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Amelia Earhart Found At Last!

On Wednesday night, March 14th at 7:30 pm, Amelia Earhart will return to the Vermont State House to address a Montpelier audience for the first time since her famous visit to the capital in 1935. Actress Jessa Piaia will present her one woman show, "Meet Amelia Earhart: First Lady of the Air" as part of the Farmer's Night performances in the House Chamber. This free performance, sponsored by the Friends of the Vermont State House, coincides with Women's History Month as well as the 72nd anniversary of the famous aviator's visit to the State House.

Earhart was greeted in Montpelier on March 7, 1935 with what the Burlington Free Press at the time claimed was "probably the largest gathering in the history of the State House." Included were hundreds of schoolchildren, "eyes bulging with hero worship", and hundreds of others arriving over four hours in advance of the aviation pioneer's arrival. The crowd was so large that Earhart was compelled to repeat her speech in the Senate Chamber upon completing her address in the House.

Only two months earlier, Amelia Earhart had flown from Hawaii to California, the first person to accomplish such a flight. Three years before that she became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic, earning the nickname "Lady Lindy" as a result. Earhart's Vermont sojourn was arranged to promote the development of commercial aviation in the state, and her visit had a lasting impact on the state, even inspiring one of her hosts, Lt. Gov. George Aiken, to take flying lessons. Two years after her trip to Vermont, the famous aviator would disappear on an attempted circumnavigation of the globe.

Actress Jessa Piaia, who portrays Earhart, is an accomplished performer who has brought many other women in history to life, including Clara Barton and Susan B. Anthony. The Friends of the Vermont State House decided to present his Farmers' Night performance both to celebrate Women's History Month as well as the aviator's heralded visit to Vermont's capitol. This presentation is free and open to the public.

