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GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA GETS ‘IN THE MOOD’ AUGUST 5-6 AT NORTHERN QUEST CASINO

SPOKANE, Wa. (July 28) – The Glenn Miller Orchestra, a name immediately synonymous with the big band era of the late 1930s and 1940s, brings its familiar and nostalgic sound to Northern Quest Casino for two shows Aug. 5-6.

Show times in the Pend Oreille Pavilion are 7 p.m. Seating is cabaret-style. Tickets are \$40 and are available at the Northern Quest box office at 509-481-6700 or through TicketsWest at (800) 325-7328 or ticketswest.com.

Fronted for the past 20 years by trombonist Larry O’Brien, the 19-piece orchestra, which includes two vocalists, performs many of the songs made popular by Miller’s original orchestra. The band plays the original Miller charts of songs like “In The Mood,” “Chattanooga Choo Choo,” “Pennsylvania 6-5000,” “Tuxedo Junction” and its signature tune, “Moonlight Serenade.”

Alton Glenn Miller was an itinerant trombonist and arranger who spent years performing as a sideman in a series of bands while searching for his own distinctive sound. His first attempt at leading a band failed in 1937.

But one year later, he discovered what proved to be his musical trademark. Instead of having the trumpets carrying the lead, he wrote an arrangement that feature a clarinet playing the melody with a tenor sax playing the same notes and harmonically supported by three other saxophones. That sound set Miller's band apart from the others in the big band era, and an engagement at the Glen Island Casino in New York, a popular swing club, was broadcast on national radio. Miller and the orchestra became famous literally overnight.

Drafted into the Army during World War II, Miller received an officers' commission and organized a swing-style service band that performed for troops and on radio broadcasts. On Dec. 15, 1944 Miller boarded a transport plane for a short flight from England to Paris. The plane never arrived at its destination and is presumed to have crashed in the English Channel. No wreckage was ever found.

Following Miller's presumed death, his longtime friend and sax player, Tex Beneke, became the first in a long line of musicians to lead the Glenn Miller Orchestra and keep its distinctive sound alive.

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Web site: glennmillerorchestra.com

Owned and operated by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Northern Quest Casino contributes to the economic self-sufficiency of the Tribe, its members, and surrounding communities. Northern Quest Casino employs over 1,000 people, has donated nearly \$2.7 million dollars to local charities and purchases approximately \$1.7 million in goods and services where 80% are local or locally-affiliated.

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