‘n’ Roll Music Association Hall of Fame in September 2000, can be credited with a 30+ year career with KUNI-FM. The other founding member of The Blue Band, Jeff Petersen, started playing guitar at the age of fourteen after hearing the Beatles. He was further influenced by B.B.King, the Allman Brothers and Eric Clayton and plays a customized 1968 Gibson Flying V guitar and lap steel guitar with the Blue Band, as well as singing and writing some of their songs. Rounding out the band is Iowa Jazz Hall of Fame and Iowa Blues Hall of Fame member, Sam Salomone on keyboards; Steve Hayes on drums and Nathan Peoples and Heath Alan on saxophones. The Blue Band has entertained audiences at the Iowa State Fair every year since 1985. “I first heard the Blue Band at the state fair and was really impressed with their appeal to all ages,” Coppock said. “Their sound is great to dance to, but they are just as entertaining to just sit and listen to. No matter what type of music you like to listen to, you WILL enjoy the Blue Band.” The Blue Band plays 100-125 dates a year, performing at live music venues, summer festivals, and private functions, usually within a 300-mile radius of their home base in Eastern Iowa. This will be the first time for the group to play in Southwest Iowa, although they have played at Blayney’s of Westport in Kansas City, Missouri; Blues on Grand in Des Moines; Bourbon Street in Cedar Falls and the Hotel Fort Des Moines New Year’s Eve Bash, as well as numerous other venues in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Minnesota. The hangar dance will start at 8:00 P.M., then break at 9:15 for a special night jump by the Liberty Parachute Team, then resume until 11:30 P.M. There will be a \$10 cover charge for the dance.

“Design, Development and Flight Test of the Blackbird” will be presented by Bill Fox on Saturday at 10:30 A.M. and Sunday at 10:00 A.M. The Blackbird aircraft was designed in the 1960’s as a spy plane

that could fly extremely fast and very high. Fox was assigned to the highly classified Blackbird program while it was still in the concept phase. He was responsible for developing the Flight Control Simulator and the Autopilot and Stability Augmentation System, but he also became involved with nearly every system on the aircraft, including the Inlet Control System, Instrumentation, Fuel Quantity and Center of Gravity System, and pilot survival equipment. Though the Blackbird is now out of service, it is still the fastest aircraft ever built and is considered the greatest Aviation Achievement of the Twentieth Century. In 2002, Fox was selected as one of twenty charter members of the Blackbird Laurels Society, which was organized to honor those deemed responsible for the success of the Blackbird.

Dave Seela will present “A Soldier’s Rifle” at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, 9/10 and again at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, 9/11. His unique presentation will not only include information on various rifles, but a moving, first-person account of the military men who carried them. His collection includes Russian and German firearms that were dated by the infantry at the Treaty of Versailles in 1927. This treaty denigrated the German military, limiting and destroying most of their firearms weaponry until 1937, when Adolph Hitler began secretly re-building the arsenal. Seela will also present a rifle that was manufactured in Clarinda during World War II by Parris Dunn. “They, along with the Lisle Corporation, were awarded the “Victory E” efficiency award, given to factories whose production levels were above standards,” Seela commented. Seela will present part of his program in an authentic WWII uniform, complete with all the accoutrements and equipment, as though he stepped right into the present from the infamous “Battle of the Bulge”. Audience members will have a rare opportunity to view a Japanese-made rifle, as well as an Italian rifle of the same year and model as the infamous gun allegedly used by Lee Harvey Oswald to assassinate President John F. Kennedy; and an American sniper gun, which is identical to those used in the making of “Saving Private Ryan”. The “crown jewel” of Seela’s collection is a German rifle that came to him from his wife’s family. “When I do this presentation, it is a very emotional experience for me,” says Seela. “The kids that I teach at Clarinda High School have seen - on average - 15,000 deaths by gunfire through movies, television and video games and their heroes are

sports figures and celebrities. I want them to know that the real heroes carried 60 to 100 pound backpacks as they fought in past wars and saw their rifles not as another piece of equipment that was used to defeat the enemy, but as a means of self-preservation and, ultimately, as a friend,” he explained. “Every time I look at that German rifle which is now a family heirloom, I remember the heroes that have fallen to guarantee our freedoms. It is a sobering experience. I want to convey that message to the audience.”

Finally, on Sunday, September 11 at 12:00 P.M., a theatrical presentation of “The Guys” will remind the audiences of the magnanimous personal sacrifices made by fire and safety personnel on 9/11/01. “The Guys”, written by Anne Nelson and based on a true story, is set in New York City less than two weeks after the attacks. An editor receives an unexpected phone call on behalf of a fire captain, who has lost most of his men. He’s looking for a writer to help him with the eulogies he must present at their memorial services. They spend a long afternoon recalling the fallen men through recounting their virtues and their foibles, and fashioning the stories into memorials of words. Terry and Shana McIntosh from Shenandoah will recreate these roles and take the audience through an emotional landscape of grief as they draw on humor and personal fortitude to make an unconceivable task bearable. The Christian Science Monitor said about ‘The Guys’, “A courageous riveting...play that tackles the horror of September 11th with an intimacy that’s both unsettling and healing.” Following “The Guys”, at 1:00 P.M., a stirring 9/11 Ceremony will be held on Clarinda’s airport tarmac. Participants will include the Clarinda High School band, members of the Clarinda Community Theatre Board, the American Legion and state and regional government officials. Special guests and honorees will be local police and fire personnel.

“My intention, in securing programming for this event, was to entertain, educate and evoke emotion among those in attendance. You should walk away from the events of this historic weekend with a

greater sense of patriotism and pride in our community and our nation, and a renewed sense of unity,”

Coppock concluded.