

STAY UPDATED

Walker Aviation Museum

www.wafbmuseum.org

# NEWSLETTER

June  
2024



Please donate today to keep our museum running [gofundme.com/WalkerMuseum](https://gofundme.com/WalkerMuseum).

## Two Missions: Remembering the Past & Looking to the Future



Medal of Honor Awardee-  
BGEN Kenneth  
Newton Walker

### Mission # 1 HISTORY

Our first mission is to tell the personal stories of the military members who were assigned to the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF) during WWII and then later during the Cold War until closure of Walker Air Force Base (WAFB) in 1967. During WWII the base played an important role in training pilots as they transitioned into multiengine aircraft. Training in AT-11, AT-10 and AT-7 aircraft prepared them to fly the B-17, B-24 and toward the end of the war, the B-29 aircraft. Also some of the pilots ended up flying in other multiengine aircraft. The

RAAF also trained bombardiers. A total of about 14,000 aircrew were trained in these specialties during WWII. Also about 42 Chinese pilots were trained to fly the B-25, twin engine aircraft, during the war. After WWII was over the 509th Composite Group with the Silver Plate B-29s, capable of carrying atomic bombs, returned to the RAAF. On January 13, 1948 the RAAF was renamed Walker Air Force Base after Kenneth N. Walker, a native of northern New Mexico. Brigadier General Walker played a key role in developing the bombing strategy used against Germany to help win the war. General Walker was shot down in a B-17F, named, San Antonio Rose, over Papua New Guinea on January 5, 1943 and to this day is still missing in action (MIA). General Walker received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After the end of WW II, WAFB became the premier nuclear bomber base. In the early 1960s it hosted the installation and operation of 12 nuclear tipped Atlas F missiles located in 12 silos in the surrounding area. Walker AFB continued operations as a key nuclear bomber base until closure in 1967.



B 36  
"Peacemaker"

# NEWSLETTER

## Mission #2 Career Orientation For Students

We strive to provide local students, 12 to 18 years old, information on pursuing a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) career. The Occupational Network Online can be activated by going to our web site [wafbmuseum.org](http://wafbmuseum.org), click Education, then near the three color photos of youth participating in our STEM/Flight Simulator program, you select "Comprehensive List of STEM Jobs". This web site provides 331 STEM careers in alphabetical order. Each career contains many pages of information about that particular job/career. You can also go directly to the web site at: [onetonline.org](http://onetonline.org) to access 1014 jobs. Also, after selecting Education on our web site you can access 38 professional pilot training videos totaling about 12 hours of ground school training. These two features can be fully operated on a smart phone. Also on our web site under Education we have listed about 480 jobs in the Roswell region, from three local

phone books, that a student could pursue further information. Our onsite career training/orientation program is described in detail under Education on our web site. This program is about three hours in length. In this program the student will fly one of our two flight simulators obtained via a generous grant from Xcel Energy. Also, the students will be shown 13 YouTube videos on various STEM careers. Under the Education block on our web site there is a list of 54 career YouTube videos and 34 aircraft YouTube videos selected by our museum staff.

## Contact Us

Phone :  
575-755-8723 (USAF)

Address :  
P.O. Box 4080  
Roswell, NM 88202

Web & Email :  
[www.wafbmuseum.org](http://www.wafbmuseum.org)  
[info@wafbmuseum.org](mailto:info@wafbmuseum.org)  
[facebook.com/walkeraviationmuseum](https://facebook.com/walkeraviationmuseum)

Robert Sherman speaks with a group of students from New Mexico Military Institute about STEM careers



## Latest Happenings

### University High School Partnership

The last half of the semester between January and May, 2023, we were working with University High School's Hospitality Entrepreneurship Class of 4 students. They were routinely coming out to the museum to learn what we do at the museum and to assist us with our displays and developing methods to be more effective in presenting our historical and career orientation material to the visiting public and to include visiting youth.

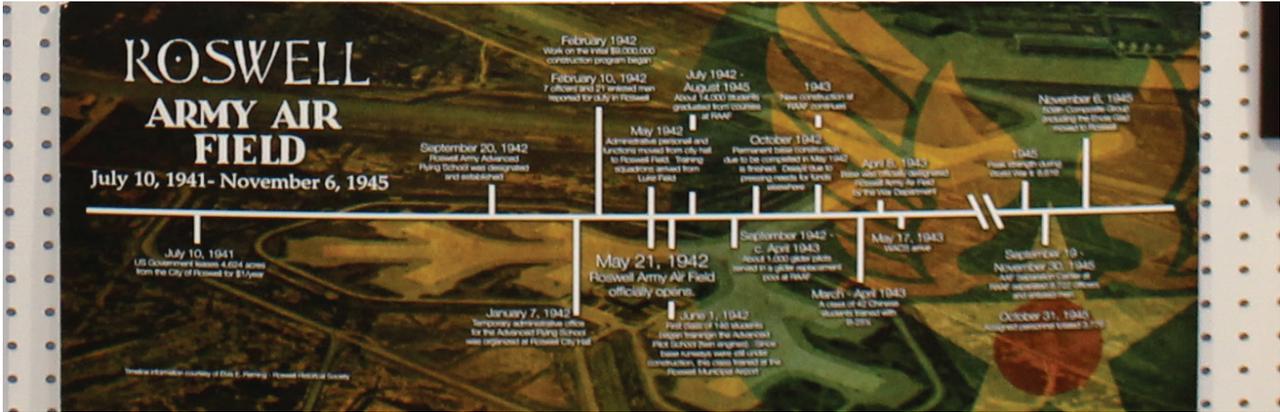
## Museum Day Roswell



On Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, as one of Roswell's 7 museums, we participated in the "Museum Day Roswell". We had a large number of visitors. Part of the program consisted of visitors presenting a "passport" that got our stamp that enabled them to be eligible to win a gift made up of donations from the 7 Roswell museums. We had a happy winner.

# Peg Board Installation

Thanks to Steve Griffin, Jim Williams and Bob Donnell, we now have a 128 square feet of peg board to hang pictures on a wall that was re-enforced concrete. The nail guns they used, got the attention of the airport security personnel.



## Aviation Industry Partner Tours for High School Students

In May 2023 we coordinated with AerSale to enable 6 students from University High School to get an aircraft and facility tour that addressed their mission here in Roswell. The students really enjoyed the tour.



### 1954 Championship baseball team jacket:

SSgt John A. Leslie's baseball jacket was donated by his son Kurt Leslie and daughter Kathy Haas in November 2022. John was in the USAF from 1950 to 1954. Before joining the Air Force, John was a pitcher on the Chicago Cubs farm team. As the jacket indicates, he helped the Walker AFB Bombers win the 8th Air Force 1954 championship.





# Visit From 509<sup>th</sup> WPS USAF Weapons School

In the near future, we are looking forward to another routine visit from the 509th WPS, USAF Weapons School from Fairchild AFB, Washington. This has always provided a great opportunity for some of the local youth to tour the KC-135 aircraft. This event was open to any student 10 years old or older with an interest in STEM and a career in aviation or the US Air Force.



# Ready to Help?

## Sponsorship Opportunity

We currently are depending on generous individuals and local company donations to help us pay the bills and keep the doors open. Contributors are recognized via an attractive sign located in the museum and through our monthly 0720 to 0755 AM radio program on the first Tuesday of each month on station 106.5, Talk FM. Our current supporters can be seen by checking out the current sign.

## Do you or does someone you know have a memory to share with us?

We recently obtained a hand held Olympus Digital Voice Recorder to help obtain personal history from our museum visitors who have a historical account from WAFB they would like to share. The recording can then be downloaded to the Walker Aviation Museum Web site thereby increasing our capability to share various RAAF and WAFB experiences of visiting military and family members.



## More photos from the 509th visit



The Walker Aviation Museum is looking forward to future visitors during the September 2025 Air Races which will be moving from Reno, Nevada to the Roswell Air Center.



1 Jerry Smith Circle (Roswell Air Terminal)  
Roswell, New Mexico 88203