

New Mexico State University



Homecoming Weekend 2004



Memorial Tower Rededication



Saturday, October 30, 2004

11:00 a.m.

★Aggie Memorial Tower★

*Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy
forget in time that men have died to win them. – Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Memorial Tower was constructed in 1950 as a permanent monument to those former students who gave their lives in defense of our nation during the Second World War. The construction was made possible through private donations from family members, friends, classmates, businesses and citizens. The tower, originally the focal point of Aggie memorial stadium, was renovated in 2003 during the construction of the Health and Social Services Building.

Miss Era Rentfrow, the College Registrar from 1922 to 1961, recognized the need to secure the memory of those one hundred and twenty-six gallant Aggies of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts and gathered their photographs from families and loved ones. The photos displayed in the rededicated Memorial Tower honor their memory.

★Rededication Ceremony★

Lt. Col. Gary Cataldo '71 (USA Retired), President of NMSU Army ROTC Alumni Chapter

Dr. Michael Martin, President, New Mexico State University

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez '54 (USAF Retired)

Col. J. Henry Gustafson '40 (USMC)

Rep. J. Paul Taylor '42, '54, & '63 (USN)

Rebecca Rizzuti, Senator Jeff Bingaman's Office

Susie Cordero, Senator Pete Domenici's Office

Regent James Manatt '71

Following the rededication ceremony, please feel free to enter Memorial Tower and view photographs of the 126 Aggies who were killed in action during World War II.

A picnic luncheon will follow on the lawn next to Young Hall at the top of the horseshoe. The luncheon is open to the public at a cost of \$10 per person. Please join us!

New Mexico State University extends its thanks to the following individuals and organizations who helped make the rededication of Memorial Tower possible:

- Memorial Tower Committee – Virginia Eubanks, J. Henry Gustafson, Helen Strickland Hampton, Mary Tippin Johnson, Winston Johnson, J. Paul Taylor, Ivan “Scott” Taylor, Virginia Taylor, Marie Louise Wiggs
- Dennis Daily and Bill Boehm, Rio Grande Historical Collections, NMSU Library – research on and reprinting of Aggie photos.
- Vice President Ben Woods and the Office of Human and Physical Resources – design and craftsmanship
- Mary Anne Redding, NMSU Art Gallery – conservation advice
- “Memorial Tower Committee” – group of 1940s alumni who provided advice and assistance
- Governor Bill Richardson’s Office -- State of New Mexico flag
- Senator Pete Domenici’s Office – United States flag
- Cruces Trophy – production of nameplates
- The Mike Groves Family, Picture Frame Factory Outlet – framing and installation of photos
- Lt. Col. David Abbott and the staff and cadets of NMSU’s Department of Military Science – advice on and assistance with ceremony, picnic, and invitation
- Lt. Col. Shannon Meade and the staff and cadets of NMSU’s Department of Aerospace Studies – advice on and assistance with the ceremony and picnic
- Donna and David Watson, Flowerama – memorial wreaths
- Dr. Greg Fant, Dr. Ken Van Winkle, and the members of the Pride Band – dedication music
- Dr. Garrey Carruthers, Ms. Sylvia Acosta, and NMSU’s College of Business Administration
- Lt. Col. Gary Cataldo and the members of the NMSU Army ROTC Alumni Chapter
- The NMSU Board of Regents
- Shirley James, ARAMARK catering
- Dr. Jeffrey Brandon, Mr. Michael McDonald, and the NMSU College of Health and Social Services
- Dr. Waded Cruzado-Salas, Mrs. Cynthia Hoffmann, Mr. Nigel Holman, and the NMSU College of Arts and Sciences
- White Sands Missile Range
- Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez
- Rep. J. Paul Taylor
- Col. J. Henry Gustafson
- Senator Jeff Bingaman and Ms. Rebecca Rizzuti
- New Mexico National Guard

Aggies Killed in Action during World War II

Last Name, Rank, First Name, Date of Death, Place of Death, Hometown

Ackerman, Lt. Ellis J., November 4, 1942, Tampa, Florida. Deming, New Mexico.
Alcorn, S/Sgt. Garland G., December, 1943, Over Germany. Artesia, New Mexico.
Anderson, Sgt. Pilot Richard F., February 6, 1942, England. Houston, Texas.
Apodaca, Lt. Melecio, October 10, 1943, Wayne, Nebraska. Garfield, New Mexico.
Armstrong, Pfc. Bryan, Spring, 1945, European Theater. House, New Mexico.
Atchley, Sgt. William T., May 4, 1944, Over Eniwetok, Pacific. Grenville, New Mexico.
Baird, Lt. Willis W., June 9, 1944, Normandy, France. Tularosa, New Mexico.
Beaty, William C., May, 1943, Atlantic Ocean. Las Cruces, New Mexico.
Becker, Lt. Darwin C., January 30, 1945, Japanese Prison Camp. Brenham, Texas.
Billups, Charles Leon, August, 1942, Pacific Ocean. Alamogordo, New Mexico.
Beal, Byron C., May 27, 1942, Japanese Prison Camp.
Bleiler, Eugene, May 7, 1943, Bismarck Sea.
Block, Lt. (jg) Joseph J., December 4, 1943, South Pacific. Brackenridge, Pennsylvania.
Budenholzer, Lt. Frank E., March 21, 1942, Memphis, Tennessee. Belen, New Mexico.
Burciaga, T/4 Ernesto G., January 14, 1945, European Theater. Roswell, New Mexico.
Cade, Sgt. Francis W., March 17, 1945, Germany. Las Cruces, New Mexico.
Calkins, Sgt. Lew Ira, July 13, 1942, Japanese Prison Camp. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Candelaria, Andrew B., September 20, 1944, France. El Paso, Texas.
Carr, Lt. Robert Lee, July 9, 1945, Over Japan. Tularosa, New Mexico.
Carrico, AR1c James Justus, June 27, 1945, Off Southern Korean Coast.
Chapin, Capt. John L., January 22, 1944, Italian Front. El Paso, Texas.
Chase, Lt. Albert F., September 7, 1944, Off Mindanao, Pacific. Ruidoso, New Mexico.
Chavez, Sgt. Alex T., October 23, 1943, Africa. Las Cruces, New Mexico.
Colvard, Lt. Harold D., August 23, 1944, China. Vinita, Oklahoma.
Corn, Lt. Wade H., Jr., March 29, 1945, Cebu Island, Pacific. Roswell, New Mexico.
Coyle, Lt. Joseph M., April 28, 1945, Over French Indo-China.
Crawford, S2C Frederick G., November 24, 1943, Carrier Liscome Bay near Gilbert Islands.
Cunico, Cadet A. J., May, 1942, Lost at Sea, Florida Coast. Raton, New Mexico.
Dale, S2c Jack D., February 1, 1946, Naval Hospital, San Diego.
Davies, F/O Ralph E., March 18, 1944, Plains, Louisiana. Fort Sumner, New Mexico.
Delgado, Lt. (jg) Frank M., August, 1944, South Pacific. Las Vegas, New Mexico.
Eakens, Cpl. William A., March 8, 1945, Iwo Jima. Las Cruces, New Mexico.
Earp, Sgt. Robert Ray, February 22, 1944, Over North Sea. Grenville, New Mexico.
Eby, Byron, July 15, 1943, Corpus Christi, Texas. Faywood, New Mexico.
Edmondson, Sgt. Thomas R., Jr., November 16, 1944, Germany. Parker, Arizona.
Eminger, Lt. Leo M., October, 1942, Southwest Pacific. Anthony, New Mexico.
Finley, Lt. Pecos U., June 1, 1942, Bataan. Causey, New Mexico.
Flowers, S/Sgt. John R., June 11, 1943, Philippine Islands. Lake Arthur, New Mexico.
Foord, Lisle Harrison, Lt., August 19, 1944, Over Vella Lavella Island, Pacific.
Foster, Lt. William Neil, December 14, 1944, Off Philippine Islands.
Fox, Lt. Chris Peter, Jr., February 27, 1945, Germany. El Paso, Texas.
Franey, Lt. Romuald J., March 22, 1945, Off China.
Fuller, Lt. Edward D., February, 1943, Over Western Europe. El Paso, Texas.
Gallagher, Lt. Francis W., November 13, 1944, Leyte, Pacific. Las Cruces, New Mexico.
Gardner, Lt. Joe H., March 3, 1944, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Sierra Blanca, Texas.
Gilbert, Pilot H. G., Jr., December 23, 1941, Rangoon, Burma. Lovell, Wyoming.

Gonzalez, Capt. Rey F., Unknown, Philippine Islands. Lemitar, New Mexico.
Goss, Capt. Walter K., February 5, 1945, Burma. Las Cruces, New Mexico.
Gray, Lt. Edward Earl (Navy), May 19, 1945, Okinawa, Pacific. La Mesa, New Mexico.
Gray, Lt. Robert W., March 22, 1943, Africa. Wheatridge, Colorado.
Grizzle, Lt. Wiley, Jr., March 24, 1946, Kassel, Germany.
Haggard, Sgt. Frank Tracy, December 25, 1944, Over Germany. La Jolla, California.
Hall, Lt. Vernon D., January 15, 1945, France. Santa Fe, New Mexico.
Harp, Lt. Choctaw A., Jr., May 13, 1944, Lake Providence, Louisiana. Cimarron, New Mexico.
Harris, Lt. William W., June 18, 1944, France. Tucumcari, New Mexico.
Hedley, Ensign Robert, January 21, 1945, Off Luzon, Pacific. Vista, California.
Heyne, Lt. Hans Richard, October, 1944, Lindau, Germany. Mogollon, New Mexico.
Holtzclaw, Pvt. Otho W., January, 1944, Gilbert Islands, Pacific. House, New Mexico.
Horton, Lt. (jg) Marvin P., Jr., October 20, 1943, Alameda, California. Old Greenwich, Connecticut.
Hunt, Richard Baker, October 24, 1944, China Sea. Seattle, Washington.
Hunter, Lt. Billy Drew, August, 1943, South Pacific. Silver City, New Mexico.
Huston, Lt. Clarence Edwin, May 20, 1944, Over Europe. Hatch, New Mexico.
Huston, George H., May 21, 1942, Japanese Prison Camp.
Jeffus, Capt. Hubert P., October, 1944, Pacific. Lordsburg, New Mexico and Santa Fe, New Mexico.
Johnson, Neal Kenneth, Summer, 1944, Pacific. Tucumcari, New Mexico.
Jones, T/Sgt. George M., October 24, 1944, Pacific. Lordsburg, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas.
Jones, Sgt. Melvin E., July 28, 1942, Japanese Prison Camp.
Ladd, Pfc Franklin Eugene, April 8, 1945, Germany. Mosquero, New Mexico.
Lane, Lt. Harold E., April 17, 1943, Over Western Europe. Alamogordo, New Mexico.
Leach, Capt. Gerald E., July 2, 1943, Camp Hood, Texas. Gardner, Massachusetts.
Lee, Lt. Jack, November 18, 1942, Solomon Islands, Pacific. Alamogordo, New Mexico.
Lewis, Lt. Herman W., January, 1943, Africa. Grady, New Mexico.
Lisle, Lt. Col. Halley H., April 7, 1945, Italian Front. Las Cruces, New Mexico.
Long, Thomas Vernon, June 11, 1943, Philippine Islands. Portales, New Mexico.
Love, Cpl. William E., May 21, 1943, Philippine Islands. Downey, California.
Ludwig, Capt. William R., November 18, 1944, Italy. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Lusk, Lt. Don W., Jr., January, 1943, Over Western Europe. Silver City, New Mexico.
Mechem, Lt. Col. Jesse, October 29, 1944, Leyte, Pacific. Las Cruces, NM & El Paso, TX.
McCorkle, Capt. John R., January 3, 1942, Philippine Islands. Las Cruces, New Mexico.
McFie, Lt. Com. John R., February 3, 1945, Philippine Islands. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
McGinley, S/Sgt. Charles D., April 28, 1944, Over New Ireland. Monahans, Texas.
McLaughlin, Lt. Paul, January 22, 1944, Central Pacific. Hatch, New Mexico.
Nicklas, Capt. J. LaVerne, April 16, 1945, Germany. Portales, New Mexico and Deming, New Mexico.
Orosco, S/Sgt. Arnold A., October 24, 1944, Pacific. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Ortiz, Lt. Ralph P., December 21, 1943, Central Pacific.
Ortiz, Robert Manuel, March 1, 1945, Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands.
Palmer, T/Sgt. Thomas Marion, February, 1945, Philippine Islands. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Parks, Sgt. Joe, March 25, 1945, Over Europe. Lake Valley, New Mexico.
Powell, Francis B., December, 1944, Philippine Islands.
Provencio, Lt. Henry, December 25, 1944, Pacific.
Quesenberry, Lt. James S., May 11, 1944, South Pacific.
Ragsdale, Wilmer E., July 10, 1945, Boston, Massachusetts. Artesia, New Mexico.
Redford, Capt. James F., December 11, 1944, German Front. Lordsburg, New Mexico.
Reichelt, Capt. Oren R., July 3, 1944, France. Abilene, Texas.
Remondini, Lt. Robert J., October, 1944, Philippine Waters. Deming, New Mexico.
Resley, Lt. Joseph L., November 30, 1944, California. Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Salazar, Lt. George, November 16, 1944, German Front. Springer, New Mexico.
Savelle, Lt. Reese, December 2, 1943, Woodland, Washington. Berino, New Mexico.
Sedillo, Herman, July 21, 1945, Wm. Beaumont Hosp., El Paso, Texas.
Shields, Sgt. Robert T., October 20, 1944, Philippine Islands. San Bernadino, California.
Silbo, Capt. Lee, June 17, 1945, Atlantic Ocean. Farmington, New Mexico.
Silva, Capt. John M., March 11, 1944, China. Clint, Texas and Cleveland, Ohio.
Skipworth, Lt. Roy W., April 5, 1945, Okinawa, Pacific. Fort Sumner, New Mexico.
Snell, Maj. Maynard G., December 15, 1944, Philippine Waters.
Sorenson, Cpl. Rodney R., January 19, 1945, Chengtu, China.
Sparks, Capt. Charles R., June 21, 1942, Camp O'Donnell, Philippine Islands. Las Cruces, NM.
Spence, Lt. William James, May 20, 1944, Southwest Pacific. El Paso, Texas.
Taylor, Lt. Frank D., April 24, 1945, Germany.
Thayer, A/C Fred Gifford, Mach 14, 1943, Williams, Arizona. Carlsbad, New Mexico.
Thompson, Lt. Robert C., March 19, 1944, Alexandria, Louisiana. Santa Fe, New Mexico.
Thorpe, Lt. Dallas R., December, 1944, Pacific. Artesia, New Mexico.
Toliver, Lt. James E., April, 1945, Off Japanese Coast.
Trogstad, Lt. William E., July, 1943, Philippine Islands. Las Vegas, New Mexico.
Usher, Lt. Col. John Palmer, Unknown, France. Pomona, Kansas.
Vigil, Lt. Placido, May 24, 1944, Gulf of Mexico. Espanola, New Mexico.
Van Dersarl, Lt. Vincent, December 19, 1944, Over Burma. Raton, New Mexico.
Wayne, Capt. Frank L., June 24, 1944, Dorchester, England. Alamogordo, New Mexico.
Wharton, Brig. Gen. James E., August 12, 1944, France. Staunton, Virginia.
Wilkerson, Lt. James M., June 30, 1943, Hawaii. Quay, New Mexico and Rouceverte, West Virginia.
Williams, Robert Joseph, January 14, 1943, El Paso, Texas. Canutillo, Texas.
Williamson, Harvey D., April 29, 1942, Philippine Islands. Stigler, Oklahoma.
Wood, Elbert E., December 27, 1944, Midland, Texas. Fort Sumner, New Mexico.
Wood, Lt. Speegle J., May 4, 1942, Montrose, Georgia. Sweetwater, Texas.
Wright, Capt. Warren M., February 24, 1945, Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands. Portales, New Mexico.
Yenzer, Lt. Delmar W., June 13, 1944, Normandy, France. Crescent, Oklahoma.
Zavilla, Lt. Tedd E., April 15, 1945, Germany. Magdalena, New Mexico and State College, NM.