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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wickenburg Public Library Hosts Holocaust Survivor Dirk Van Leenen for Living History Presentation

WICKENBURG, Ariz. – The Wickenburg Public Library invites the community to attend a powerful and moving living history presentation, “Bearing Witness: Courage, Resistance, and Hope During WWII,” featuring Holocaust survivor Dirk Van Leenen.

This free public program will take place on Tuesday, February 25, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Wickenburg Public Library, 164 E. Apache Street.

During this special evening, Mr. Van Leenen will share a firsthand account of courage and humanity during one of history’s darkest periods. An Arizona resident and Holocaust survivor, Van Leenen tells the extraordinary story of his parents’ heroic efforts to help Jewish families in Holland during World War II.

While living in The Hague, the Van Leenen family hid an average of 20 Jewish refugees at a time beneath their home, risking their lives to protect others. As a child, Dirk often accompanied his father as a decoy while false identification papers and food stamps were secretly distributed to Jews in hiding.

Van Leenen is also the author of three books recounting five years of war and how his family survived those harrowing years. As a young boy, only three years old, he assisted his father, who served as the head of the Resistance in Holland.

This presentation offers a rare opportunity for the community to hear a personal story of resilience, resistance, and hope, and to honor the lasting importance of remembrance and historical understanding.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Town of Wickenburg Recreation Department at 928.668.0521.