

# COMMUNITY

## Through Young Eyes: What Does America Means to Me



Nearly 400 student artists from across Rowan County are sharing their vision of America in a vibrant new exhibition now on display at the Rowan County Arts Center in Morehead, Kentucky.

Titled "What Does America Mean to Me?", the exhibition brings together an impressive range of creative works — from drawings and paintings to sculptures, mixed media pieces, and written compositions — representing the voices of local young people from kindergarten through high school.

The show is presented in partnership with Rowan County Schools-Kentucky, the Morehead City Government, and the America250 Morehead-Rowan County Committee, a local initiative tied to the national celebration of America's 250th anniversary of independence.

A Community Celebration of Youth Creativity

What makes this exhibition particularly special is the breadth of participation. Hundreds of students across all grade levels were invited to interpret a single, open-ended question — and the results reflect a rich diversity of perspectives, styles, and ideas about what it means to be American.

From patriotic imagery to abstract expressions of freedom and belonging, the works on display offer a window into how the next generation understands their country, their community, and their place within it.

**Durable Skills in Action: The Profile of a Learner**

This exhibition is more than a showcase of student artwork. It is a living demonstration of the Rowan County Schools Profile of a Learner, a framework built around the durable skills students need to thrive in school, careers, and life.

Each piece on display reflects one or more of the Profile's core competencies:

- **Effective Communicator:** Through visual art and written pieces, students articulate their personal understanding of America, giving voice to ideas and emotions that resonate far beyond the classroom.
- **Critical Thinker:** Interpreting a complex, open-ended question like "What does America mean to me?" requires students to reflect deeply, make meaningful connections, and express nuanced perspectives.
- **Collaborator:** The exhibition itself is a product of community partnership,

with students, teachers, schools, and local organizations working together toward a shared creative goal.

• **Lifelong Learner:** By exploring civic identity through art, students engage in learning that goes well beyond traditional assignments, developing curiosity and self-expression that will serve them for years to come.

• **Global Citizen:** At its heart, this exhibition is an act of civic participation. Students are connecting their personal stories to something larger, their community, their country, and their role in shaping its future.

**Details and Admission**

The exhibition runs through July 31 and is free and open to the public during the Arts Center's regular business hours. It offers a meaningful outing for families, educators, and anyone interested in seeing Rowan County's young talent on full display.

The Rowan County Arts Center is located 205 East Main Street in Morehead, Kentucky. Admission is free.

## Airport Board honors late Jim Fluty

The Morehead-Rowan County Clyde A. Thomas Regional Airport Board of Directors honored a community leader and founder of the airport during their most recent meeting on May 28.

The late James "Jim" Fluty passed away on May 23, and board members approved a resolution honoring Fluty for his role in the creation, growth, and leadership of the Clyde A. Thomas Regional Airport.

The resolution reads as follows:

"Whereas, Mr. Fluty was appointed as a founding member of the new created City of Morehead - Rowan County Airport Board in 1999, charged with assessing the viability of building a modern, technologically advance General Aviation Airport;

"Whereas, Mr. Fluty was elected Chair of the new Board, a role he held for 12 years, during which time the new airport was planned, resources secured, land was acquired, and construction commenced;

"Whereas, Mr. Fluty's leadership skills, aviation experience (through the eyes of a licensed pilot), and community knowledge allowed him to effectively advice and interact with officials from the Kentucky Department of Aviation, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the office of US Congressman Hal Rogers;

"Whereas Mr. Fluty, alongside of County Judge Executive Clyde A. Thomas, the KDA, and the FAA, played a significant role in helping to secure the initial \$17.5 million needed for land acquisition, engineering, and construction elements;

"Whereas, Under Mr. Fluty's leadership, the new

airport opened for flight operations with a new 5,500' runway and parallel taxiway in 2007 as the State's newest airport;

"Whereas, Mr. Fluty was instrumental in obtaining additional funding to continue the build-out of the a 2000' sf administration building, an adjoining 8000 sf community hangar, a twelve (12) bay T-hangar, new roadways, fencing, fueling systems, an all-weather-observation-system, a residence, as well multiple pieces of ground equipment and technology required for safe, secure, and efficient aircraft operations;

"Whereas, Mr. Fluty, as a Certified Public Accountant with experience in both the public and private sector, was the Board's go-to person regarding the Airport's operational and financial planning during his tenure as Chair of the Board;

"Whereas, Mr. Fluty is committed to community service as a 40+ year member of the Morehead Optimist Club, and a founding member of the Airport's affiliated chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA Chapter 1525). Mr. Fluty served as treasurer of this organization for many years, and provided well over 100 free airplane rides to youth in our community through the Young Eagles program.

"Therefore, be it resolved



by the Morehead-Rowan County Regional Airport Board that Mr. James A. Fluty be commended for the time, energy, dedication and distinguished service he gave as a member and Chair of the Airport Board of Directors.

"The Board extends its very best wishes to this fine citizen of the Commonwealth.

ADOPTED unanimously on this 28th day of May 2026

- Bruce Mattingly, Chair
- Bob Helton, Vice-Chair
- David Perkins, Secretary-Treasurer
- Timothy C. James, Past Chair
- Porter Dailey, Past Vice-Chair
- Ron Oliver, past Vice-Chair
- Tom Fossett, Member
- Wes Holland, Member
- Shannon Murphy, Member
- Stephen Click, Member

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