

## **Press Release**

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### **For Immediate Release:**

## **General Stafford Lifts Off One More Time**

The 8,000 pound statue version of astronaut Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford has taken to the air at the Stafford Air & Space Museum.

The statue was recently moved to a permanent spot near the front door of the museum to make room for an upcoming 5,000 square feet expansion. The new space will be used for interactive exhibits and classrooms, and will be named the Rose and Tom Luczo Educational Center in honor of the parents of the major donor for the project, Stephen J. Luczo, Board Chairman of Seagate Technology of Scotts Valley, California. Lt. General Stafford has also made a significant pledge to help finance this new addition. The 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.

General Stafford stated, “ Mr. Luczo’s generous help will allow a generation of western Oklahoma students to experience new learning opportunities. The Rose and Tom Luczo Educational Center will be an integral part of the Stafford Air & Space Museum’s mission of helping in the education of our youth.”

The new addition will enlarge the Stafford Air & Space Museum to approximately 40,000 square feet, and is targeted to be completed this summer.

The Stafford Air & Space Museum is named in honor of Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford, USAF (Ret.), 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, commanded Apollo 10, and the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project Mission. Stafford was the eighth recipient of the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Stafford later served as Deputy Chief of Staff, USAF, for Research, Development, and Acquisitions. The Stafford Air & Space Museum boasts one of the few Titan II rockets displayed indoors. Also on display, on loan from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, is the flight space suit General Stafford wore on Apollo 10, a mission that included the first flight of the lunar module near the moon. There are displays featuring numerous space-flown artifacts as well as several full-size aircraft, including a Russian MiG21R and a USAF F-16 Fighting Falcon. Full-size replicas on display include the Wright Flyer, 1911 Curtiss Pusher, *Spirit of St. Louis*, Apollo Command Module, and Gemini spacecraft.

For more information visit [www.staffordmuseum.com](http://www.staffordmuseum.com) or call 580-772-5871.

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