

Ruth Byrne Historic Preservation Award

Mayor Scruggs together with Bud Zomok, Chair of the Glendale Historic Preservation Commission, presented the Ruth Byrne Historic Preservation Award to Nelda Crowell, Archivist for the Thunderbird School of Global Management, at the meeting of the Glendale City Council on May 26, 2009.



The Historic Preservation Commission selected Nelda from among five nominees, all of whom have made outstanding contributions to Glendale's historic heritage. Nelda has meticulously collected, preserved, organized, and promoted a vast collection of documents that record the history of a community landmark from its beginning as Thunderbird Field, a training facility for World War II pilots, to its present status as Thunderbird School of Global Management. Thunderbird has played a significant role in both local and national history.

Thunderbird officials witnessing the presentation of the award were Dr. Dale Davison, Dean of Faculty; Carol Hammond, Associate Vice President for Information Services; and Judy Johnson, recently retired Dean of Admissions. Family members of Nelda, including her husband, son, and two young granddaughters, were also present. Nelda commented that she was pleased that her granddaughters could be present to better understand the importance of history.

The Ruth Byrne Historic Preservation Award is presented on an annual basis to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to historic preservation activities in Glendale. The award is named for Ruth Byrne, a long-time Glendale resident, who has worked tirelessly for many decades to support and further the preservation of Glendale's history. Ruth is past president of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society and presently serves on the Historic Preservation Commission.