

Will Rogers World Airport

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HEROIC SIZE STATUE OF OKLAHOMA ICON, WILL ROGERS, UNVEILED IN CEREMONIES AT WILL ROGERS WORLD AIRPORT

** Governor Brad Henry calls sculpture true showpiece for new terminal building*

** Mayor Cornett pays tribute to far-thinking aviation officials in Oklahoma City*

OKLAHOMA CITY – Will Rogers World Airport today unveiled its long-awaited, heroic-size bronze statue of the famous Oklahoma humorist in a gala ceremony in the garden plaza in front of the airport terminal. State and city officials spoke at the event.

Governor Brad Henry called the statue a true “cultural showpiece for the airport’s new \$110 million terminal,” which will be completed next year.

Mayor Mick Cornett said it is fitting that the airport is named for Will Rogers, “one of our most beloved and famous personalities...who loved aviation as much as he loved to poke fun at everyone, especially politicians.”

The 2,500-pound bronze statue of Will on his famous horse Teddy was lifted into place between the terminal and parking garage on Monday. Will is shown doing a rope trick, just one of the unique talents which made him a celebrity throughout the world. The statue is 10 feet long, 5 feet wide and 11 feet tall, and was cast at the renowned Crucible Foundry in Norman.

The piece was done by the well-known Oklahoma artist, Harold (H) Holden, who won the commission after a nationwide call for artists.

Luther Trent, director of airports, welcomed the group by saying “all of us here have a deep appreciation for, and an abiding connection to, Will Rogers.... We know we have to share him with all Oklahomans and Americans.” He called him an American icon.

Others introduced included Don Bown, chairman of the Oklahoma City Airport Trust; Jim Couch, city manager of Oklahoma City and member of the trust, and Jim Scott, a citizen trustee.

Governor Henry said he was proud of the new terminal and, while modern and cosmopolitan, it is “very much a product of Oklahoma.” He said the airport brings together people from all parts of the state and is a shining star in our modernization programs.

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