



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS ANNOUNCES OPENING OF EXCLUSIVE PRESIDENTIAL PAPERS EXHIBIT AT AIRPORT

RIT's Frederick Wiedman Jr. Collection on Permanent Display at GRIA

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today announced that the Rochester Institute of Technology's (RIT) exclusive exhibit, the **Frederick Wiedman Jr. Collection of Presidential Papers**, has been redesigned and relocated to be permanently on display at the Greater Rochester International Airport (GRIA).

"It is Monroe County's great honor to welcome RIT's Frederick Wiedman Jr. Collection of Presidential Papers to its permanent home at the Greater Rochester International Airport," said **Brooks**. *"I'm a strong believer that knowledge of our past is a key to understanding the future, and as a community, we are fortunate to boast a diverse and storied history. Monroe County is proud that our Airport will provide an opportunity for the public to enjoy Frederick Wiedman Jr.'s incredible collection, which pays tribute to the common legacy we all share as American citizens."*

The exhibit, made possible through a partnership with RIT, is now located on the ground floor of the Airport terminal where it is accessible for visitors to enjoy. The late Frederick Wiedman Jr., who assembled this extraordinary collection, was a long-time Rochester attorney, trustee and supporter of RIT.

"On both a personal and professional level for me, it is with great honor that we welcome the Frederick Wiedman Jr. Collection of Presidential Papers back to the Airport," said **James G. Vazzana, Esq.**, Monroe County Airport Authority Chairman and long time law partner of Frederick Wiedman Jr. *"This collection is truly a treasure."*

Spanning more than 200 years, the Frederick Wiedman Jr. Collection of Presidential Papers reflects the public lives of our former presidents through official moments in our country's military, domestic, and foreign policy history.

"Fred Wiedman's Collection of Presidential Papers is a community treasure, and RIT is pleased and proud to be able to make it accessible to the Rochester community and other travelers to our region by its prominent location at the Greater Rochester International Airport," said RIT President **William Destler**. *"We hope that it will be enjoyed as a journey through the history of our nation for many years to come."*

Ranging from a 1783 military discharge signed by George Washington to a personal letter from George W. Bush, the collection includes signed letters, documents and photographs from every U.S. President. Many of the documents are in the President's own handwriting, and the collection includes letters from Abraham Lincoln, F.D.R. and John F. Kennedy and a personal letter commenting on the collection from Gerald R. Ford Jr. to Frederick Wiedman Jr.

In honor of Mr. Wiedman's memory, RIT hopes to continue to add to the collection with documents from current and future U.S. Presidents.

For more information on the new exhibit, please visit the Greater Rochester International Airport's website at www.monroecounty.gov.

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