

Press Release

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November 6, 2009

For Immediate Release:**Stafford Museum Honors Tautfest**

Weatherford resident of 37 years, Kay Tautfest was presented the 2009 Jim Friesen Volunteer of the Year Award on Saturday October 31, 2009 at the Stafford Air & Space Museum. On Saturday, the museum hosted a special volunteer brunch to promote and honor all the volunteers' hard work and dedication. Astronaut General Tom Stafford came to honor the volunteers by giving a speech encouraging them to stay involved and also leading a tour of the museum; he presented Tautfest with her plaque and gift. The award has been given to outstanding volunteers of the Museum since 2007 beginning with the first honoree, Dr. Jim Friesen.

Lynne Thurman, Stafford Air & Space Museum Executive Director expressed her gratitude for the hard work Mrs. Tautfest has put in to the museum. "We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Kay and to all our supporters who have chosen to help the Museum educate and excite our visitors about the wonders of air and space," she said. "We are committed to improving the lives of our community through working together. It is the continued support of our generous volunteers and supporters that enables the Stafford Air & Space Museum to inspire future educators, engineers, and astronauts. We hope that by providing our visitors with hands-on activities and educational experiences in math, science, and technology we are making a difference for our future generations."

Kay worked as an educator in the public school system for nearly 30 years throughout Texas and Oklahoma; she has also worked in retail and marketing for 12 years. This combination has prepared her to be an innovative and dynamic volunteer at the museum and within the community. Kay feels the joy of volunteering is an act that everyone can benefit from; she said "I want to encourage everyone to volunteer somewhere". She went on to say that although her schedule is hectic at times, she has never felt it has been a burden to volunteer at the Museum.

Kay has helped the museum with projects on an extremely wide scale. She has helped the staff and museum board prepare for many of its premier events, educational activities, and community involvement projects. Kay worked to make events such as the Apollo 10 40th Anniversary Celebration, Stafford Family Star Party and the 2008 Volunteer Brunch successful. She has been an avid key to the educational programs at the museum as well as currently serving as chairman of the museum board.

The Stafford Air & Space Museum is always excited to welcome new volunteers. The Stafford Museum volunteers are the heartbeat of the museum as each person brings their own unique contribution. Their expertise and special talents help to bring a one-of-a-kind experience to visitors. If you would like to volunteer please contact the museum to learn of the different opportunities available.

The Stafford Air & Space Museum is named in honor of Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford, who was born and raised in Weatherford, Oklahoma and graduated with honors from the United States Naval Academy. He piloted Gemini VI, and commanded Gemini IX, Apollo 10, and the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project Mission. Stafford was the eighth recipient of the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Visit www.staffordmuseum.com for more information.