



PhxMesa **Gateway** Airport

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## **Gateway Airport Dedicates Terminal Courtyard to Baseball Legends *Indians' Bob Feller and Cubs' Fergie Jenkins Unveil Bronze Plaque***

Mesa, Ariz. –Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority (PMGAA) celebrated the arrival of Cactus League Spring Training to Arizona by dedicating the passenger Terminal's outdoor courtyard to both National Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Fergie Jenkins and Hall of Fame pitcher Bob Feller.

The outdoor courtyard, located beyond the Transportation Security Administrations' security screening was transformed into a miniature baseball diamond, complete with red, white, and blue bunting, and eight-foot murals of both Fergie Jenkins and Bob Feller. Travelers and invited guests were treated to a special unveiling of a bronze plaque designed in the exact dimensions of baseball's home plate as well as a ceremonial first pitch by the Hall of Fame players.

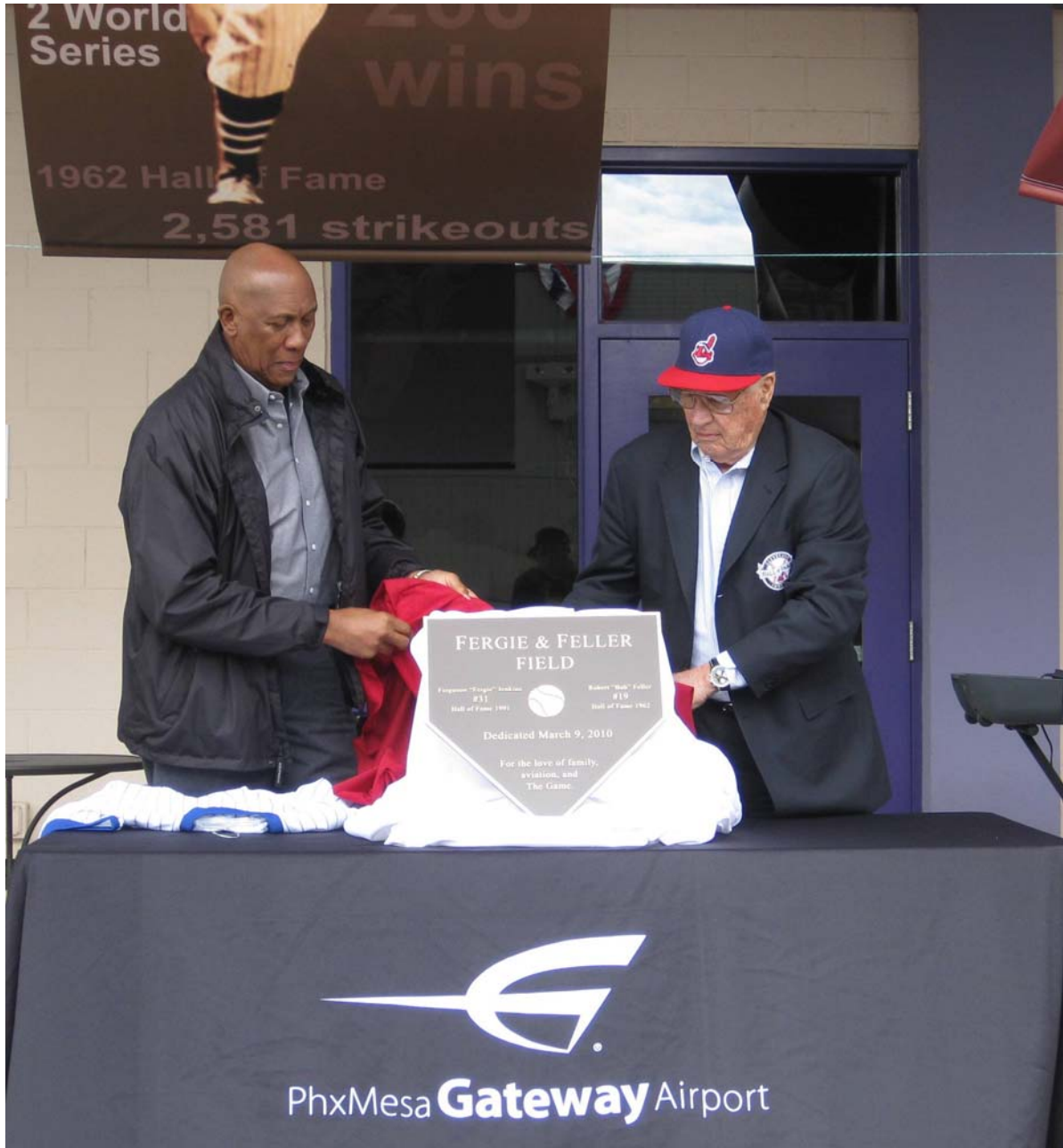
"We are excited by the opportunity to honor both Fergie Jenkins and Bob Feller today," PMGAA Executive Director Lynn Kusy said. "They were chosen for this honor for their love of family, aviation, and baseball. Mr. Feller is a pilot with over 50 years of flying and Mr. Jenkins flies out of Gateway by way of Allegiant Air on a regular basis. Both are outstanding individuals who are dedicated to helping others in their communities and across the country."

According to Airport officials, the courtyard dedication also represented the beginning of an expected transformation towards becoming an easy experience for traveling families.

"Allegiant Air is our only airline at this time and many of their passengers are families and not business travelers," said PMGAA Executive Director Lynn Kusy. "We want to focus resources on becoming 'plane easy' for families using our facilities. Having an outdoor courtyard that is connected to baseball legends is a wonderful start towards creating a family-friendly atmosphere."

In 2009, Airport officials partnered with Arizona State University students on a senior year capstone project with the purpose of researching what amenities a traveling family desires in an airport environment. The student research determined families desired a variety of activities to entertain children while waiting for a flight.

"Gateway is beginning the process of implementing some of their study's recommendations," Mesa Councilmember Scott Somers said. "Although discussions are in their early stages, Gateway staff is talking with the Mesa Historical Museum, the Arizona Museum for Youth, and the Arizona Museum of Natural History to brainstorm on potential hands-on exhibits that would engage young children and capture the essence of what's unique about living in Arizona. These ideas are in need of corporate champions, so if your company is interested in partnering with a family friendly 'experiential marketing' opportunity, please contact Airport staff."



**About Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport**

The Airport was established in 1994 and is owned and operated by the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority, which consists of the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa, Phoenix, and Queen Creek. Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport offers non-stop passenger service via Allegiant Air with flights to 20 cities nationwide. For more information, visit [www.phxmesagateway.org](http://www.phxmesagateway.org).