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Media Release

Honoring the Legacy of a Veteran and All Who Served During Chamber's Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony

For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, June 15, 2016: The public is invited to attend the Billings Chamber's Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site (YKIS) on Tuesday June 21, 2016 from 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. in Swords Rimrock Park.

"The Ceremony is very important in fulfilling the promise made to Mrs. Kelly years ago," explains Chamber President and CEO John Brewer. "Each year until her death in the late 1930s, she sent a 3' wreath made of evergreen and Toyon Berry to be laid on her husband's grave. The chamber promised to continue that tradition, and we're keeping that promise while developing an Interpretive Site worthy of this legendary man."

Last month the YKIS Steering Committee announce \$120,000 in significant contributions to the project. Building on that momentum, the committee will announce three additional major gifts during the Ceremony on Tuesday.

The event will also honor Vietnam War Veterans of the Casper Aviation Platoon in Billings for their 50th Anniversary Recognition. "The ability to honor veterans as part of this initiative is a key component of the effort," shares YKIS Committee Chair Bill Cole. "Kelly was a veteran of three wars, buried in his captain's uniform with a sheathed saber. Elevating the contribution of Kelly and every veteran to history is so important."

Additionally, the ceremony will include a contingent from Paradise, California, the place Kelly lived his final years and Billings' "sister city" in the effort to restore honor to his gravesite. Bill Cole will also offer an update on the progress of the overall initiative.

Upcoming events to support the Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site include:

- Yellowstone Kelly Week—August 21-27
 - Montana Warrior Run - Billings (American Legion)—August 21
 - Fundraiser (1959 "Yellowstone Kelly" movie, Projectile Comedy)—August 24
 - Yellowstone Kelly Mountain Man Triathlon—August 27
- Opening of Western Heritage Center exhibit on Yellowstone Kelly, VIP Reception—September 15.

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