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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **At 108, Former Teacher is Honored by Cedarville, Ohio Leaders**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** -- Ten years before she was born, the Wright Brothers made their first flights at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The year of her birth, 1913, the city of Dayton, Ohio suffered a devastating flood. And when she was five-years-old, the country was in the grip of a different pandemic, the Spanish Flu.

Geraldine Henry has seen and survived a lot.

**Cedarville University, where she graduated in 1934 (then called Cedarville College) with a degree in education, will celebrate her 108<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 28 at 10 am, honoring a life faithfully lived.**

Henry is believed to be Cedarville's oldest alumna. She is the only child of William and Cora Henry and lived in her family home in London, Ohio, until 2014, when she moved to Sisters on Elm Assisted Living Center in London. She taught American History at Catawba High School, then Northeastern High School both in Clark County, until her retirement.

To honor Henry, Cedarville University leaders will deliver at least 108 birthday cards and gifts from current faculty, staff, and students **Wednesday, April 28 at 10 am at Sisters Senior Living resident facility (76 Elm Street, London, Ohio)**. In addition to the Cedarville gifts, a framed letter of celebration from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and a proclamation from Ohio Senator Bob Hackett (R-London) will be presented.

Roscoe Smith, Cedarville's director of gift planning, noticed in January that Geraldine's birthday was coming up soon. "What can do you for somebody her age?" he shared. "We won't be able to take her anywhere, and I'm not even sure we will be able to see her. I thought, 'Let's overwhelm her with love through cards.'"

Smith reached out to Cedarville School of Education Dean Dr. Kevin Jones and explained his plan. "He agreed immediately and was very excited about helping out with that kind of a project," he said.

Smith started with 100 birthday cards dropped off on a Thursday morning. By Friday morning, all the cards had notes and birthday wishes, and the School of Education was asking for more.

"The School of Education has been great," Smith said. "Some of the faculty took the cards to their classrooms and gave their students five minutes to write a note." Already, he is over his goal of 108 cards.

In addition to being Cedarville's oldest alumna, Henry has been a long-time supporter of the university, establishing an endowed scholarship, the William and Cora Norman Henry Memorial Scholarship, in [give year] to honor her parents. The scholarship is for students majoring in elementary education. Students from Clark County are given first preference.

“Geraldine is our oldest living alumnus, and she holds an honored position at the university,” Smith noted. “She has maintained close ties with Cedarville over the years and has shown a desire to support students today who are pursuing a career she gave her life too. That is worth honoring.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,550 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including its [Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education](#), strong graduation, and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit [www.cedarville.edu](http://www.cedarville.edu).

## **Comments attributed to Geraldine Henry through her Power of Attorney**

### **What does Geraldine think about her life?**

I’ve just tried to be kind, stay involved and active, keep positive and happy, and look for ways to serve others. When I was a teacher, I heard people say I was firm but fair. When I was a younger woman, I took care of my older friends by taking them out for dinner and taking them to get their hair done. I served at my church, London First United Methodist church, as a Sunday school teacher and church historian. I did that into my 90s.

### **Thoughts about Cedarville and her time as a student**

I so appreciated being able to get my teaching degree there, and I was glad that it wasn’t too far from home. My dad was a farmer and when money was tight, he would pay part of my tuition in crops. I had many good experiences at Cedarville, and I have loved being able to give back to Cedarville because of all the school has given me, including how it affirmed my faith.

### **What does receiving these cards and the university remembering her birthday mean to her?**

It means the world to me. My own whole career was around teaching, and it means a lot to receive these cards from the education students.

### **What does Geraldine say is her secret to living a long life?**

Being kind, helping others, staying active, and having faith. And I enjoy eating. I like to tell people that I have the appetite of a farmhand. I still like to eat. I asked for a chocolate cake for my birthday with lots of chocolate icing. I’ve also received wonderful care at Sisters on Elm. I think part of my long life is a result of the excellent care I’ve received here. They are very caring people.

**Additional photos, including an image of her diploma in 1934 and the letter from Governor DeWine, are available by contacting Mark Weinstein at [mweinstein@cedarville.edu](mailto:mweinstein@cedarville.edu).**