

Repub 2/22/19

C2

HCC celebrates drummer's 90th birthday



Hal Blaine, a Holyoke native, is seen here at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles tribute to the famed drummer in November 2010. Blaine, who recently turned 90, will be honored in his hometown with a celebration at Holyoke Community College's Leslie Phillips Theater Wednesday at 7 p.m.

(THE REPUBLICAN FILE PHOTO)

Blaine being honored with cake, film screening

BY RAY KELLY
rkelly@repub.com

Legendary drummer Hal Blaine, who recently turned 90, will be honored in his hometown with a celebration at Holyoke Community College's Leslie Phillips Theater Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Blaine has performed on 40 No. 1 singles, 150 Top 10 hits and played on, by his own count, more than 35,000 recorded tracks. A member of the fabled Wrecking Crew, he has backed such stars as Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, John Lennon, The Beach Boys,

IF YOU GO

What: 90th birthday celebration for Hal Blaine
When: Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Where: HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke
Cost: Free

Simon & Garfunkel, Steely Dan, The Byrds and many others.

He has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the Grammy's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Organized by Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts' Victory Theater, the HCC celebration will feature a screening of the 2008 documentary about "The Wrecking Crew."

The film will be followed by cake, conversation and a

special video/Skype message from Blaine.

"We have been working on this project for a few years now," said Donald Sanders, MIFA's executive artistic director. "We can't wait to celebrate a music legend from Holyoke in Holyoke for his 90th birthday."

The event is free and open to the general public, but reservations are required.

Go online to mifafestival.org for more details or to make a reservation.

"The Wrecking Crew" film was produced and directed by Denny Tedesco, son of the late Wrecking Crew guitarist Tommy Tedesco. The film tells the story of the "unsung musicians that provided the backbeat, the bottom and the swinging melody that drove many of the number one hits of the 1960s and 70s."