

Stafford Museum News

Friesen is named "Volunteer of the Year"



Weatherford resident Jim Friesen was presented the first Stafford Air & Space Museum Volunteer of the Year award by Lt. General (Ret.) Thomas P. Stafford at the museum's Volunteer Appreciation Brunch.

This honor will be awarded each year to an outstanding Stafford Air & Space Museum volunteer, as determined by the museum management and General Stafford.

According to museum Co-Director Chuck Dougherty, "It is impossible to explain the amount of time Jim has donated to the museum because the projects he has been involved with are too numerous to list. His expertise in so many areas has been invaluable. Jim has a unique mix of academic credentials, teaching experience, a successful corporate track record, hands-on mechanical

engineering knowledge, and practical western Oklahoma common sense. Plus, lucky for us, I don't think Jim knows how to say no. In fact, Jim's help here has been so extraordinary that General Stafford, museum Co-Director Lynne Thurman, Mayor Mike Brown and I decided that going forward, the award will be called the Jim Friesen Volunteer of the Year Award."

General Stafford stated that, "We certainly wouldn't be where we are today at the museum without Jim's help. He has done work that has been recognized as beyond Smithsonian quality."

Stafford Air & Space Museum Co-Director Lynne Thurman said that Jim is the driving force behind many of the exhibit projects which have made the museum a world-class institution. "He sees a

need, forms a plan, and then solves the problem through great organizational talent, fantastic people skills, and an amazing work ethic. Jim has a way of quietly getting more work done in one day than most could accomplish in a week. He is one of the most brilliant, yet most humble people I have ever met. We are so fortunate that Jim not only has an interest in our mission for the museum, but that he also works for free. Chuck and I keep telling him that we will soon be doubling his salary!"

Friesen also serves as the Chairman of the Board for the Stafford Air & Space Museum, and has donated his time to the museum for over two years.

Friesen is a retired 3M/Imation process engineer and former part-time Southwestern Oklahoma State University instructor. He has a master's degree in agricultural engineering from Oklahoma State University and a doctorate from Mississippi State University. Friesen is a member of the Lions Club, and an active farmer-rancher.



Volunteer Brunch	1
New Expansion for Museum	2
Advance Movie Screening at Museum	2
NASA Workshop	3
New Stafford Signature Bench Available	3
Author to Conduct Workshop	4
New Exhibits at the Museum	4

New Additions to Coming to the Museum!

- Nazi Germany V2 Rocket to be added in exhibit
- Actual F-35 Fighter jet trainer being refurbished for use in museum
- SpacePlane coming from the Tulsa Air & Space Museum
- Flight Simulation Computer lab

Construction is Beginning for New Rose and Tom Luczo Education Addition



chased in 2001, triggering the construction of yet another large display area. The Stafford Air & Space Museum currently occupies 35,000 square feet of space, but that figure will increase with the completion of a new 5,000 square feet interactive educational discovery room to be constructed in 2008.

The new Rose and Tom Luczo Educational Center will be dedicated to academic motivation and excellence through “hands-on” learning experiences that will incorporate the relationship between mathematics and science as they relate to successful flight and space travel.

Rose and Tom Luczo are the parents of Stephen J. Luczo, Board Chairman of Seagate Technology, who is the major donor for this new addition.

Beginning in 1981 with a simple display case featuring a few donated personal items from the career of astronaut Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford, the Stafford Air & Space Museum is now about to expand again to become a 40,000

square feet educational center and museum that houses one of the United States’ premier collections of space-flown artifacts and aeronautical exhibits.

Another major expansion occurred in 1999,

when 12,000 square feet of space were added to house large artifacts that were loaned to the city of Weatherford for display in the collection. A private collection of space and aeronautical artifacts, including full-scale replicas, was pur-

Advance Hollywood Movie Screening at the Museum!

The Stafford Air & Space Museum is proud to present an advance screening of the critically acclaimed, award winning documentary film, “The Wonder of it All.” Conducting in-depth interviews with seven of the men that made the historic journeys to the moon to tell a humanistic story about their lives and

how walking on the Moon affected each one personally. Many of the photos in the film were donated by the astronauts’ private collections and have never been seen before. Never before has a film had such a compelling depth of interviews to gain the insight of the men who went to the Moon.

The advance screening of this history making movie will be held June 13, 2008, at the Stafford Air & Space Museum Hubble Gallery to a very limited number of guests. A reception with four-time astronaut Tom Stafford and the director Jeff Roth will also be included as part of the evening’s entertainment. Food and

drinks will be included with the price of admission.

Tickets go on sale for this very special event May 15th. Call the museum for more information, 580.772.5871. All proceeds from this event will be used toward the new Rose and Tom Luczo Educational Center.

“I came away most impressed.”
MSNBC, James Oberg

Coming Soon!

NASA Workshop Held for Educators



The Stafford Air & Space Museum and NASA gave area educators the chance to learn the difference between Moon craters, ejecta and impactors and how to train their students for a mission to Mars.

These were just a few of the subjects discussed on March 5 when NASA

Aerospace Education Specialist, Lisa Brown, visited the Stafford Air & Space Center to present a free workshop aimed at current and future teachers .

According to Stafford Air & Space Museum co-director, Chuck Dougherty, "These workshops

are a great and limited opportunity to help our area educators get excited about the teaching possibilities related to space exploration. Programs like these are meant to rekindle a greater interest in mathematics and science by giving teachers new ideas for the classroom.

Sessions from this workshop covered:

*Rocks from Space –
Moon, Meteorites, and
Beyond*

*Mission to the Red
Planet*



What's Happening...

New Stafford Signature Bench

The new, unique Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford Astronaut Commemorative Bench was recently unveiled at the Stafford Air & Space Museum. Created by award-winning Houston designer and Weatherford, Oklahoma native Kelly Gale Amen, the bench features laser-cut spacecraft images drawn by General Stafford specifically for this project. Also incorporated into the design of the bench is General

Stafford's laser-cut signature.

The Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford Astronaut Commemorative Bench is the newest addition to the museum's Stafford Public Bench Program. Stafford Air & Space Museum supporters have previously been able to purchase an "orbital blue" Kelly Gale Amen Design bench to honor someone special and have that bench permanently placed in

the museum. Now, in addition to the blue bench, the new, brushed aluminum Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford Astronaut Commemorative Bench may be purchased and displayed at the Stafford Air & Space Museum, or taken for home or business display. The proceeds from the sale of the benches will be used to improve the Stafford Air & Space Museum's educational programs and interactive exhibits.



General Stafford and designer Kelly Gale Amen at bench dedication

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We're on the Web!
www.staffordmuseum.com

Author of "A Man on the Moon" to Conduct Free Workshop

Author Andy Chaiken and General Stafford will conduct a free workshop at the museum Saturday, May 17. A catered lunch will be provided by OSIDA. This workshop is directed mainly to educators. To register for the workshop go to the Stafford Museum website, www.staffordmuseum.com to find the registration form then fax the form to 920-694-0912, or e-mail to holly@spaceed.org.



Author Andy Chaiken alongside Gen. Stafford who is telling a personal anecdote about the Apollo X flight to the moon.

New Exhibits Are on Their Way!



New F-35 Trainer to be installed in the Museum for interactive activities



The SpacePlane on exhibit at the Tulsa Air & Space Museum

Several new and exciting artifacts and exhibits are coming soon to the museum. The Stafford Air & Space Museum received a Nazi Germany era V2 engine from the National Air and Space Museum several months ago.

The engine was extremely deteriorated and badly in need of restoration. Mr. Dan Stroud and his team of experts have been researching and restoring the historically consequential rocket. They feel that with just a few more touches it will be ready for display! With this addition the Stafford Air & Space Museum will house one of the most significant and complete collection of rocket engines in the world.

New fun, interactive additions will soon be added to the museum, these include an actual F-35 flight simulator and the SpacePlane coming to us from Tulsa Air & Space Museum. The SpacePlane is

built to resemble the Boeing Hyper-speed Vehicle and seats up to 24 children or 16 adults for a unique and exciting video viewing experience.

The new Rose and Tom Luczo Educational Center will be the final destination for all of our new interactive exhibits along with the new Classroom of Flight.



V2 Rocket engine should be arriving at the Museum after a lengthy restoration process.