



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Headquarters Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency
Office of Public Affairs
139 Barnes Drive Suite 1
Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. 32403-5319

DSN: 523-6114
(850) 283-6114
FAX 283-6499

MRS. LOIS E. WALKER



Mrs. Lois E. Walker retired in 2007 as the chief of the Professional Communications Division at the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. The division was responsible for producing and distributing information related to the Air Force civil engineer career field. Products and services included history, archives support, public affairs, graphics, and audiovisual productions. The division also published civil engineering's flagship publication, *Air Force Civil Engineer magazine*. As the official historian for AFCESA and Air Force civil engineering at large, Mrs. Walker produced an annual history of AFCESA operations, maintained the corporate archives for civil engineering, and provided reference services to the commander and staff and civil engineer units and organizations throughout the Air Force.

Mrs. Walker was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. She began her college education at Miami University of Ohio, but pursuing a lifelong interest in history and archeology, completed her undergraduate studies in Mexico, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology from the University of the Americas at Puebla in 1972. She traveled extensively through Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador before returning to the United States in 1973. She owned and operated a typing and Spanish translation service for seven years and returned to school to pursue a master's degree in history. She received a Master of Arts degree in American history, with a concentration in Archives and Museum Management, from Wright State University in 1981.

She began her career as an Air Force historian in 1982 and served as the base/wing historian for Wright-Patterson AFB (WPAFB) for ten years. She co-authored with Shelby Wickam the definitive history of the base, *From Huffman Prairie to the Moon: The History of Wright-Patterson AFB*, earning the USAF History Program Excellence in Monographs Award for 1988. Her research into the lives of Wilbur and Orville Wright and their association with the land on which Wright-Patterson is located led to the development of a National Historic Landmark campaign for Huffman Prairie, construction of a replica of the brothers' 1905 hangar on the site, and production of an Air Force documentary film, *The Wright Brothers at Huffman Prairie*, which won a 1988 US Industrial Film and Video Festival Certificate for Creative Excellence.

Through her efforts, the Arnold House at Wright-Patterson AFB, which had declined into poor condition and was proposed for demolition, was instead substantially restored and converted into a Heritage Center for the base. Foulois House and Robins House were similarly preserved and memorialized. Working with the Environmental Management Office at WPAFB, she helped conduct a comprehensive inventory of historic and culturally significant sites at WPAFB and develop the Historic Resources Management Plan for the base. She contributed to many historic preservation publications published by and for Wright-Patterson, including several HABS/HAER recordation projects and studies.

While primarily responsible for preparing annual wing histories of the 2750th Air Base Wing, for four years she wrote an engineering and environmental chapter in the annual Air Force Logistics Command history. She was active in numerous Dayton area historical societies and committees. Living in a 100-year-old home in Alpha, Ohio, she developed a personal interest in historic preservation. She wrote a historic preservation

ordinance for the town, with county and state assistance, and helped organize an active homeowners association.

With the merger of Air Force Systems Command and Air Force Logistics Command in 1992, Mrs. Walker was selected to become the first Assistant for Field History in the new Air Force Materiel Command History Office. She provided support to 22 field offices and wrote the test and evaluation section of the annual Air Force Materiel Command history.

In 1994, Mrs. Walker took a management reassignment to become the Deputy Command Historian for United States Air Forces in Europe at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. In addition to writing force structure, engineering, quality of life, and personnel history for the office, she managed the Air Force Museum Program and Air Force Art Program for USAFE and administered the reserve affairs program for the command's field history offices. She helped direct USAFE's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, managing publication of an anniversary monograph on the subject and preparing displays for commemorative events at Rhein Main AB in Frankfurt and at Tempelhof Airport in Berlin. In 1998, Mrs. Walker transferred to the AF Civil Engineer Support Agency at Tyndall AFB, to become the Director of Professional Communications.

Mrs. Walker has received numerous awards, including the 1988 Dayton-area Federal Employee of the Year Award, a 50th Anniversary of the Air Force Pioneer Award for preserving and promoting the history of Wright-Patterson AFB, and the Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service Award. She served for many years as an advisor to the Women's International Air and Space Museum.