



## Indiana Historical Bureau

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# NEWS

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## **“Atterbury Army Air Field” state historical marker will be dedicated in Columbus, Indiana**

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for May 19, 2007. The state historical marker commemorating the Atterbury Army Air Field will be dedicated at the Jean Lewellen Norbeck Chapel, 2580 Grissom Avenue, Columbus at 11 A.M Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Atterbury Army Air Field”:

Construction begun summer 1942 under Captain Stratton O. Hammon, who used broad authority over laborers, suppliers, and railroad; base in use February 1943. More than 1,000 workers employed during construction. Base was over 2,000 acres, cost over four million dollars, and included more than one hundred buildings, intended to be temporary. WW II uses included training B-25, B-26, and glider pilots; by 1944, wounded from Europe received here for Wakeman Hospital. Wounded soldiers during Korean War received here. Renamed 1954 to honor Lt. John Bakalar. Base closed 1970. Original building made into chapel; restored and named for Women’s Air Service Pilot Jean Lewellen Norbeck 1990s.

Everyone is invited to attend this dedication for the Atterbury Army Air Field. The efforts of those who worked and trained at this institution, particularly during World War II and the Korean War, will be commemorated with this marker.

Historical markers commemorate significant Indiana individuals, places, and events, and they help communities throughout Indiana promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. Via the Internet, that history reaches a worldwide audience. For more than 90 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state.

For a digital version of this release and further information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau website at [www.IN.gov/history](http://www.IN.gov/history) or call 317-232-2537.

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