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Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame Launches Fundraising Campaign to Preserve the Historic Leo J. Kohn Aviation Photography Collection

Waunakee, Wisconsin – 30 March 2024 – The Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame is thrilled to announce the launch of a fundraising campaign to support the digitization and preservation of the Leo J. Kohn Photography Collection. This collection was given to the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame (WAHF) by his family after Leo passed away, per Leo's wishes, and is a treasure trove of historic aviation images.

Leo J. Kohn, a renowned aviation photographer from Brookfield, Wisconsin, dedicated his life to documenting the world of aviation through his lens. His collection, spanning decades, is a testament to his passion and commitment to preserving aviation history. The goal of the project is to digitize his entire collection of more than 34,000 negatives and make it accessible to the public through an online archive. A professional preservation company will digitize the negatives and provide high-quality digital images that faithfully capture the detail and quality of the original photographs.

In addition to digitization, the project includes a comprehensive cataloging and metadata tagging process to ensure that each image is properly identified, described, and searchable. This will include the documentation of key photo details such as the date, location, aircraft type, color scheme, engine details, location, and subjects depicted.

"We are excited to embark on this fundraising campaign to ensure that the legacy of Leo Kohn lives on," said Dan Silvers, WAHF's Historic Image Preservation Chair. "The digitization of this collection will not only preserve these priceless images but also make them accessible to aviation enthusiasts, historians, and researchers worldwide."

The fundraising campaign aims to raise \$65,000 to cover the costs of digitizing the collection, creation of a searchable website, educational materials, outreach activities, and museum exhibits to showcase the collection's significance. The aviation community has gotten behind the project in a big way, with nearly 30 percent of the needed funds already raised, due to several generous donors and friends.

"We are calling on all aviation enthusiasts, historians, and supporters of aviation and visual arts to join us in preserving this invaluable piece of aviation history," added Dan.

To learn more about the Leo J. Kohn Aviation Photography Collection and how you can support this important project, visit www.WAHF.org/kohn

Contact Dan Silvers, Historic Image Preservation Chair: dan@wahf.org or 414-416-0810

>> **Media images available at** <https://www.wahf.org/kohn-media-kit/>

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