INTERNATIONAL FOREST OF FRIENDSHIP

2026 ISSUE



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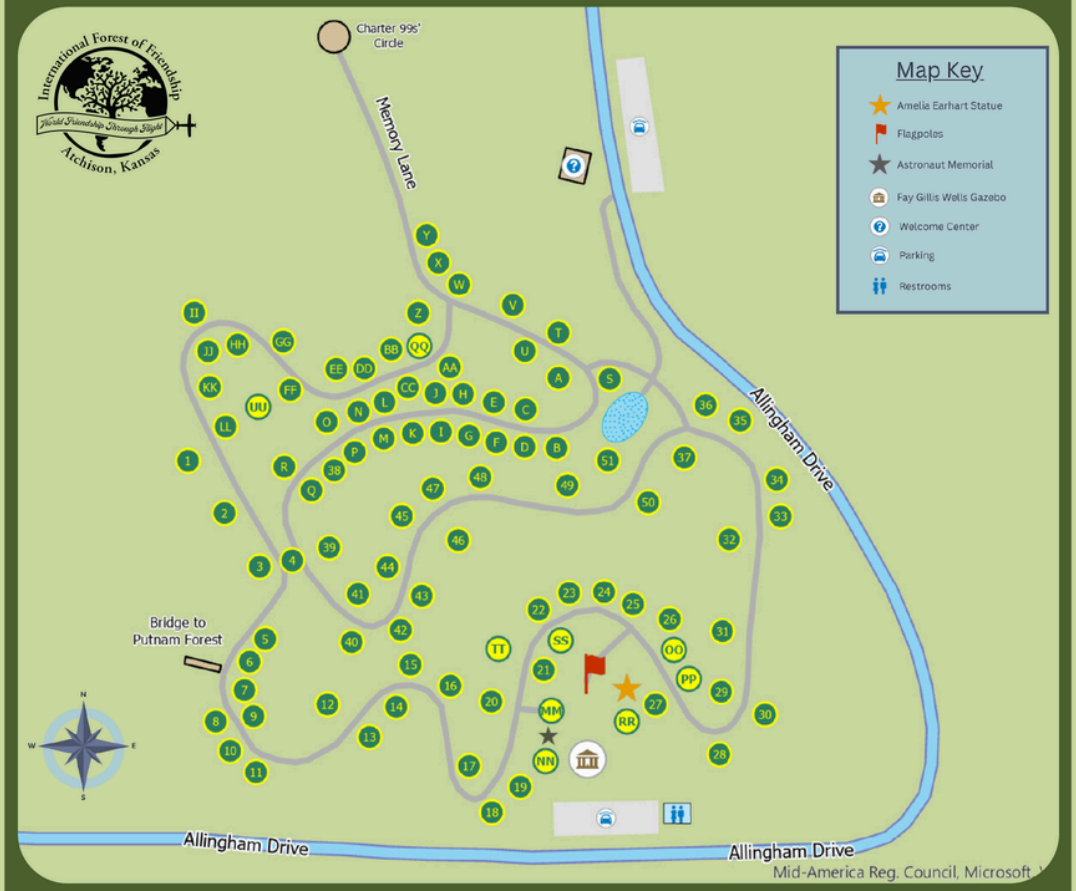
USA - 50 States

Map Code

Alabama	3	Sassafras
Alaska	51	Spruce
Arizona	22	Quaking Aspen
Arkansas	31	Shortleaf Pine
California	4	Redwood
Colorado	19	Colorado Blue Spruce
Connecticut	27	White Oak
Delaware	43	American Holly
Dist. of Columbia	25	Scarlet Oak
Florida	8	Bald Cypress
Georgia	9	Shingle Oak
Hawaii	1	Mimosa
Idaho	39	White Pine
Illinois	37	White Oak
Indiana	13	Tulip Tree
Iowa	35	Pin Oak
Kansas	49	Cottonwood
Kentucky	14	Coffee Tree
Louisiana	10	Bald Cypress
Maine	40	Eastern White Pine
Maryland	29	White Oak
Massachusetts	44	American Elm
Michigan	41	White Pine
Minnesota	20	Red Pine
Mississippi	17	Southern Magnolia
Missouri	7	Flowering Dogwood
Montana	28	Ponderosa Pine
Nebraska	50	Cottonwood
Nevada	38	Big Tooth Maple
New Hampshire	15	Paper Birch
New Jersey	36	Northern Red Oak
New Mexico	23	Willow Oak
New York	30	Sugar Maple
North Carolina	5	White Pine
North Dakota	26	American Elm
Ohio	42	Ohio Buckeye
Oklahoma	48	Red Bud
Oregon	33	Douglas Fir
Pennsylvania	32	Eastern Hemlock
Rhode Island	46	Red Maple
South Carolina	21	Magnolia
South Dakota	34	Black Hills Spruce
Tennessee	12	Tulip Tree
Texas	2	Pecan
Utah	47	Blue Spruce
Vermont	24	Sugar Maple
Virginia	6	Flowering Dogwood
Washington	45	Western Hemlock
West Virginia	16	Sugar Maple
Wisconsin	18	Sugar Maple
Wyoming	11	Cottonwood

USA – 50 States August 2026 Map Additions

The 99's, an international organization of women pilots with chapters across the world, joined the City of Atchison, with guidance from the Kansas Forest Service, in presenting this grove of trees to the United States of America on July 24, 1976. The International Forest of Friendship exemplifies Amelia Earhart's quote, "You haven't seen a tree until you've seen its shadow from the sky," and the 99's motto of "World Friendship through Flight."



Thank you for visiting!
Learn the story of the International Forest of Friendship.
Find activities for children, families, school groups.
Get information on the annual celebration.
If you like the Forest, click on the donation link!

Contact Info:
forestoffriendship@gmail.com - https://www.ifof.org - 913-367-1419
https://www.facebook.com/internationalforestoffriendship

Featured Countries

Map Code

Australia	QQ	Globe Locust
Bahamas	HH	Sweet Gum
Belgium	W	European Birch
Brazil	T	Catalpa
Brunei	N	Butterfly Magnolia
Canada	CC	Sugar Maple
China	B	Ginko
Egypt	C	Golden Rain Tree
Finland	J	Finland
France	FF	Apple
Germany	S	European Linden
Great Britain	A	English Oak
India	BB	Pistachio
Ireland	K	Hawthorne
Israel	LL	Judas Tree
Italy	AA	Lombardy PineHorse
Jamaica	KK	Chestnut Birotti
Japan	V	Katsura Cherry
Jordan	E	Red Maple
Korea	EE	Amur Cork Tree
Lebanon	PP	Big Tooth Maple
Mexico	O	Cottonwood
Morocco	GG	Wisteria
Netherlands	U	Linden
New Guinea	F	Klinki Pine
New Zealand	Y	Mountain Ash
Norway	II	Norway Spruce
Pakistan	H	Himalayan Cedar
Poland	D	Sawtooth Oak
Portugal	DD	Black Gum
Puerto Rico	Z	Smoke Tree
Siberia/Russia	G	Sourwood
Singapore	M	Ginko
South Africa	X	Persimmon
Spain	L	Crabapple
Surinam	I	Star Magnolia
Switzerland	R	Hornbeam
Turkey	JJ	Sweet Gum

Special Trees

Map Code

Moon Tree	MM	American Sycamore
Liberty Tree	NN	Catalpa
Grandpa Earhart Tree	OO	White Oak
America Tree	PP	American Spruce
Children's Tree	QQ	Pear Tree
Washington's Independence Tree	RR	Tulip Tree
Forest Service Tree	T&U	Bur Oak & White Oak
George & Marie Putname Tree	SS	Crapapple

Event Schedule

Friday, September 11, 2026

- 2-4:30 p.m. – Registration at the Cultural Center, 111North 8th Street Atchison, KS 66002.
  The Cultural Center is featuring "From Wings to Roots: The Story of the Forest"

- 6:30 p.m. – Registration check-in at the Cocktail Party.
  Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum, 16701 286th Road, Atchison KS 66002

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Events at the Forest

The approximate times for activities in the forest

- 10:00 a.m. – Parade of Flags followed by the Induction of Honorees and Children's Activities
- 11:45 a.m. – Planting of the DAR Liberty Tree
- 12:15 p.m. – Complimentary Picnic with the Pilots
- 12:30–2:30 p.m. – Fun in the Forest:
  Featuring music by Atchison Jazz
  Presentations by the Kansas Forest Service
  Kansas Cosmosphere
  Paper airplane contests

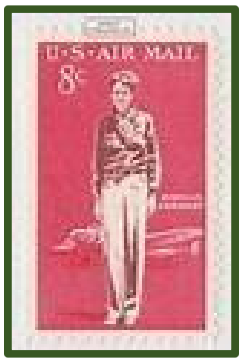
Saturday Evening – 50th Anniversary Gala

- 6:00 p.m. – Cocktail Hour
- 7:00 p.m. – 50th Anniversary Gala – Dinner & Program
  Atchison Event Center, 910 South Ninth Street, Atchison, Kansas



A Brief History of the International Forest of Friendship

The **International Forest of Friendship (IFOF)** is a living, growing memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace. It began in 1972 as the Ninety-Nines (the International Organization of Women Pilots) considered options for a gift to America on her 200th birthday in 1976. This developed into a multi-faceted 99s program called Bicentennial Star, with the Forest as its first point; Cleanup-BeautiFLYcation of America's general aviation airports/heliports as the second; Airmarking as the third; "See the USA" as the fourth, inviting international visitors to the country; and American's Heritage, represented by the International Women's Air and Space Museum, as the fifth.
Atchison was chosen for the Forest site since it was Amelia Earhart's birthplace (July 24, 1897).
Groundbreaking for the Forest was on July 24, 1973, with the symbolic planting of a Kansas cottonwood tree. It also was the 10th anniversary of the "First Flyaway" in 1963 when charter 99s celebrated the issuance of the Amelia



Earhart 8-cent airmail stamp by flying First Day Covers to key U.S. airports where other 99s were waiting to pick them up and continue the flights to state capitals. Commercial airlines took the covers to Europe and Asia. Coincident with the 1973 groundbreaking there was a "Second Flyaway" when 99s carried not only First Day Covers, but also cottonwood seedlings for planting ceremonies in every state capital. Also, to show the progress of women in aviation, two planes piloted by 99s carried the covers and seedlings internationally—one to Europe and one to Asia. Fay Gillis Wells, a 99s charter member and noted journalist, was chair of the Second Flyaway and the Bicentennial Star program. She appointed Mrs. Jerry B. Roberts of Camden, NJ to be the National 99s Coordinator for the Forest due to her close association with the Volnay G. Bennett Lumber Co of Camden.

Extensive work continued between 1973 and 1976. After the groundbreaking there were celebrations at the Forest each October, April and July. On October 29, 1974, the British Ambassador, Sir Peter Ramsbotham, planted the mighty British oak. In April 1975 a six-state, six stop relay flight brought the five-handled ceremonial shovel from America's oldest shovel factory (Ames, of West Virginia) for the symbolic planting of trees from Kansas and the contiguous states of Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado, and Oklahoma. In July 1975 the Deputy Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) was the honored guest when the layout of the paths was unveiled. Trees from all 50 states and 32 territories and foreign countries where there are 99s, were nurtured at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS and transplanted in 1975-76. The Forest became a joint contribution to the nation from the 99s, the City of Atchison, and Kansas State University, State and Extension Forestry. The 99s budgeted $50,000 for the project and raised funds.

In July 1976 the section of the Forest called Memory Lane was designated as the first National Recreation Trail in Kansas by the Department of the Interior. The Forest was dedicated on July 24, 1976. The ceremonies were preceded by a gala banquet on the 23rd at Benedictine College with a keynote address delivered by Ronald Evans, an astronaut in the same Apollo program in which Stuart Roosa had carried the seeds for the Moon Tree, an American Sycamore.

The ceremonies on the 24th began with a Parade of Flags by the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of Atchison, accompanied by representatives of the flags, starting a tradition that continues to this day. Atchison's Mayor, the Hon David R. Laurie, welcomed the attendees and the Governor of Kansas, the Hon Robert E. Bennett, made remarks. He was followed by the planting of the Moon Tree. The tree was planted using the "five-handled shovel." Fay Gillis Wells introduced Memory Lane, and the Forest was dedicated.









Joe Carrigan, who had been Chairman of Atchison's Bicentennial Commission and Fay Gillis Wells, became the Forest's co-General Chairmen. They served until their deaths in 1996 and 2002, respectively. Their sons, Pat Carrigan and Lin Wells, and families continue their dream of "**World friendship through flight**." Pat's daughter, Cindy Apple, and Lin serve as co-chairs today.

Fay Wells' vision became the heart and soul of the International Forest of Friendship. Inspired by the idea of creating a place where people from every nation could come together in peace, she reflected, *"I thought how wonderful it would be to establish some sort of international place right in the heartland of America—of equal distance from the two coasts. Trees seemed to be themost natural planting."* Through her leadership and unwavering belief in the power of aviation to unite people, the Forest grew into a living symbol of friendship spanning continents. Fay often described the Forest by imagining the roots of one tree reaching out to touch the roots of another, and then another, until they formed an unseen network of connections. With trees representing every U.S. state and nations around the world, she believed those intertwined roots reflected the enduring bonds of goodwill and understanding that transcend borders. Her vision continues to inspire visitors to recognize that, like the trees themselves, we are all stronger when we are connected.

The true strength of the International Forest of Friendship has always been its volunteers. While the trees, monuments, and pathways tell the story of the Forest, it is the countless individuals working behind the scenes and during annual celebrations who have brought that story to life. From the earliest years to today, volunteers have generously shared their time, talents, and hearts to ensure the Forest remains a welcoming place of reflection, friendship, and service.

Many familiar faces became cherished traditions during the annual Saturday festivities. The family of Hamer Dunn faithfully offered refreshments on warm summer mornings, providing hospitality to visitors and volunteers alike. Local youth proudly carried the flags of the nations represented in the Forest and delighted children while dressed as Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear, creating memories that generations of families continue to treasure. There are many volunteers throughout the 99s who also made each and every celebration special and meaningful. Arthur and Marjorie Anderson were true gems of the Forest and came every year with designs and inspirations for the weekend's decorations. For many years, Diane Liebsch has been a devoted volunteer and now serves as a member of the Board of Directors. Through her leadership of children's activities and educational programming, she has inspired a love for the Forest in both the very young and the young at heart.

No family has been more closely connected to the day-to-day care of the Forest than the Carrigan family. They were truly the "boots on the ground," planting and caring for trees, maintaining benches and pathways, greeting visitors, and ensuring the Forest remained a place of beauty and hospitality. Their quiet, consistent dedication reflected the vision that Joe Carrigan had for the Forest, that it would always be cared for with the same spirit of friendship in which it was founded.

Among the Forest's most dedicated volunteers is Leonard Buddenbohm, who was invited by Joe Carrigan to become involved in 1977. What began as a willingness to help soon became decades of extraordinary service. Leonard generously provided pro bono legal counsel to the Forest, later served as co-chair following Pat Carrigan, and oversaw several transformational projects. He managed the construction of the Forest's restroom facilities, made possible through the generosity of the George Putnam Trust, and secured and administered two Kansas Trails grants that funded 80 percent of the complete replacement of the Forest's concrete pathways in preparation for the 50th Anniversary celebration.

Joe Carrigan's own commitment extended far beyond his leadership, as he donated office space exclusively for the Forest's operations. That office became the home base for another remarkable volunteer, Kay Baker. After Betty Wallace invited her to help sell tickets during an induction ceremony, Kay quickly discovered a passion for the Forest that would last more than twenty years. Following Betty's passing, Kay assumed many of the responsibilities that kept the organization running smoothly. She volunteered in the office nearly every day, working alongside Pat Carrigan to prepare induction materials, organize countless details, and ensure every visitor, honoree, and volunteer felt welcomed and appreciated.

Many 99s also have volunteered at the Forest over the years. Early on, many of the charter members participated actively, as did representatives of international chapters. Irene Wirtschafter came to Atchison to help Fay for many years and donated the Forest's water fountain. Past presidents such as Lois Feigenbaum, Beverley Sharp and Elaine Morrow provided welcome support, and we've greatly appreciated the insights and coordination from our 99s liaison officers. We value our relationship with the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum. Since the Forest Board of Directors was set up, 99s have been represented on it.

These stories represent only a small number of the hundreds of volunteers who have quietly shaped the International Forest of Friendship over the past five decades. Whether planting trees, preparing ceremonies, welcoming guests, leading children's activities, maintaining the grounds, or serving behind the scenes, each volunteer has helped nurture not only a forest of trees, but a living legacy of peace, friendship, and service that continues to flourish today.



Forty-two honorees were inducted in 1976, followed by 69 in 1978 after no ceremonies in 1977. Honorees have been inducted every year since, with the largest single year being 1987 with 66. 1,000 honorees were reached in 1999, and 1,500 in 2017. With this year's inductees the total will exceed 1,700.

Winding through the Forest are pathways honoring those who have, and often still are, contributing to all facets of aviation and aerospace. Now shaded by fifty years of forest growth, the concrete also was completely redone in 2025 through a generous grant from the state of Kansas. Extending from the regular walkways, Memory Lane leads to a secluded circle of benches among a grove of trees. All the Forest's walkways are five feet wide (wheelchair friendly). Adjacent to the pathways are granite markers commemorating the honorees. These include such aviation notables as Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, Jeana Yeager, the Wright Brothers, Sally Ride, Chuck Yeager, General "Jimmy" Doolittle, and Col Eileen M. Collins, as well as many others.



Although the Forest's overall layout has remained largely unchanged since its dedication in 1976, it has continued to grow in both beauty and significance. As the trees have matured, they have transformed the landscape into an even more peaceful and inspiring setting. Benches and water fountains have been added along the pathways to enhance visitors' experiences, while several commemorative trees have expanded the Forest's story. These include the Bicentennial American Spruce, trees from George Washington's Mount Vernon estate and Amelia Earhart's grandfather's farm, and a tree honoring Kansas State Foresters.









Additional memorials have further enriched the Forest. A tree honors Amelia Earhart's stepson, George Palmer Putnam, Jr., and his wife, Marie, in recognition of their generous support. Five additional countries are now represented within the Forest, further strengthening its mission of international friendship. The Moon Tree has grown as a living tribute to the astronauts who gave their lives during America's pioneering exploration of space through 2001, and in 2003 a monument was dedicated nearby to the seven astronauts lost aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. The Forest has also added meaningful gathering places and tributes to those whose vision shaped its legacy. In 1991, a beautiful gazebo was dedicated to Fay Gillis Wells in recognition of her outstanding leadership of the Forest. A serene pond and waterfall honor founding co-chairman Joe Carrigan for his many contributions, while a life-sized statue of Amelia Earhart stands nearby as a lasting reminder of her enduring legacy. The addition of much-needed restroom facilities has also made the Forest more welcoming for visitors and has supported its growing role as a venue for weddings, ceremonies, and other special events.

In 2005 the Putnam's donated land adjacent to the Forest which more than doubled its original size. This addition has now become the George P. and Marie Putnam Forest which is connected to the IFOF pathways by a bridge. Together, the International Forest of Friendship and the Putnam Forest total about 35 acres. The Amelia Earhart Earthworks by Stan Herd and the Warnock Lake picnic grounds are nearby.

In sum, the International Forest of Friendship continues to be a living, growing, memorial that enthusiastically looks forward to the next fifty years. Please come and visit.

Lin Wells and Cindy Apple



Guest Speaker

Carol Foy



Carol Foy of Spicewood, Texas,flies fast and far. Her aviation passion began in 1989 when her late husband, Northwest pilot Bob, brought home their Mooney. Deciding sheshould at least learn how to land, but a few lessons later, Carol was hooked. Within two years of earning her private pilot certificate, she'd added commercial, instrument, and multi-engine ratings, embracing every challenge the skies offered.

In 1992, Carol entered her first Air Race Classic, the renowned all-women's cross-country race. A competitive spark was kindled, culminating in ARC 6's 2006 victory over the demanding 2,478-mile course. Her flying journey soared: she became a floatplane, a glider, and a ferry pilot and by 2004, a flight instructor with multi-engine and instrument credentials. She also served her Ninety-Nines chapter as Secretary, Treasurer, Air-marking and Chapter Chair, all leading her away from her career as a landscape architect.

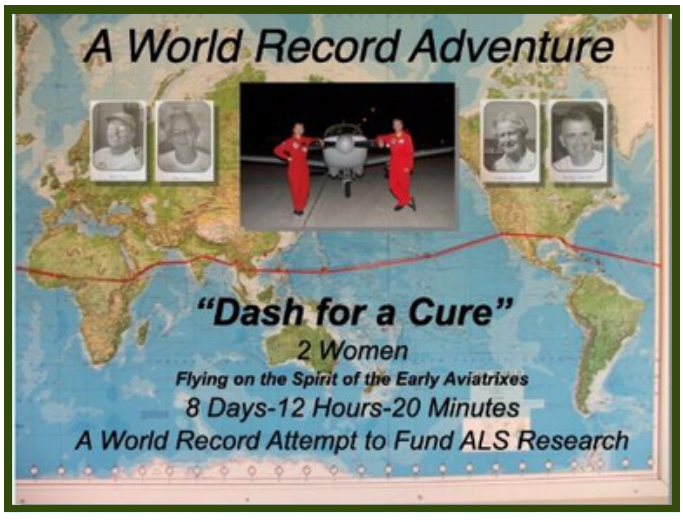
In 2007, fellow Mooney pilot Carol Ann Garratt invited her to attempt an around-the-world speed record to raise funds for ALS. Carol accepted, embarking on a year of meticulous planning and an eight-day, twelve-hour circumnavigation completed on December 11, 2008. Their world speed record still stands, and their effort has raised over $500,000 for ALS research. The "Dash for A Cure" is chronicled in the available book, Upon Silver Wings II.



A world flight is never a solo endeavor. It's built initially on enduring friendships, strengthened by new bonds forged a long the route, and shared with those inspired by the journey.Carolholdsadeepbeliefin the global aviator community that shrinks the world through connection. Today, she flies right seat on a Phenom 100 for the State of Texas, travels widely in her Mooney, supports Pilots N' Paws, and keeps a sketchbook close—another kind of logbook filled with global memories and friendships.







Guest Speaker

Kirk Pierce



Lieutenant General (ret) Kirk “Tick” Pierce founded RivaONE LLC in the springof 2023 after 35 years of distinguished Air Force service. Kirk leverages his expertise in strategy development, operational command, and national security affairs to deliver innovative solutions to complex problem sets. He has commanded at the Squadron, Group, Wing, and Numbered Air Force level. Kirk is Chair of the Civil Air Patrol Board of Governors, a member of Skydio’s National Security Board of Advisors, and a United Airlines 787 pilot.

Prior to retirement, Kirk was the Commander of First Air Force (U.S. Air Forces Northern & U.S. Air Forces Space) and the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region (CONR). As the Joint Force Air Component Commander, he was responsible for planning and conducting air defense and air sovereignty operations in the continental U.S. while supporting the deployment, sustainment, and redeployment, of U.S. Air Forces in support of USNORTHCOM and USSPACECOM. Kirk led the formation of the U.S. Air Forces newest service component command, U.S. Air Forces Space (AFSPACE), and was responsible for training and leading joint forces in search and rescue, recovery, and contingency support operations for NASA’s human space flight programs.



As the Deputy Director of the Air National Guard, he assisted in formulating, developing, and coordinating all policies, plans, and programs affecting more than 107,700 airman and civilians in more than 1800 units. As the NORAD Deputy Director of Operations, Kirk directed all facets of aerospace defense, including missile warning, air attack warning, and maritime warning. Moreover, he was tasked with developing, integrating, and deploying counter small unmanned aerial systems (C-sUAS) to include a national command and control architecture. As the ANG’s Director of Operations, Senior Intelligence Officer (SIO), and Chief Information Officer (CIO), he was responsible for operations, governance, policy implementation and execution across Air, Space, Cyber, ISR, Information Technology, and nuclear mission sets while leading over 450 personnel within 11 Divisions. While serving as Senior Military Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense-Policy for Force Development and Strategy, Kirk was lead proponent for Services capabilities and requirements in the Quadrennial Defense Review, Joint force Development in Defense Planning Guidance and represented OSD Policy in the Program and Budget Review (PBR) process with an emphasis on Air Force programs, joint force ISR, and Pacific theater comprehensive resiliency. Lt Gen (ret) Pierce graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and from the National War College with a M.S. in National Security Strategy. He is a fighter pilot with over 4900 hours predominantly in the F-15, F-16 and T-38, including 71 combat missions, and continues to fly the Boeing 787 as a commercial airline pilot.



2026 Honorees

Sandra L. Allmon Anderson



Sandy Allmon Anderson was the only airline mentor that I had; not just the only female. We had been fellow motorcyclists and safety nerds for several years before she decided to add to her flying resumé and pursue airline flying as a career. Prior to flying, Sandy completed a degree in Art Education with minors in music and physical education from Texas Woman's University, TWU. During her flying career she added a Master of Human Resources and Organization Development from American University.

Over her career Sandy flew most of the Boeing fleet of aircraft and dearly loved the "Whale," the 747-400. She was the second woman hired by Northwest Airlines and became their first female Captain Instructor/Check Pilot, later becoming the first female Fleet Check Captain of all the U.S. passenger airlines, and finally was named an Assistant Chief Pilot—Flight Manager, the first woman pilot to hold this position at Northwest Airlines, of any other major U.S. airline.

For many of the women airline pilots both present today and throughout the world, Sandy's personal contributions to their progressions to airliner flight decks was invaluable. Not only did she help found Women in Aviation, International (WAI) and create their Endowment Fund, she also played significant roles in the International Society of Women Airline Pilots (ISA), and many other organizations. She was a major instigator for creating the WAI Jazz Band and the golf events.

Over the years she mentored literally thousands of us that will be forever grateful for her support, advice, and friendship. We are delighted to sponsor Sandy into the Forest of Friendship: Becky Howell, Suzanne Skeeters, Keith Johnson, Kathleen Malone, Maria Haddad, and Tracy Leonard.

Captain Cynthia Axell



Cynthia Axell entered the United States Coast Guard in 1983. In 1985, she completed Naval Flight Training with honors, earning a place on the Commodore's List with distinction. As the first female pilot assigned to Group/Air Station Cape May, NJ, she flew HH-52A Sikorsky Seaguard amphibious helicopters before transitioning to the HH-65A Aerospatiale Dauphin. As an Aircraft Commander/Senior Duty Officer, she directed the USCG response to fisheries and customs violations, distress calls and maritime disasters. Serving as Communications Officer, she also ran the group Communications Center.

Cynthia earned both Sikorsky and Aerospatiale Rescue awards for participating in numerous life-saving rescue missions. She was then assigned as the first female Coast Guard pilot ever to serve as a Navy Flight Instructor at VT-3, NAS Whiting Field, she became a Standardization pilot in Familiarization, Basic/Advanced Instruments, and Precision Aerobatics in the T-34C. She served as Flight Leader and Post-Maintenance Functional Check Pilot while earning two coveted CNATRA(Chief of Naval Air Training) Safety Flying Pro awards. Hired by American Airlines in 1992, Cynthia worked as Flight Engineer on the B-727before furlough in 1994. United Airlines hired her in 1995, and over the next 28 years, she moved from the B-747 Flight Engineer to First Officer in the B-737, 757/767(where she was awarded United Airlines '757/767 First Officer of the Year award), before upgrading to Captain on the B-737 and 777. She simultaneously served as Reservist USCG Group Miami Operations Duty Officer and Assistant to the Chief of Search and Rescue, Fourteenth Coast Guard District, Honolulu, Hawaii. After 'retirement', she worked as an Aviation Safety Inspector for the FAA in the Jet Blue CMO (Certificate Management Office) until 2026. Cynthia has been a Whirly Girl and AOPA member since 1985. She joined the Ninety-Nines in 2013 and served as Chair, Old Dominion Chapter from 2024-2026 and continues as the chapter's Amelia Earhart Scholarship Chair.

Cathy Babis Greater St. Louis Chapter 99



Cathy Babis has 56 years of aviation experience including: ten years as an air traffic controller (civil and military), accelerated test prep ground instructor for all FAA pilot written exams, Chief Flight Instructor for two FAA Part 141 flight schools, weather observer, aviation instrument map maker for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, a degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and six years of service in the US Army. She actively promotes aviation through STEM education and mentoring.

After retiring in 2018, she taught a one-week aviation summer camp for middle school students at a local technical college for three years. Cathy also volunteers at Wings of Hope, focusing on their twice-yearly SOAR into STEM program for high school students, serving as a subject matter expert and speaker on navigation and communication and as a mentor. She has taken her STEM message to Aviation Explorers, local high school and college programs, and community groups.

Cathy is new to seaplane flying, earning her commercial pilot seaplane certificate in September of 2020 with the Missouri River as her water runway near her home in St. Louis, MO, USA. In a 2024 historic flight, she became the first female seaplane pilot to circumnavigate mainland Australia in a seaplane. During media appearances, she focused on the need for diversity in aviation careers hoping to inspire women, from young girls selecting a career to older women who may have put their flying dreams aside, to join the aviation community. Cathy says, “We believe that every barrier is meant to be broken. It's an honor to celebrate the circumnavigation’s 100th anniversary paying tribute to the pioneers who paved the way for us, while achieving a new first for female pilots." Promoting STEM education and increased diversity in aviation careers have been her passion for decades.

Barbara Barrett



As a college student, Barbara Barrett flew to Spain in 1969 on TWA. Back then passengers were allowed to visit the cockpit during flight. Instantly, she fell in love with flying. The day after returning to the US, she started flight lessons. Six weeks later she earned her Private Pilot Certificate. While attending the University of Buffalo she was a flight instructor and flew copilot for various corporations on an as-needed basis. At night she flew the US Mail in Twin Beech airplanes between Buffalo and New York’s Laguardia Airport. In addition to flying, she had to load and unload two thousand pounds of mail at each stop.

in October 1972, Barbara, age 22 was hired by Zantop International Airlines in Ypsilanti, Michigan as the first woman pilot. She was a First Officer on the 4 engine DC-6s and flew freight to automotive plants, delivering car parts in the middle of the night to prevent assembly lines from shutting down. That year she was presented the Amelia Earhart Award and was named “Woman Pilot of the Year” at the conclusion of the Michigan Small Race in Alpena. Barbara was a recipient of the prestigious “Man of the Hour” award from the National Aviation Club in Washington DC and was recognized in the Congressional Record.

Making history again, Barbara also became the first woman pilot for Eastern Airlines in April 1973. She was hired as a Second Officer (Flight Engineer) on the Boeing 727. She became a 727 Check Flight Engineer, training new hires and completing annual simulator proficiency checks. Before Eastern Airlines shutdown, she became a 727 First Officer in 1982.

Barbara has three sons; the oldest is an airline pilot. She has thirteen grandchildren and hopes one will become a third-generation pilot.

Captain Jeannie Batto



Captain Jeannie Batto was born and raised in Napa, California, where she grew up on her family's prune ranch. Her passion for aviation began at age 14 during her first glider lesson, sparking a lifelong love of flight.

She started her flight training at Napa County Airport and earned her private pilot certificate at 18. After high school, Jeannie attended Solano Community College at Nut Tree Airport in Vacaville, where she earned her Airframe and Powerplant mechanic's certificate. During this time, she also obtained her Instrument, Commercial, and Certified Flight Instructor ratings. She later completed her bachelor's degree through Southern Illinois University's extension program at Travis Air Force Base.

Jeannie began her professional career with American Eagle, where she rose to captain. She then joined United Parcel Service, starting as a Flight Engineer on the Boeing 727, and upgraded to First Officer. Over a distinguished 20-year career, she transitioned to Captain on both the Boeing 767 and McDonnell Douglas MD-11, while based in Louisville, Kentucky. As an international captain, she embraced global aviation, logging over 15,000 flight hours in 80 types of aircraft.

In early 2025, Jeannie was diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain tumor. She faced her illness with courage, strength, and resilience, reflecting the determination that defined her life. Jeannie flew west at her home in Madison, Indiana, on May 2, 2025.

Jeannie was a proud member and active volunteer in Tri Kappa, the Ninety-Nines, Women in Aviation, and the International Society of Women Airline Pilots. A dedicated mentor and advocate, she inspired countless aspiring aviators. Known for her honesty, character, and spirit, she leaves a lasting legacy of passion, perseverance, and achievement that continues to inspire all who knew her. We marvel at all she accomplished in her 51 short years.



Capt. Tammy S. Blakey

Tammy's aviation path began when her father, offered her the opportunity to get her private pilot certificate at age 16, in 1976 in a Cessna 152 at Boeing Field in Seattle, WA. By age 21, Tammy had 1500 hours and qualified for her ATP certificate, issued on her 23rd birthday. She built her flight time as a corporate pilot flying passengers such as Bill Boeing Jr. and Senator Henry M. Jackson. Tammy was hired by Continental Airlines in January 1984, as a B727 Flight Engineer in Denver. She signed her first flight release as a captain on July 17, 1987, at 27 years old.

In December 1989, Tammy became the first female Airbus 300 captain in the world. It was at that time she encountered horrific sexual harassment and a hostile work environment. Continental Airlines, therefore; she filed a lawsuit in the Federal Court of New Jersey, Captain Tammy Blakey v. Continental Airlines. While waiting for three years for the jury trial, she gave birth to her daughter Alexis, in 1994. A unanimous verdict after a six-week trial in 1997, upholding her claim. Thus, Tammy Blakey's significant contribution to aviation resulted when she faced the rampant discrimination on the male dominated flight deck. Her career spanned flying the B727, DC10, A300, B737, B777 and the B787. Continental Airlines merged with United in 2012, and in 2013 Tammy became the first female line captain on the B787 in North America.

Tammy flew her final flight from San Francisco to Newark on July 31, 2024, with three generations of her family on board and savored the water cannon salute for 40 years and eight months of commercial airline service.

Liz Booker, Literary Aviatrix



Liz Booker is a retired U.S. Coast Guard Commander, helicopter pilot, foreign diplomat, and writer whose work lives at the intersection of aviation, storytelling, and community.

During her 28-year Coast Guard career, Liz flew the H-65 Dolphin helicopter on search and rescue, law enforcement, and humanitarian missions throughout the Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific. She served in key leadership roles, including managing pilot assignments for the Coast Guard's aviation workforce and coordinating multinational counternarcotics operations at Joint Interagency Task Force South. Her final assignment took her into diplomacy as the U.S. Senior Defense Official to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, where she worked alongside ambassadors and regional leaders across seven island nations. Liz' experiences advocating for women in Coast Guard aviation inspired her to pursue a higher mission when she retired in 2019: changing who sees themselves in aviation. What began as a small online book club in 2020 evolved into the Literary Aviatrix brand—a growing platform that includes a website, podcast, YouTube channel, and writers' community dedicated to amplifying the stories of women in aviation. Through interviews, events, and mentorship, she has helped build a network where readers and writers connect, collaborate, and find their voices.

Liz holds commercial pilot ratings in both fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, along with degrees from American Military University, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and Vermont College of Fine Arts. She continues to fly for joy—and for research—as she crafts fiction and develops a college-level history of women in aviation.

In the aircraft and on the page, Liz is committed to ensuring that the next generation can see themselves in the stories we tell about flight—and feel invited to write their own.

Carol Fries Caywood



CarolAnn Fries Caywood, born March 18, 1935, has lived a life defined by curiosity, service, and the courage to embrace new horizons at any age. Raised in the neighborhood of Park Hills in Covington, Kentucky, she graduated from Beechwood High School in 1952, studied at Centre College, and earned her degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1956. She began her career as a dedicated educator in Kenton County, Kentucky, shaping young minds with patience and care.

In 1959, she married James A. Caywood and began a life of family and community that would span from Catonsville, Maryland, to Montgomery, Alabama, and back to Maryland, where she now resides in Frederick. As the mother of five children; Beverly, James IV, Dan, Beth, and Lin. Carol built a legacy grounded in resilience, compassion, and quiet determination.

In the early 2000s, Carol discovered a new passion in aviation. What began as volunteer service at the Air Race Classic in Frederick grew into a remarkable personal journey. In 2013, she became a Sport Student Pilot, learning to fly later in life so she could compete in the race alongside her daughter, Lin in 2016. She also joined The Ninety-Nines in 2013 and remains an active member of the Sugarloaf Chapter, attending meetings, conventions, and continuing her spirit of service.

Today, Carol co-owns a Cessna 182 with Lin, symbolizing not only her love of aviation but her belief that it is never too late to chase a dream.

Her life reflects the very spirit honored by the International Forest of Friendship—a celebration of courage, connection, and enduring inspiration.



Cheryl Ann Daml

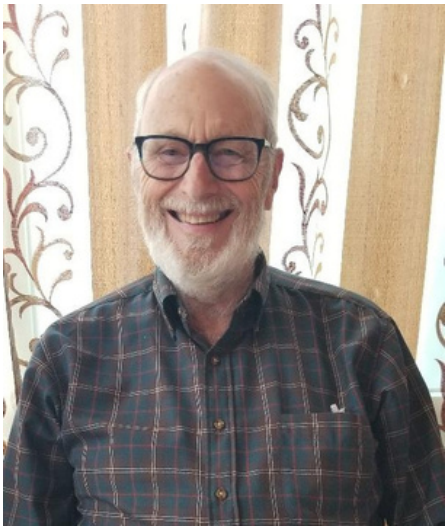
Cheryl Ann Daml was interested in outer space and space travel. While working as a first-grade teacher, she took an aerospace activities class for elementary teachers. A demo flight in a Cessna 152 hooked her on flying. Cheryl entered the world of general aviation as a student pilot in 1992 and earned her Private Pilot license in 1993 at the Anoka County Blaine (KANE) Airport in Minnesota. Over the next few years, she earned Instrument, Commercial, CFI, and CFII ratings and certificates.

After retiring in 2011 from teaching first grade, flight instructing has become a rewarding second career. Since she began instructing in 2000, Cheryl has given over 100 practical test recommendations and worked with hundreds of pilots. Cheryl has had a major impact on aviation in Minnesota, writing and presenting aviation seminars at events like GMAG (Great Minnesota Aviation Gathering), EAA chapter meetings, flying club events, and 99s meetings. She has volunteered and conducted activities at Girls in Aviation Day where over 1,000 girls and families attend.

Since joining the Ninety-Nines in 2013, Cheryl has assumed leadership roles at the Chapter and Section levels and is currently the Minnesota Chapter Chair. She coordinates monthly activities for the Minnesota 99s, such as visiting museums, air shows, airmarkings, and presentations by aviation experts. Cheryl has found The 99s to be full of inspirational women who are willing to mentor and support others in their journeys of flight and is thankful for the valued friendships she has made within the organization.

Cheryl serves on the board and volunteers for a non-profit organization called Tree of Hope which collects toys for children who are hospitalized during the holiday season in 40 Minnesota hospitals and all Ronald McDonald Houses.

Alan Davis



Alan C.Davis has devoted a lifetime to aviation as a pilot, educator, and mentor. His passion for flying began at age 11 with his first airplane ride in a Luscombe at the airport in Strongsville, Ohio, inspiring him to earn his pilot certificate in 1967. After completing an intensive nine-month program at National Aviation Academy, he earned private, commercial, instrument, multi-engine, and flight instructor ratings, along with DC-6 ground school and flight engineer written qualifications.

His professional flying career began at the University of Illinois Institute of Aviation as a flight instructor and Staff Air Transport pilot, followed by joining TWA in October 1969 as a Boeing 707 and 727 Flight Engineer. He also flew as a corporate pilot.

Alan has combined his aviation experience with a lifelong commitment to education. He served as an Academic Flight Specialist and Boeing 727 Simulator Instructor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Director of Aviation Programs at Cochise College, and later Director of Training and Quality Assurance for Integrated Airline Services. A founding member and former board member of the Society of Aviation and Flight Educators (SAFE), he developed the SAFE Resource Center, has been recognized as the first Master CFI Emeritus, is an FAA Gold Seal Flight Instructor, and was 2009 FAASTeam Representative of the Year for the Denver FSDO/Northwest Mountain Region.

He was awarded the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award in 2018. Holding BS, MA, and MBA degrees, he has logged more than 3,200 pilot hours and 2,200 flight engineer hours. Alan credits his accomplishments to the unwavering support of his wife and daughters that made his aviation career possible. He's proud to have inspired his oldest daughter who is also a pilot. Alan remains passionate about mentoring pilots, especially aspiring flight instructors and those seeking advanced proficiency.

JoAnn Dawson



JoAnnDawson's love of aviation began at the age of five, though life first led her to raising two daughters before pursuing her lifelong dream of flight. At age 46, she began flying and earned her private pilot certificate in September 2001, launching a journey marked by service, mentorship, and an enduring passion for aviation.

JoAnn went on to earn her instrument and commercial ratings, as well as her Advanced Ground Instructor Certification. Driven by a love of learning and adventure, she pursued seaplane training in Alaska and completed Mountain Flying and High Elevation Airport Operations training in Colorado. She also served with the Civil Air Patrol, flying the Cessna 182 in support of its mission.

Soon after becoming a pilot, JoAnn purchased a 1959 Cessna 150 and became deeply involved in her local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter, volunteering with Young Eagles whenever possible to introduce young people to aviation. As chapter president for two years, she helped host a Louisiana Fly-In Series event and created "Bald Eagle Day," an event pairing members and spouses without aircraft with member pilots with aircraft for a memorable day of flying and fellowship. She also brought renowned aerobatic pilot Greg Koontz to her chapter to conduct aircraft upset training for fellow aviators.

Since joining the NOLA Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, JoAnn has generously shared her talents and time by designing the chapter logo and graphics for the Southeast Section, teaching airport ground operations at Aviation Career Exploration camp, volunteering at Let's Fly Now events, and mentoring new pilots, especially women in aviation.

Known for her remarkable spirit of service, JoAnn has never hesitated to help an aviator in need. Aviation is stronger because of individuals like JoAnn, whose quiet generosity, mentorship, and unwavering support continue to inspire those around her.

Melissa Day



Melissa Day is a distinguished leader, commercial aviator, and military officer whose career embodies the trailblazing legacy of the Ninety-Nines. A multi-rated pilot with airplane ATP with multiple ratings, Single Engine Sea, and helicopter qualifications, Melissa's life is defined by service to her country and community.

Melissa currently serves as a Captain for American Airlines, commanding the Airbus A320 after a successful career flying the E145 and E175 for Envoy Air. On the military side, began her flying career in the UH-60 Blackhawk with the Louisiana Army National Guard, where she was an Air Assault pilot-in-command, deploying to Iraq, Kuwait, and Turkey. With a particular passion for giving back to her community, she executed critical domestic emergency missions—from sling-loading giant sandbags to repair breached levees, to dropping hay bales to stranded livestock and recycling Christmas trees to rebuild coastal wetlands. She then transferred to the Air Force Reserve Command as a Combat Search and Rescue pilot on the HH-60 Pave Hawk, before finally transitioning to the C-130J, where she will fly with the legendary "Hurricane Hunters" at Keesler Air Force Base.

A passionate advocate for women in aviation, Melissa leverages her diverse background to lift others. She has held vital leadership roles within Whirly-Girls International and deeply invests in her local New Orleans Ninety-Nines chapter. Through the "Let's Fly Now!" initiatives, proactive mentoring, and local outreach, she introduces young women to the flight deck.

Melissa extends her commitment to service beyond the sky. As a PADI-certified Dive Master, she volunteers in marine conservation and rescue through the Audubon Institute. Based in New Orleans with her husband, John, Melissa's induction into the International Forest of Friendship honors a lifetime of extraordinary aviation excellence, humanitarian service, and unwavering devotion to mentoring the next generation of pilots.

Sandy and Bob Denton



Sandra "Sandy" S. Denton (1948–2023) and Robert "Bob" A. Denton (1946–2023) shared a lifelong love of aviation, family, community, and service. Their lives reflected a remarkable partnership built on adventure, achievement, generosity, and a deep commitment to others.

Sandy, an educator and aviator, was raised in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, and enjoyed a meaningful career teaching English in Detroit Public Schools, where she encouraged generations of students to find their voice and confidence. She discovered aviation through the flying club at Wayne State University, where she met Bob. Sandy became a member of The Ninety-Nines in 2013 and served as Chair of the Michigan Chapter in 2018. Known for her warmth and enthusiasm, she brought people together, encouraged others to pursue aviation, and made everyone feel valued.

Bob, an engineer, entrepreneur, and dedicated pilot, studied impact science at Wayne State University and developed a career focused on improving transportation safety. In 1974, he founded Robert A. Denton, Inc. in Detroit, pioneering precision sensors that greatly improved the accuracy of crash test dummies. His innovations were adopted throughout the automotive, aerospace, and defense industries, helping make transportation safer and saving lives worldwide.

Together, Sandy and Bob raised three sons in Rochester, Michigan, while sharing their passion for flying and spending time at their homes in Clare and Williamsburg. Later in life, they supported aviation activities at Traverse City Airport, including education, youth programs, and EAA gatherings at their hangars. They welcomed fellow aviators, shared their knowledge, and created lasting friendships through their generosity and hospitality.

Sandy and Bob were devoted spouses, parents, friends, mentors, and members of the aviation community. Their lives demonstrated how passion for flight can inspire friendship, innovation, leadership, and service. Their legacy continues through the people they encouraged, the lives Bob helped make safer, and the aviation community they loved.

Elizabeth Crowley Dinan



What 8-year-old girl begs her dad to have a flight in a private plane for her birthday? Elizabeth Dinan, that's who and her passion has never wavered. Fast forward through 9 years dreaming of flying but settling for making model airplanes. Now Elizabeth negotiated with her mother. The only career Liz wanted was flying. Mom countered that if she would stay in school, her flying lessons would be paid for. Both women won: Liz was the only female in aeronautics at Glendale City College AND studied flying at Grand Central Airport in Glendale.

April 28, 1958 with her private pilot's license, she joined the 99's at Burbank Airport. With the 99's support she earned her Commercial license and multi-engine rating. But her loves remained teaching and racing. Earning her CFI in 1979, she taught clients in Van Nuys and in addition donated time to teach seven Wing Scouts (flying Girl Scouts). All seven soloed, 3 got their pilot's licenses, and one flew with Continental. Liz taught in Van Nuys and Santa Monica, and in San Luis Obispo after moving there with husband and daughter in 1990. Not active teaching any longer, she retains her CFI and is a Life Member of 99's, attending monthly meetings.

Liz participated in 51 races including three All-Woman Transcontinental Air Races, the Air Race Classic, 6 International Air Race Angel Derby's, 25 of the Original Palms to Pines and the first Annual Woman Baja California Air Race.

Dinan was part of the pioneering generation of female flight instructors who trained the next wave of civil pilots while actively keeping women's competitive air racing alive through the 2000s. With over 8000 pilot hours, she remains connected to the aviation community, sharing wisdom with other 99's and EAA members.

Elise Eberwein



Elise Eberwein exemplifies visionary leadership and an unwavering commitment to the aviation community. Beginning her career as a flight attendant with Trans World Airlines over 35 years ago, her passion for the aviation world evolved into a distinguished executive trajectory, filled with countless marks of brilliance.

While balancing the demands of her flight attendant schedule, she completed her bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and later completed a master's degree in Business Administration demonstrating an unwavering dedication to personal and professional development. Throughout her career at TWA, she continued to flourish and held several leadership positions.

Elise held key leadership roles at Western Pacific Airlines, Frontier Airlines, America West Airlines, US Airways, and American Airlines. Renowned for her "people-first" leadership philosophy, Elise championed initiatives that strengthened the workplace culture by fostering diversity, inclusion, and the expansion of employee benefits.

From 2013 to 2022, she was the Executive Vice President of People and Communications at American Airlines. Upon retiring from American Airlines, an annual scholarship was launched by the airline to honor her inspiring career, with a $1 million commitment over the next 10 years for aspiring aviators to attend the American Airlines Cadet Academy. Her impact is not measured solely in job titles or accomplishments, but in the futures of others she has helped shape. Each recipient carries forward a piece of her legacy into their own aviation careers.

Elise Eberwein's legacy is defined by a profound investment in leadership, compassion, and lasting influence making her an impeccable and deserving honoree for the International Forest of Friendship.

Sue Feigenbaum Ackley



Sue sat in the back of the plane while her mother, Lois Feigenbaum, was taking her 3rd lesson, and fell in love with the sky, and asked to take lessons. Sue took her first lesson at 15, soloed at 16, and received her private pilot's license at 18. While in college at the University of Southern Mississippi, after she completed her first year, Sue asked her parents if she could take the family's Twin Engine Plane to college during football season. Her father, Bob, looked at Lois, expecting a "NO WAY" answer, and Lois said…I think that is fine with me! Sue later asked for a car, but both parents said NO, this is TOO dangerous!

In 1971 Sue & Lois flew the Powder Puff Derby as a Mother/Daughter team. Sue helped with NIFA judging, was Chapter Chairman of the Cape Girardeau Chapter, went to the first Ninety-Nine trip to India, after India became a new section and Chartered by Ninety-Nines Lois Feigenbaum. "Sue was pleased when she was contacted by Nivideta Bhasin and asked to attend the 2025 India Conclave; the 50th year charter. Sue said, "ABSOLUTELY, it is my pleasure".

Sue has been a Ninety-Nines member 59 years, married to an Ozark, TWA, American Airlines pilot. She continues to enjoy the 99s. Sue has a warm spot for the AEBM, as she remembers spending a lot of time there with her mother, Lois Fegenbaum and another 99 President, Marilyn Copeland choose wallpaper, furniture, working on the fundraising of the bricks, & so much more.

Sue and her dad, Bob, donated money in Lois' honor after her death, and both had a lot to do with the current dining room and much of what is in that room. What a beautiful tribute to the 99's Twenty-Fifth President.

Kathy Felker



Kathy Felkerstarted in aviation in 1993 with a gifted discovery flight…and then just didn't stop. She heard about the 99s organization and became active in the Palomar Chapter.

While completing her CFI, she distinguished herself at the 1997 San Diego Flight Instructor Workshop, by creating a presentation about the Five Hazardous Attitudes. This is where her previous profession came in: Kathy is a professional puppeteer and ventriloquist, well-known in the puppetry world for both live performances and television and commercial videos, since 1982. Kathy created five different ventriloquial characters, each representing one of the hazardous attitudes, and performed a stand-up routine with each, including a memorable use of their antidote phrases.

In her first year as a flight instructor, she earned her Gold Seal on her CFI certificate with a ten out of ten pass rate. Kathy became the Assistant Chief Instructor at a 141 school, responsible for stage- and end-of-course checks for all fixed-wing certifications. Kathy gave numerous Wings and Super Safety Seminars over the years, and became an Adjunct Professor, teaching aviation classes at Palomar College. Kathy was awarded the 2001 CFI of the Year by the San Diego FSDO.

In 2006, Kathy began 8 years of flying for AmeriFlight, a regional cargo carrier, flying single-pilot in twin turbo-props…without an autopilot or GPS!

Kathy returned to Palomar Airport in 2014, to go back to her first love: teaching. Her creativity and artistry in design make for powerful and impactful lessons, leaving lasting impressions. Kathy takes difficult concepts and makes them easily understood, using humor and true stories to show how all parts relate. She readily shares her time and talents with numerous organizations. Kathy Felker has had a profound effect on countless lives in aviation over the years.

Bill and Elaine Fitch



They met on a blind date set up by a pilot friend. Bill said he didn't need a co-pilot, but he'd consider it. When he asked Elaine if she wanted to go flying, she asked how many hours he had. It was an aviation match made in heaven.

Elaine has been a continuous member of the Ninety-Nines since 1988 and has held every Iowa Chapter office including multiple terms as treasurer. She has been active in Dubuque's EAA Chapter 327, serving as a Young Eagle pilot, treasurer and secretary. She has attended AirVenture for over 25 years. She has supported both of these organizations with years of service and volunteer hours, including working at 27 annual flight breakfasts in Dubuque.

She earned her Private Pilot certificate in 1980, is instrument rated and has flown numerous Cessna and Piper aircraft and a 1946 Taylorcraft on wheels and skis. She has over 1500 flight hours.

2026 will mark 69 years as a pilot for Bill Fitch. He is a recipient of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. A member of EAA for over 50 years, he served as chapter President, VP & Director, and has attended AirVenture every year. He volunteered for the EAA B-17 tours for over 15 years, serving as tour coordinator and travelling about six weeks a year. Bill served his country for 20 years in the National Guard and Navy Reserves and he was a mission check pilot for Civil Air Patrol.

He is involved with other aviation groups and organizations too numerous to name. Bill loves aviation history and brings it to life by owning and flying a Pietenpol, which he is always willing to display and discuss at an aviation event.

Together, they have served the aviation community with enthusiasm and selflessness.

Captain Cathy Fraser B787 Captain (retired), Air Canada



Cathy started her flight training in Montreal, Quebec, after being told by a school guidance counsellor that she could not be a pilot because she was a girl. A chance encounter with local Ninety-Nines encouraged her to continue her training. A 99s AE scholarship was pivotal to Cathy's career path, allowing her to get a job flying cargo on a PA-31 Navajo. She has been a proud member of the 99s for over 40 years, holding various positions at the chapter and section level.

A booklet by ISA(International Society of Women Airline Pilots) founding member Jean Haley Harper, "So You Want to be an Airline Pilot" motivated her to pursue her dream. Cathy has been an ISA member for 38 years, attending numerous conventions.

Cathy worked as a flight instructor, pilot examiner, cargo, charter and corporate pilot before being hired by Air Canada in 1988 as a second officer on the B727. Over her 34+ year airline career, she flew as both a first officer and captain on the A320 and B767, completing her career as a captain on the B787 Dreamliner. She was the thirteenth female pilot hired at Air Canada.

She is also a member of Women in Aviation, Canadian Women in Aviation and a volunteer for Dreams Take Flight, taking deserving kids to Disneyworld each year.

A board member of the Northern Lights Aero Foundation since 2009, Cathy is a mentor to young pilots and enjoys speaking to schools and community groups, encouraging women to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace.

In her spare time, Cathy enjoys hiking, skiing, coaching soccer with Special Olympics and spending time at the cottage with her family. Her husband retired Canadian astronaut Dr. Dave Williams, was inducted in the Forest of Friendship in 2000.

Rhona Fraser



Rhona Renyl Nga-Tiawa Fraser MNZM, known widely as Rhona Fraser, was a pioneering New Zealand aviatrix, horsewoman, mentor and community leader. Born 15 October 1926 in Greytown, she grew up in the Wairarapa as one of nine children. Her early working life included milking cows as a land girl during the Second World War, followed by industrial work in sheet metal, welding and die casting.

Rhona learned to fly at the Wellington Aero Club, in Tiger Moths, becoming the first woman from the club to fly solo after WWII, and gained her PPL in 1955 aged 28. In 1960 she founded The New Zealand Air-Women's Association Inc (renamed New Zealand Association of Women in Aviation Inc in 1998) and served as its first President, and as its Patron from 1999-2016, helping create a national organization that continues today (known as NZAWA) to encourage women across all areas of aviation. She first joined the Ninety-Nines in 2004 holding continuous membership from 2014-2021.

Beyond aviation, Rhona built a life around horses and rural enterprise. She bought land at Kaitoke, established a riding school, and later helped found the Wellington Area Competitive Trail Riding Club. Generations of young riders remembered her as practical, generous and unforgettable, encouraging them to be capable, brave and kind.

Rhona remained connected with aviation throughout her life, attending rallies, supporting younger members and continuing to enjoy flights. Her contribution was recognized in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honors, when she was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to women and aviation. She died peacefully on 16 March 2021, aged 94. Remembered for her grit, humor, generosity and pioneering spirit, Rhona Fraser leaves a lasting legacy in New Zealand aviation, equestrian life and the many people she inspired.

Robin Hadfield, 99s President 2022-2026



SPONSOR:99s International Board of Directors (2024-2026)
Robin Hadfield is the immediate Past President of The Ninety-Nines, having just completed two terms as President. She celebrates 15+ years as a member of The 99s, serving previously as an International Director, Governor of the East Canada Section, and Chapter Chair of the First Canadian Chapter. Throughout this time, she has worked to grow the visibility and to promote the goals and aspirations of women pursuing their interests in aviation.

Nearly 50 years ago, she took an introductory flight, got hooked on flying, and earned her pilot's certificate. She pursued training in aerobatics where she competed and served as a competition judge. She was co-director for the *Canadian National Aerobatics Championships* for five years. For several years, Robin has volunteered as a qualified search coordinator with Canada's *Civil Air Search and Rescue Association* (CASARA), assisting the Royal Canadian Air Force with search and rescue operations and other aerial search efforts.

She and her husband Dave, a retired Air Canada pilot, have shared their passion for aviation through their early connections in aerobatics and flying a Bellanca Decathlon. They also have an interest in vintage aircraft and involvement with the *Edenvale Classic Aircraft Foundation*. They own a Fairchild 24W taildragger and have a longtime interest in warbirds. She has been the airshow coordinator for the WWII warbirds in *Vintage Wings of Canada* (Mike Potter Aircraft Collection). Several years ago, Robin announced she wanted a plane all her own, and they purchased a speedy little Van's RV-6a. Robin designed a hot red and white paint scheme for it, and mastered flight again in this 'bird' – even flying it solo into AirVenture (Oshkosh, WI).

When earth-bound, she enjoys spending time with her family, sailing, and working in fused glass art.

Mandi Kay Hill



Mandi's aviation story began in Goodland, Kansas, where she was born in 1984 into a family of pilots. Raised on a farm with a 3,000-foot grass airstrip, she was immersed early in flying through her father and grandfather, who operated an aerial agriculture business. At just 16, Mandi soloed in her grandfather's 1950 PA-18 Super Cub—an aircraft she now owns and is restoring with her husband. She earned her private pilot's license at 17. Mandi pursued aviation at Kansas State University, earning an associate degree in Airway Science along with her instrument rating, commercial certificate, and flight instructor credentials. She later completed a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Fort Hays State University and spent several years as a special education teacher. Today, she continues to serve students as a substitute teacher in Collierville, Tennessee.

Her aviation career has been equally dynamic. Mandi has flight instructed in Kansas, ferried aircraft for airshows across the country, and even trained family members in her family's Cherokee 180. She expanded her credentials with a seaplane rating and earned certified flight instrument instructor, and multi-engine commercial ratings by 2021. She also flight instructed at AirVenture Flight School in 2021.

A dedicated member of The Ninety-Nines since 2002, Mandi now serves as co-chair of the Memphis Chapter. She has held multiple leadership roles and actively contributes to initiatives ranging from aerospace education to chapter events. She also serves as a trustee for the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum.

Mandi continues her family's aviation legacy with passion—both professionally and personally—alongside her husband Joshua, also a pilot, and their two sons, one already following in her flight path.

Roger and Linda Mae Hivert



Roger and Linda Mae have been aviation enthusiasts and advocates their entire lives. Roger learned to fly gliders as a teenager on the north coast of France. He joined the French Air Force and spent 20 months training with the US Air Force. During this time, he learned to fly fighters. He worked for the French equivalent of the FAA and helped create a domestic airline from which he retired as Captain on the F-27 and DC-8.

Roger moved to Minden where he met Linda Mae. They founded Nevada International Flight & Training Industries (NIFTI) , operating it for 18 years. Roger became a US citizen. They married and continued to support aviation together. In 2025, shortly after their 25th anniversary Roger passed away.

Linda Mae was born and raised in the Midwest and moved to California, where she soloed gliders in her late 20's. Later she moved to Minden, Nevada and became co-founder and operator of Soar Minden, the first soaring operation at the Douglas County Airport. She has had a variety of commercial flying jobs as a bush pilot in Alaska, fish spotter, fire-fighting tanker pilot, first officer of Virgin Islands Seaplane, and a flight instructor. There were many scholarships and awards earned over the years, such as the Amelia Earhart scholarships, Professional Woman Pilot of the Year, and Master Certified Flight Instructor.

She has been a member of the 99s since 1980 and has served the organization from the Chapter to the International level in numerous capacities. She is currently on the Minden-Tahoe Airport Advisory Committee serving as Minden-Tahoe Airport Champion for the Douglas County Economic Vitality Committee. Linda Mae was a founding member of the Sports Aviation Foundation and Minden Soaring Club. She continues her dedication to aviation in her many board positions.

Lois Horne



LoisHorne is an accomplished aviator, aviation leader, and dedicated advocate for women in flight. A member of The Ninety-Nines since November 15, 2011, she has devoted countless hours to advancing the organization's mission of promoting aviation and supporting women pilots.

Throughout her career with The Ninety-Nines, Lois has held numerous leadership positions, including Chair of both the Memphis Chapter and the New York Chapter, Southeast Section Vice Governor, and International Credentials Chair. Her leadership has been instrumental in strengthening chapter engagement, fostering membership growth, and creating welcoming opportunities for pilots of all experience levels.

Known for her passion for service, Lois has actively supported aviation education, scholarship programs, fundraising initiatives, and air marking projects. She is widely respected for her ability to connect people, mentor fellow aviators, and inspire others to pursue excellence in aviation.

As an aircraft owner and active pilot, Lois exemplifies the spirit of dedication and stewardship that defines the aviation community. Her commitment to safety, proficiency, and service has earned the respect of her peers and helped strengthen the organizations she serves.



Shannon Jipsen

Captain Shannon L. Jipsen's adventure in flight began 41 years ago with overcoming her fear of flying. She went on a flight with a flight instructor, they flew to the Lake of the Ozarks. It was July 6, 1985, a beautiful summer day in central MO. Shannon was very nervous, but once airborne, her heart settled and she was excited to see the world as never before…from a lower altitude she enjoyed seeing farmers working in the patchwork of the farms below and feeling the warmth of the sunshine. After dinner at the lake, she watched the instructor preflight and asked more questions but after they went airborne this time, her life changed forever! There were fireworks from the 4th of July being shot over the lake and the incredible colorful display around them and in the reflection of the lake was breathtaking. Shannon got to fly on the way back and her fear of flying vanished. She was bitten by the aviation bug.

The following summer, Shannon took Private Pilot ground school and flying lessons and decided after soloing if she could get paid to fly that's what she wanted to do. She completed her degree in Business Administration/Marketing in 1987 and Masters in Aviation Safety in 1988 from the University of Central Missouri. She flight instructed, flew Part 135 charter and was hired by UPS in July 1991 as a B-727 Flight Engineer, she upgraded to First Officer in 1995 and Captain in 2002.She flew the Airbus 300 and finished her career on the B-747. She was based in Louisville, KY from 1991-2013, then Anchorage, AK until her retirement in 2026. She's been a 99 since 1989 and served as chairman for Greater KC and Kentucky Blue Grass chapters and currently in the Ambassador Chapter.



Lieutenant Colonel (ret) Christine Kelley USAF

Christine "Grinder" Kelley is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force and became the first woman to fly the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter in 2015. Prior to the F-35, she flew the F-15E Strike Eagle and led the first combat mission planned, briefed, launched, and flown entirely by women in 2011. She served for 20 years culminating as a Squadron Commander and then Deputy Group Commander.

Originally from Thousand Oaks, California, Christine entered the Air Force in May 1997 after graduating from the USAF Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She graduated from Euro-NATO joint Jet Pilot Training in 1999 as a Distinguished Graduate. She also earned Master's Degrees from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Air University during her career.

Christine was an Instructor and Evaluator Pilot with more than 2800 military flight hours and has flown over 500 combat hours in Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Christine has been quoted, "Flying is a great equalizer. The plane doesn't know or care about your gender as a pilot, nor do the ground troops who need your support. You just have to perform. That's all anyone cares about when you're up there, that you can do your job, and that you do it exceptionally well." Her F-15 helmet, harness, flight suit and boots are on display at the National Museum of the USAF in Dayton, Ohio.

She currently works as a Contract Instructor Pilot at Eglin AFB, teaching simulators and academics to F-35A pilots. Christine flies her RV-6 and Cherokee Six aircraft to keep sane. She is a member of the Ninety-Nines, Grand Dames of Aviation, Women Military Aviators, River Rats, and EAA. Christine, her two daughters and husband, Jon, reside in Florida.

Captain Judy Lee



Captain Judy Lee, Retired United Airlines B777. Judy had always thought her path would be an equestrian life as she grew up with horses. However, in 1970, a chance ride in a friend's G2 sparked a new interest. Soon after, she put five dollars down for an introductory ride in a Cessna 150 and immediately fell in love with flying. That moment marked the beginning of a new and uncertain path, especially since Judy was told women did not have a future in commercial aviation. Her father had always told her she could do anything she set her mind to and encouraged her to follow her passion. Because the military and airlines did not welcome women, she continued flying in general aviation for enjoyment, building flight time and earning ratings. Eventually a few women were hired by the airlines, so she began applying. Being in the right place at the right time, she was hired by United Airlines as the fifth woman pilot in April 1978.

She flew first as a flight engineer, then as a first officer, and eventually as a captain. Over the years, she flew most of the Boeing aircraft and the DC-10, with her final sixteen years as a captain on the B777 and she retired after thirty-eight years. Judy served on the United Master Executive Council as Uniform Chair in 1979 as the first woman on the MEC. She served on the Professional Standards Committee for 20 years, the last five as MEC Professional Standards Chair and on the Safety Committee. She has also served as ISA(International Society of Women Airline Pilots) Secretary from 1980-82, mentored future pilots, reviewed scholarship applications and did interview preps.

Judy loved her time at United but is most proud of her two sons and their young families. She still loves travel, Tai Chi, Mahjong and chess.

Daniel McGlasson



Daniel McGlasson, CAPT USN(Ret) graduated from the United States Naval Academy Class of 1957 and after being accepted in the Submarine Force served on Nuclear and Diesel Submarines. He served through the commissioning crew of the nuclear submarine USS Sam Houston (SSBN 609) and two patrols before becoming a company officer at the Naval Academy. He went on to serve on four diesel boats stationed in Key West, Charleston South Carolina, and Portsmouth Virginia. He was the last Commanding Officer of the USS Cutlass (SSN 478) before it was sold to Taiwan, (The Republic of China). He then participated in planning and conducting major fleet direct support exercises involving tactical C2 (Command and Control) of surface, subsurface, and air Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) platforms. During his tour at the Naval Electronic Systems Command he was assigned as a Major Material Professional, authorized to wear the command ashore insignia as Program Manager of the Navy High Frequency Anti-Jam Program (HFAJ). He received many awards including National Defense Medal with bronze, Meritorious Service Medal, and many meritorious achievement awards.

He was always interested in aviation, beginning as a child during WW II. He was a member of EAA Chapter 186 and became an EAA life member. He was tremendously supportive of the Ninety Nines at the Chapter, Section, and international levels and participated in a multitude of events annually. Although not being a pilot, he accepted the position of Airport Manager of the Washington Executive Airport for a few years after his retirement.

He was a proud pin wearing 49 ½. He was a gourmet cook and hosted annual “Broomstick Fly-ins” for the Old Dominion Chapter and Mid Atlantic Section members and was the headmaster of the 49 1/2’s for the annual Chapter Holiday events. He worked diligently supporting many Ninety-Nine events.

RJ McGlasson



RJ's initial introduction to flying was at the age of 5 (it was 1946) when she saw a picture of her Father leaning out of an open cockpit airplane taking pictures of Washington, DC. She announced "… if someone was going to fly her Daddy, she would be the one…". Fast forward to 1980 – it was 7:00 PM on a Saturday evening and she was in her office in Crystal City, VA when it occurred to her, she needed more in her personal life. She found Colgan Aviation at the Manassas airport, and they had an opening for an introductory flight at 1000 the next morning. Sitting in a 152 she turned the key on and felt two tears running down her cheeks – she had found her passion. She got her private and instrument ratings, met her future husband, and bought a Piper Arrow. She then joined the Ninety Nines and her participation began and served as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Washington DC Chapter, Charter member of the Old Dominion Chapter, Chairman of the Old Dominion Chapter (3 times), Governor of the Middle East Section (now Mid Atlantic), Member - Initial International Council of Governors, Chairman of the International Convention in Norfolk, VA 1994, Member - Mid Atlantic Scholarship Committee, Chairman of the Mid Atlantic Scholarship Committee, Chairman of the International BYLAWS committee for two years, Participation in the Air Race Classic and the Great Southern Air Race.

After serving 39 years with the Department of the Navy in C4I (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence) organizations, she retired in 1999 and immediately accepted a position supporting the Navy Surgeon General operational medical systems requirements. She retired from this position after 25 years.

She continues to actively support the Old Dominion Chapter, the Mid Atlantic Section, and the International Organization.

Nancy Miller Livingston Stratford

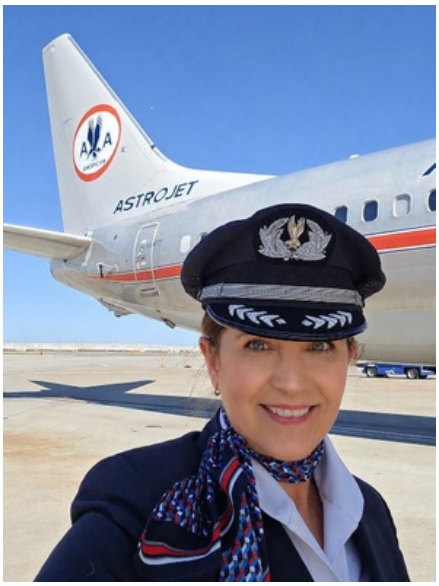


Nancy Miller was hooked on flying at 16, when her brother treated her to an airplane ride that thrilled her. As a woman she wouldn't have been able to follow that passion, but in 1942 she heard about a training program preparing men for the war that the US was readying itself to join. But they allowed a few women in, including her. So when Jaqueline Cochran was assembling a group of 25 American women to take to England to join the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), her 450 hours of training made her eligible to go.

She spent the next three years ferrying planes across the British Isles —she was one of the remaining aviators who were still there in mid-1944 to hear the roar of planes flying overhead on their way to D–Day. With only minimal instrument training and a ban on instrument flying, she flew 53 types of planes armed only with "handling notes." During one month alone "she flew eighteen types of aircraft, including torpedo planes, air-sea rescue amphibians, and the sleekest new fighters, the Typhoon and the Corsair" (Spitfires, p. 218).

When the war ended and she returned to the States, she had difficulty finding work as a pilot. So, she did crop dusting, instruction, and air shows while she got a seaplane rating and became the fourth woman in the world (second in the US) to get a commercial helicopter rating. She married her boss, Arlo Livingston, and together they started a helicopter business in Juneau, Alaska. She is Whirly Girl #4 and a member of the Twirly-Birds, the 99s, and the Silver Wings; she also served on the Women's Advisory Council on Aviation under President Johnson. By the end of her career, she had flown 103 types of aircraft.

Dorothy Norkus



Since she was 6 years old, Dorothy knew she wanted to work for an airline. From visits to Detroit Metro as a child with her grandpa to plane spotting off the end of Lindbergh's 27 in San Diego, she found airliners to be pure magic! At age ten, she thought being a Northwest stewardess would be her career path, but a friend knew of an immediate job opportunity at the airport, cleaning aircraft into the early hours of the morning. This led to a Ramp Agent job for 15 years with Southwest Airlines. The Aviation Explorer Scouts introduced her to flying lessons and she eventually got her Private in 1992. After the check ride, she went to find The Ninety-Nines and was directed to Fran Bera who brought her into the San Diego Chapter where she has held pretty much every position over her 36 years as well as being a Trustee on the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund and a charter member of Women in Aviation.

She advanced her flight training, eventually getting a Commercial Multi-engine, and right before 9/11, was hired by American Eagle Airlines flying the Saab 340. A post 9/11 furlough lasted two years. After recall, she also flew the Canadair CRJ700, upgraded on it in 2011 at Chicago O'Hare, and in 2017 went to American Airlines at LAX on the Boeing 737 where she currently flies mostly on domestic trips with a bit of Mexico to 'spice' up the flying.

Philip W. Nuss



PhilipWarren Nuss has devoted his life to aviation, military service, and mentoring the next generation of pilots.

A graduate of Loyola University with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Phil attended U.S. Army Flight School and went on to serve as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. Following his active-duty service, he joined the Louisiana Army National Guard in 1972, where he served with distinction for more than three decades before retiring in 2004. During his military career, he rose to become Director of Aviation for the Louisiana Army National Guard.

In addition to his military service, Phil enjoyed a distinguished civilian aviation career as an offshore commercial helicopter pilot with Air Logistics, Inc., safely transporting crews throughout the Gulf Coast.

Phil joined the Civil Air Patrol in 2012, where he continues to serve as a Check Pilot and Louisiana Wing Maintenance Officer. Through CAP, he has become a respected mentor to countless aspiring aviators, generously sharing his knowledge, experience, and passion for flight. It was through CAP that he developed lasting friendships with many members of The Ninety-Nines, encouraging and supporting women pursuing their aviation goals.

Phil and his wife, with whom he celebrates 50 years of marriage this year, are the proud parents of two children and grandparents to four grandsons. His lifelong commitment to service, aviation, and mentorship has left an enduring impact on the aviation community.

Carolyn Pasqualino



Carolyn Pasqualino started her aviation journey at age 17, enrolling in private pilot ground school as a freshman in college. A week after her eighteenth birthday she took her first flight lesson, and soloed three weeks later. She earned her commercial, instrument and multi-engine ratings, all while attending a non-aviation college and working part-time to pay for lessons.

After college graduation, she started charter flying and then landed her first corporate job for an Oklahoma rancher. She continued corporate flying for various oil industry owners before landing her dream aviation job with United Airlines in January 1985. Initial training was for Boeing 727 Flight Engineer, which she flew for 16 months. Carolyn then upgraded to B737 First Officer, then B757/767 First Officer.

In 1993 she upgraded to Captain on the B737, where she stayed for six years before becoming Captain on the B757/767, and started flying international flights. In 2003 she achieved her goal of becoming Captain on the Boeing 747-400 and flew that for 12 years, until United parked them. She flew the B747 to five continents and countries as diverse as Vietnam, China, Kyrgyzstan and Qatar.

Carolyn spent her last years on the Boeing 777 before retiring in 2021, after 36 years with United. She flies her own four planes for fun. She is married to her initial flight instructor, and they spend their time flying between their airport homes in Illinois and Florida, and also traveling around the world. With over 27,000 hours and seven type ratings, she hopes to continue flying many more years. She is a Lifetime Member of the EAA and volunteers at Oshkosh each summer. She is also a member of The Ninety-Nines and ISA+21, the International Society of Women Airline Pilots, and is the recipient of the prestigious FAA Master Pilot Award.

Judy Phelps



Designated Pilot Examiner Judy Phelps has built a nationally recognized career defined by leadership, mentorship, and an unwavering commitment to aviation safety.

Judy serves as Vice President of CP Aviation in Santa Paula, California, where her aviation journey began after meeting her husband, Clay Phelps, owner of CP Aviation, at the Santa Paula Airport. She earned her Private Pilot Certificate in 1999 and went on to become a Certified Flight Instructor in 2003.

While Judy has received numerous awards and accolades, her greatest passion is mentoring—particularly encouraging women to pursue aviation. For over 14 years, she has been a dedicated mentor to the EAA AirVenture GirlVenture program. She also provides Emergency Maneuver Training to law enforcement agencies and actively promotes tailwheel training to strengthen fundamental flying skills.

Judy's commitment extends beyond aviation into the Santa Paula community through charitable support, volunteerism, and board service. She has contributed to organizations including the Aviation Museum of Santa Paula, the Ninety-Nines, the Rotary Club of Santa Paula, and the Boys & Girls Club of the Santa Clara Valley. She is also a frequent presenter of pilot proficiency programs nationwide, including at the Ninety-Nines International Conferences. In 2011, Judy received national recognition as the FAA's Flight Instructor of the Year and became the first woman to earn the Master CFI Aerobatic accreditation.

Morgen Ann Greschel Reeb



Morgen began flying at 16, earning her Private Pilot's Certificate at 17. She earned her Instrument rating and started working on her Commercial Pilot's Certificate in college. After earning her Commercial, Ground and Flight Instructor Certificates, she began teaching ground school and flight instructing while earning her Instrument Flight Instructor, Multi-Engine, Multi-Engine Flight Instructor and Airline Transport Pilot Certificates.

Morgen flew parachute jumpers and multi-engine charters before the original Colgan Airways hired her as a First Officer on the Beech 99 and Beech 1900. She upgraded to Captain on the Jet-stream 3100. Morgen was hired by American Airlines as a Flight Engineer on the Boeing 727. She then flew as First Officer on the Boeing 727, 737, 757 and 767 before upgrading to Captain on the 737 and 777. Her routes included Europe and South America.

Since the 1980's, Morgen has been a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Chapter 186 (where she served on the Board of Directors), and the Ninety-Nines, (where she served as Chapter Vice Chairwoman, Chairwoman and Chapter International Convention liaison). Morgen initiated and led the chapter booth for Girl Scout and Women in Aviation Day at the International Air and Space Museum for 24 years. She is a long-term member of the Virginia Aviation Historical Society. A member of the International Society of a Women Airline Pilot's (ISA+21) since 1990, she served on the Board of Directors as Scholarship Chairwoman from 1994 to 1996. She is a life member of EAA, ISA+21, and the Ninety-Nines.

For 30 years, Morgen and her husband owned a Cessna 152 in which she trained her daughter (now herself an airline pilot) to fly. Her son is an aerospace engineer with a Remote Pilot Certificate, continuing Morgen's aviation legacy

Karen Rosier



KarenRosier is being honored by the Ambassador Chapter 99s for her longtime commitment to the chapter and the Ninety Nines. Working as a Flight Attendant for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Karen was drawn to the cockpit and a passion was born. Karen started flying in 1989 in the Netherlands, obtaining her EASA PPL SEP. Spreading her wings, Karen continued her professional pilot's training in Atlanta (GA) in 1997, obtaining a PPL ASEL AMEL IR, CPL ASEL AMEL IR and AGI.

While being in the USA, Karen became a member of the Ninety Nines in 1998.

World events threw a spanner in the works, but that didn't dampen Karen's passion for aviation and all things flying. Karen joined the Ambassador Chapter in 2010, stepping into the role as the Newsletter Editor. Later Karen switched to the role of Chapter Membership Chair and Webmaster. While serving as the Chapter Membership Chair, Karen participated in the PPLI Program in 2012 and is a PPLI Graduate. Karen didn't leave the program after her graduation, she stayed on serving as the Online Admin, member of the PPLI Coordination Team and the PPLI Publications Coordinator. Karen left the PPLI Coordination Team in 2019, in order to pursue new paths within the Ninety Nines. In 2023 Karen transferred to the Ninety Nines British Section and stepped into the role of Section Governor in 2025. Obtaining a British CAA PPL is high on Karen's wish list, next to her long-term dream of becoming a CFI. Karen still works as a Flight Attendant for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, combining layovers with meeting fellow Ninety Nines, PPLI Team members, Chapter and Section members. Karen hopes to be of service to women in aviation using her extensive network and knowledge for many more years to come.



Evelyn "Evie" Saunders

Evelyn "Evie" Saunders is being honored by her close friend Janet Patton. Evie was born October 21, 1921 and died March 9, 2004. She was a pilot in England. Evie and Janet met when Janet was on a temporary flying assignment in the UK in 1994. The 99s organization brought them together. Evie has been an inspiration to many to pursue one's dreams no matter one's age. The following is Evie (1996) in her own words describing herself for the 99s membership history book. "[Evie] had a lifelong ambition to learn to fly. She was introduced to airplanes at age 4 and at age 14 she went to Brooklyn's Flying School for lessons, but had no money. War came, she joined the WAAFs as administrator and PT instructor. She got married for a short while and bought a home. Saunders started a tourist business still with flying in mind. At the age of 68 she finally received enough money and earned her PPL (A) September 1990, IMC rating August 1991, night rating September 1991, and a multi rating (B) June 1992. Experience on helicopters, float planes and Tiger Moth. In 1992 she received the Jean Lennox Bird Trophy for worthy performance in aviation awarded by the British Women Pilots Association (BWPA). Evie won timed circuit competition, bang on, in 1994. She spent many happy hours flying around Europe and Florida, Bahamas, etc. Trained on twins in Orlando. More projects in mind.

Saunders is delighted to be a member of the 99's Inc., BWPA, Popular Flying Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and the Spitfire Society."

Captain Laura Savino

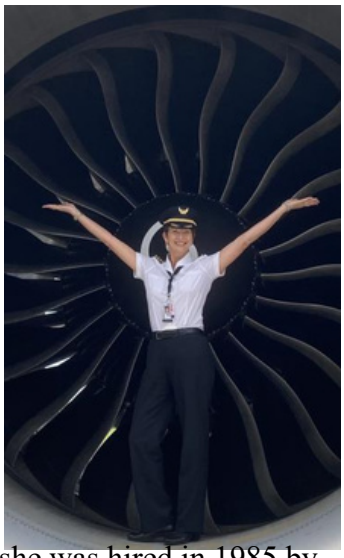
Captain Laura Savinowas a pilot on the 777, 767, 757, 747, 737 and A319/320 as an int'l airline pilot for United Airlines. Laura flew for Eastern and Pan Am regionals before that. On her way to becoming an airline pilot, she worked as a CFII, charter pilot, ferry pilot, freight pilot, aerial sightseeing tour pilot and aircraft repossessor.

Two of Captain Savino's pilot uniforms have been acquisitioned into the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in Washington, DC and her United Airlines maternity uniform is featured in the permanent 'Breaking Barriers' exhibit at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Laura is now in the position to be the mentor she wished she knew as a young pilot entering the aviation industry. Enthusiastic to pass the torch and help the next young woman take her seat, her memoir 'JET BOSS: A Female Pilot on Taking Risks and Flying High,' combines the history of women in aviation while offering an encouraging push to empower the next generation of young aviators.



Valerie Scott



Austin HillCountry Ninety-Nines Chapter is pleased to nominate retired Captain Valerie Scott as an International Forest of Friendship Honoree.

Valerie was hired by United Airlines in May 1989 as a B-727 flight engineer, and retired May 2021 as a B-777 Captain, also type rated in SA-227, B-737, B-757, B-767, and B-747-400, doing extensive international flying.

What started as a helicopter trauma transfer 1978, while working for Jackson County Ambulance Service as an EMT, became a lifelong passion. After an introductory flight at SIU-C, where she earned her BS in Physiology, she obtained her private pilot license in four months, continued through multi-engine rating, and completing two years of graduate school in Occupational Education while working as a flight instructor.

In 1981 she began flying a corporate P-31P aircraft, then in 1982 was awarded the Doris Mullen Whirly Girl Scholarship, obtaining her commercial helicopter rating and becoming WG#365. After marrying the love of her life and aviation mentor Charles Scott, she was hired in 1985 by Trans World Express, St. Louis, flying the SA-227 Metroliner. In 1987 she began flying the Convair 580 for United Express, Denver, before being hired by United. Her contributions run deep: United ALPA accident investigator in human factors on UA585, ISA+21 IFALPA representative for six years, keynote speaker sharing lessons learned from Crew Resource Management in aviation with the medical community for five years, serving on the Colorado State Board of Nursing, appointed by the Governor, as a patient safety advocate.

Since 2017 she has piloted a Commemorative Air Force B-25 bomber "Devil Dog", based in Georgetown, TX, flying air shows and sharing the history of WWII veterans and the Women Airforce Service Pilots who served our country. Captain Scott is a proud member of the 99s, ISA+21, ALPA, WAI, CAF, Whirly Girls, and AOPA.

Ann Sederquist



An aviation and space enthusiast since birth, Ann Sederquist has been a member of the 99s since 2008. She served the Wisconsin Chapter as the Membership and Vice Chair, and pancake batter-maker at their annual fundraiser. Apart from her contributions to the 99s, Ann has taken it upon herself to share her love of aviation with others, and generously give of her time and talents.

Now a retired music educator, Ann reflects on how she made intentional choices throughout her career to share her love of aviation and space with students. During "Career Day," she spoke about the process of earning her "license to learn," her initial pilot license, which she completed in 2011. NASA would often be projected on the huge screen in her band room, to show students what incredible opportunities were available to them!! When Air Force One or F-16s were in nearby airspace, she took her students out to see them. Ann chaperoned many school class fieldtrips. When possible, she would offer students a chance to do a deep dive at places like the National Air and Space Museums.

After her tenure as a teacher, Ann became a very active volunteer at the EAA Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She currently serves as head docent, and is involved in the education programs. Among her favorite programs is "Girls on the Fly," helping young women see aviation as their potential future! She also serves as a BSA merit badge counselor, tour guide, and briefer for visitors, tailoring the narrative to their goals for the visit. She organizes museum volunteers for large community events. Her favorite days at the museum are when she learns from visitors' stories. Ann sees herself as "just a girl having a great time introducing aviation to as many people as she can!"

Suzanne Skeeters, Captain



Born and raised in Santa Maria, CA; a graduate of Santa Maria High School and California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly)-San Luis Obispo. Began flying in March 1977 at the San Luis Obispo, CA (SBP) airport after seeing a newspaper ad for a "$10 Introductory Flight". I had graduated from Cal Poly student teaching to earn my teaching credential. After a visit to the airport. It was “love at first flight”! Obtained private pilot license in January 1978. A 99s member, Wanda Strassburg was my FAA examiner and encouraged me to be an airline pilot, with a notation in my logbook "I'll see you in the cockpit of a DC-10 someday!”

I had found my passion! I obtained instrument, commercial, flight instructor and multi-engine ratings in 1979 and began working for 99 member Criss Yecny and her husband Al Yecny at Air San Luis as a flight instructor (CFI).

I flew charter, corporate, and regional airline flying (Imperial Airlines) for the next five years, and was hired by Northwest Airlines in September 1984 as a Boeing 727 second officer (flight engineer). My 34-year progression through Northwest, which merged with Delta Airlines in 2008, has been: DC-10 second officer (SO); B-727 first officer (FO); B-747 SO; B-757 FO; DC-10 FO; DC-10 Captain (CA); B-747 CA; and Airbus A-330 CA. Over the course of my career, I was based in Seattle, WA (SEA), Honolulu (HNL), Minneapolis, MN (MSP) and Detroit, MI (DTW). I retired, due to the FAA mandatory retirement, in September 2018. I have lived in Kailua-Kona, HI since 1992. I have an adult son, Kevin Novotny. He currently resides in Los Angeles, CA.

A Lifetime member of: The Ninety-Nines Organization of Women Pilots (99s) Women in Aviation (#3159) International Society of Women Airline Pilots (ISA+21) Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA).

Steven and Nancy Sliwa



Steveand Nancy Sliwa exemplify a lifetime devotion to aviation, aerospace innovation, and service to the global flying community. Together, their careers reflect the breadth of aviation—from soaring and air racing to advanced aerospace research, education, and leadership.

Steve Sliwa’s aviation journey began early, soloing gliders as a teenager and becoming a Certified Flight Instructor by age 18 and a Designated Pilot Examiner by 21. With more than 55 years of flying experience and over 6,000 flight hours, he holds commercial and instructor ratings in airplanes, multi-engine aircraft, gliders, and instruments, and is type-rated in the Cirrus Vision Jet. An aerospace engineer by training, Dr. Sliwa earned degrees from Princeton University and Stanford University, followed by a master’s in management from Stanford’s Graduate School of Business. His career includes pioneering work at NASA in aircraft design and adaptive control systems, leadership as President of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and entrepreneurship as the CEO of Insitu, growing the company from inception to a global aerospace enterprise later acquired by Boeing. He is an Associate Fellow of the AIAA and a former chair of its GN&C Technical Committee.

Nancy Sliwa’s aviation roots trace back to her upbringing as the daughter of a U.S. Navy pilot, with childhood years spent on air bases around the world. A computer scientist and robotics researcher, she worked at NASA’s Langley, Ames, and Kennedy centers in artificial intelligence and space robotics. Nancy began flying in 1989 and has logged more than 2,500 hours, earning, instrument and glider ratings and is type-rated in the Cirrus Vision Jet. A passionate advocate for women in aviation, she has competed in numerous national air races, holds a National Aeronautic Association speed record, flew Angel Flight missions, and has been a devoted member and mentor within The Ninety-Nines for more than three decades. Today, Steve and Nancy reside near Minden, Nevada, where aviation remains central to their lives and community.

Alan Stuber, PhD



A legacy in aviation and resilience embodying perseverance and generosity in flight, Dr. Allan Stuber, a retired Navy pilot, Airline Transport Pilot, and Certified Flight Instructor (CFII), has logged over 10,000 flight hours and holds a doctorate in engineering. During a Navy night training mission, a fire broke out in his jet, causing an explosion and crash. Severely injured with burns, a broken back, and spinal cord trauma, Dr. Stuber was wheelchair bound when leaving the Navy. Displaying remarkable determination, he returned to his Kansas hometown, overcame his injuries to walk again, and ultimately returned to flying.

He later founded Stuber Research at Lawrence Regional Airport, operating the business until retirement. Dr. Stuber is also the owner of 2KS2, a registered grass airstrip on his property in Severy, Kansas, deepening his roots in the Flint Hills where he grew up.

In 2010, he built his own Zenith STOL CH 750-a bright yellow plane featuring a Jayhawk emblem. Through this aircraft, Dr. Stuber shares the thrill of flight with the Lawrence community and beyond. Renowned for his flyovers, he organizes formation flights with smoke for graduations, sporting events, weddings, memorials, and other special occasions.

As a CFII for over five decades, Dr. Stuber has mentored countless pilots, instilling in them a deep respect for safety and precision. His passion for aviation is infectious; he offers rides to children, students, fellow pilots, and anyone interested in flight. Dr. Stuber's resilience, generosity, and dedication remain an inspiration to the aviation community.

Lisa Sulzer, Warrior



A warrior is someone who may win or lose but always does their best. Someone who keeps working towards freedom from pain and suffering by refusing to be a helpless victim, so they can truly live. Lisa Sulzer is a Warrior.

In 2010, she worked on the Navy base in Corpus Christi where she learned the National Guard was creating a new, deep-sea dive unit. She completed the most intense physical and mental training to meet the brutal requirements. A move back to her home state of Louisiana made her give up that dream, but she discovered flying and spent the next seven years scraping together money for flight lessons. Earning the certificates and ratings needed for the next level and working a low-paying job just to build hours towards a professional pilot position, ultimately the day came when she was hired by Tradewind Aviation in Connecticut.

At age 38 she was diagnosed with Stage 1 invasive ductal carcinoma breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy. She was grounded from flying but eventually given the all-clear. Back in Connecticut with her pregnant wife, life began to feel normal.

A few years later, Lisa had become Tradewind's Assistant Chief Pilot overseeing more than 100 pilots. Now expecting a second child, she learned the cancer had returned and spread to her bones – Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. Permanently grounded from flying. Back in Louisiana, she and her wife chose to fill a void by creating foods made from nutrient-dense, real ingredients. It's not just about food; it's about healthy choices and community. It's about consolidating all her experiences for the good of her fellow survivors, both from aviation and from cancer.

She is showing her sons, and us, what it means to be a Warrior.

Patricia León Tomich, Alaska Airlines B-737 Captain



CaptainPatricia León Tomich was born in Lima, Peru, in 1966. She was introduced to aviation at the age of 3 when her father took her on a picnic to a local airport. She was mesmerized by airplanes soaring into the sky and wanted to touch the clouds just like them. From that day forward, every toy was an airplane and every doll was a pilot. In 1972, at the age of 5, she and her family immigrated to the U.S. and she brought her dream of becoming a pilot with her. Growing up in New Jersey, she was told by everyone that women could not become pilots. Not listening, she applied to Embry- Riddle Aeronautical University in 1985, where she earned a Bachelor of Aeronautical Science and her flight ratings. Upon graduation in 1989, she was hired as a flight instructor at the university.

She moved on to a corporate pilot position in 1992, flying the Westwind 2, Citation 2, and Conquest 2 for an insurance company. As a corporate pilot, Patricia not only built Pilot-in- Command hours, but gave back to the aviation community by sharing her experiences with local flight students, giving tours of the planes she flew. In 1995, she was hired as a First Officer for Alaska Airlines, the first Latina hired. Patricia was instrumental in introducing Women in Aviation, International to Alaska Airlines, having been a member since 1992. The airline has hired hundreds of qualified women from their conferences. Patricia upgraded to Captain in 2000, and has continued to mentor new First Officers and beginning flight students. She gives presentations at schools, Girl Scout events, and is featured in two books. With 31 years' experience at Alaska Airlines, she looks forward to continuing to inspire the next generation of pilots.

Denise Van Grunsven



Born into an aviation family, Denise Van Grunsven was intrigued with planes, the sky and stars from an early age. Her father Jerry (an air force and airline pilot) and her uncle Dick(the designer of the RV line of kit aircraft) were her rolemodel sand inspiration. Soloing gliders and airplanes before getting her driver's license, she diligently worked on ratings through multi-engine CFI, obtaining an ATP and four-year degree by age 21. Regional flying followed giving her the experience and hours needed to behiredatherfather'sairlineayearlater.Manyyearsensuedbeforetheycrewedan aircraft together – a dream come true! The highlight of both their careers occurred when she was copilot on his final flight.

Denise has flown eight jet aircraft in her 35-year career, most recently the 747 on cargo routes around the world. She has logged 22,000 hours in 70 aircraft including seaplanes, helicopters, warbirds and for years owned an L-29 jet trainer. She has given rides to 100's in a variety of aircraft and has shared her love of flight with more than 2000 school kids ages kindergarten to high school in classrooms around the US. A long-time member of EAA, ISA+21, Women in Aviation and the 99's, she loves to encourage, network with, and inspire those pursuing their aviation goals.

A mother of two adult sons, scuba diver, black belt and gardener, Denise and her husband live on a grass runway in Montana with an RV-8 and RV-12 built by her husband. She still lifts her eyes to the sky when an airplane flies overhead and would love to someday or bit the earth in a spacecraft–a desire since age 10 to go into space. Her motto is, "strive for excellence in all you do and never give up!"

Shelley Ventura



In 1999, Shelley Ventura began pursuing a lifelong interest in flying at nearby Campbell Airport. During Shelley's first lesson, Carol Parmer, a local 99, heard her on the radio and immediately drove to the airport to greet her when she landed. Carol's welcome started Shelley's deep involvement in the 99s Organization.

After earning her PPL in November 1999, Shelley rented Campbell's Warriors for local flights, but in June 2000, she bought a 1981 Piper Archer. Husband Charlie wanted to join in on the fun and started lessons soon after. They both earned instrument ratings to safely explore beyond the Midwest. With the support of an AEMSF Scholarship, Shelley earned her commercial certificate in 2004. Together, they have enjoyed flying long cross-countries to see National Parks, as well as dog rescues, Angel Flights and over 300 Young Eagles.

Throughout her time with the Ninety-Nines, Shelley has held many leadership roles. In the Aux Plaines chapter, she served in every elected position and coordinated North Central Section meetings in 2010 and 2019. Within the Chicago Area chapter, she served as Treasurer and volunteered for Girls' Aviation Day events. At the North Central Section level, Shelley served as Aerospace Education Chair for six years, Waypoint magazine distributor for twelve years and was elected as Director, Vice Governor and twice as Governor. While serving as Governor, she led the charge on hosting the 2009 International Conference in Chicago.

But she states that her most challenging role was serving on the AEMSF(Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Board) board. In her six years as trustee, Shelley evaluated over a thousand applications and played 'Mama Bird' to one hundred Fly Now Award winners. Supporting these student pilots throughout their training was one of her most rewarding experiences.

Margaret Wint



Margaret has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the Ninety-Nines and has been an active and influential member throughout her tenure. She has mentored numerous younger members, offering guidance, support, and direction as they advance in their aviation journeys. Her commitment to the organization is further reflected in her service in every chapter office, consistently giving her time and expertise wherever needed. She was elected as the North Central Section Governor in 2026.

Her involvement extends well beyond internal leadership. Margaret has participated in a wide range of aviation outreach programs, including Science Alive, Air Fair, and South Bend Aviation Day, where she has helped introduce aviation to the broader community. During her many years as assistant airport manager, she engaged with countless visitors, sharing her knowledge of flying and promoting aviation with professionalism and enthusiasm.

Margaret also played a key role in organizing glider camps for high school students and coordinating a regional glider competition. Her responsibilities included scheduling both airplane and glider rides, ensuring smooth and safe operations for all participants. In addition, she has spoken at an aviation-focused high school about air racing, contributing to students' understanding of the sport. In years when she did not compete, she continued to support air racing by serving on the ground crew as a timer.

Margaret's sustained service, leadership, and advocacy for aviation exemplify the highest standards of the Ninety-Nines.

What's New at the Forest

The International Forest of Friendship has been renewed! Take a walk through the Forest and notice the new sidewalks with honoree names moved to the outside of the walkways. Thank you to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks – Walking Trail Grant Program for the generous contribution to this project. Also appreciated is the patience of those who visit the Forest regularly and had to endure a long winter of waiting for completion of the project. The City of Atchison partnered with the IFOF to repave the road to and around the Forest as well as renewed the two parking lots. Take a look at the new limestone table and stools for children and their families to take a break from walking the paths to explore nature. Thank you to the family of George Putnam Jr. for this special gift. Five new benches have been donated and installed. Eleven new trees were planted in the past year. Extensive pruning ensures our Forest's trees are healthy. A new sign welcomes visitors to the Forest. The new large circle bench at the end of Memory Lane has a mosaic compass rose in the center, thanks to the Atchison Art Association. Together, these improvements invite visitors to slow down, look around, and experience the Forest with fresh appreciation.











Celebrating Community, History, and Ameilia's Enduring Spirit

The Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation and Hangar Museum are honored to welcome the International Forest of Friendship and its 2026 inductees to Atchison as the Forest celebrates its 50th anniversary milestone!

We invite you to stop by the Hangar Museum and experience Muriel, our crown jewel and the world's last remaining Lockheed Electra 10-E. A sister plane to the aircraft Amelia flew during her 1937 around-the-world flight attempt, Muriel anchors exhibits that blend STEM concepts with historical storytelling and celebrate Amelia's Atchison roots, trailblazing aviation career, and lasting influence on generations of dreamers and doers.

We're excited to share the release of Flying Into History – The Legacy of Amelia Earhart, a new course created in partnership with American Cornerstone Institute's Little Patriots. Designed for students in grades K-5, the course helps young learners discover Amelia's life and character through an engaging cartoon and classroom-ready lessons about perseverance, courage, purpose, and possibility—values that continue to inspire children in Atchison and beyond.

We're also grateful to share that the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum was named the No. 5 Best History Museum in USA TODAY's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for 2026. This national honor is a wonderful reflection of Amelia's enduring legacy, Atchison's place in her story, and the support of the visitors, partners, and neighbors who help bring that story to life.

We are also looking forward to welcoming pilots back for fly-in visits to the Hangar Museum. After more than two years of community anticipation and hard work, the runway expansion project at Amelia Earhart Memorial Airport (K59) is expected to be completed in August, and we can't wait to welcome pilots back to Atchison.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating these exciting milestones and the community that makes them possible. To learn more or plan your visit, explore the Museum's website at www.AmeliaEarhartHangarMuseum.org.





Kansas Forest Service: A Lasting Partner in the International Forest of Friendship

The story of the International Forest of Friendship is closely tied to Atchison's Joe Carrigan and Ninety-Nine Fay Gillis Wells, who helped bring the vision to life. Yet a third partner played an essential role in shaping the Forest: the Kansas Forest Service. Its foresters worked tirelessly to select the trees representing all 50 states and, today, 36 countries, and to determine where each tree would take root within the Forest.

Over the years, many state foresters have contributed to the Forest of Friendship, but Larry Biles shared a particularly meaningful connection with past chairs Joe Carrigan and Pat Carrigan. Biles served with the Kansas Forest Service from 1970 to 2019, dedicating his career to forestry, conservation, and natural resources.

Today, Blaine Stroble serves as the Forest Consultant to the Board of Directors of the International Forest of Friendship. He has helped assess trees and assist with updates to the Forest map, continuing the Kansas Forest Service's long tradition of stewardship and support.

Smokey Bear has also been a beloved part of the Kansas Forest Service's presence at the International Forest of Friendship for 50 years. Each year, foresters help ensure Smokey arrives in Atchison with something special for the children. He roams the Forest, pauses for pictures, and is always ready with a friendly wave for guests.

Volunteers Keep the Forest Growing

The International Forest of Friendship is more than a collection of trees; it is a living tribute that depends on steady care throughout the year. Volunteers make that care possible. From watering young trees to refreshing mulch and tending honoree stones, their time and energy help preserve the beauty, meaning, and welcome of the Forest for every visitor.



Weed. Mulch trees. Clean stones. Paint railings. Water trees. The summer to-do list at the International Forest of Friendship is long. Although a few part-time staff members do their share, many of these important tasks are completed by volunteers. The Benedictine Ravens football team has become known for coming out on the hottest days and tackling jobs throughout the Forest. In recent months, 18 football players have visited twice to mulch trees, water trees, inventory trees needing care, and more. Thank you to Coach Joe Osborn for arranging these service outings.



Several families, middle school students, and friends of the Forest can also be seen tending to the tasks at hand. Their helping hands make it possible for the trees to receive the care they need and for the Forest to remain a welcoming place of remembrance, friendship, and peace.



Wings to Roots: The Story of the Forest

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the International Forest of Friendship, the Atchison Art Association created a special display at the Cultural Center at 111 North 8th Street. The In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the International Forest of Friendship, the Atchison Art Association created a special display at the Cultural Center at 111 North 8th Street. The exhibit brings the Forest's remarkable story to life through the 50 state flags, a paper replica of the Moon Tree, and a recreation of the office of founders Fay Gillis Wells and Joe Carrigan. Members of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee carefully searched through office files to help tell the story and discovered an abundance of meaningful artifacts, including Fay's correspondence with the Ninety-Nines about this special Bicentennial gift to the United States. Visitors will also find original maps of the Forest, newspaper articles about the Moon Tree, photographs by longtime photographer Don Martin, articles and original poems by longtime Atchison Daily Globe reporter Mickey Parman, photos of volunteers through the years, and the names of all 1,600 honorees. Together, these pieces offer a vivid look at how aviation, friendship, community service, and remembrance have taken root in Atchison and continue to inspire all who visit.







Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum: Where Great Adventures Began

Perched atop a bluff overlooking the Missouri River in Atchison, Kansas, the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum preserves the childhood home of one of the world's most celebrated aviation pioneers. Built in 1861 and lovingly restored, this beautiful Victorian home is where Amelia Earhart was born on July 24, 1897, and where her adventurous spirit first took flight.

Today, the museum, owned by The Ninety-Nines, is entering an exciting new chapter under the leadership of Director, Ashley Gill, with a renewed focus on enhancing the visitor experience through new exhibits, engaging educational programming, and meaningful community partnerships. Visitors can explore thoughtfully curated displays, view personal artifacts and family heirlooms, and discover the inspiring life story of the woman behind the legend.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the International Forest of Friendship, the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum is proud to honor the pioneers whose achievements have advanced aviation while preserving the place where Amelia's remarkable journey began. Together, the Forest and the Birthplace celebrate a shared legacy of courage and friendship that continues to inspire generations around the world.
Whether you are visiting Atchison for the first time or returning to commemorate this milestone anniversary, we invite you to experience the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum where great adventures begin.

AMELIA EARHART
Birthplace Museum
ATCHISON, KANSAS

Meet the Board of Directors

Cindy Apple, Co-Chair, was born into the Forest! Her grandfather, Joe Carrigan, was co-founder in 1976 and her father, Pat Carrigan, carried on as co-chair and conservator of the Forest for many years. Her mother, Kathy Carrigan, also served on the Board and as treasurer. Cindy is a school administrator in Louisburg, KS where she lives with her husband, Nathan, and children: Nate, Erin, and Caroline.

Linton Wells II, Co-Chair, is a retired naval officer and senior government official. He now works on community resilience at George Mason University. Lin's mother, Fay Gillis Wells, was the founding Co-Chair of the Forest (with Joe Carrigan), and a Charter member of the 99s. Lin has been Co-Chair since 2002. He and his wife Linda live in Fairfax, VA, and are excited to celebrate the Forest's 50th Anniversary with their children & grandchildren.

Cynthia Putnam, Secretary, is a retired teacher living in Florida. The daughter of George P. Putnam, she happily continues his great love and support of the Forest.

Cindy Copeland-DeVan is a Ninety-Nine who lives in nearby Leavenworth, Kansas. She is new to the board and having fun learning more about the Forest of Friendship. She is looking forward to all the developments.

Kristen Carrigan granddaughter of Joe Carrigan, is the newest member of the Board. She grew up with the Forest, helping her aunts in framing honoree certificates every year in her family's lumberyard. Kristen looks forward to serving the Forest beyond her many hours of volunteer work, including landscaping and caring for the flags.

Katherine Sharp Landdeck, Ph.D., is a Ninety-Nine, a professor of history, an aviation historian and author of the book, The Women With Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II. She is thrilled to help carry on the legacy of those who began the IFOF.

Diane Liebsch, Atchison, Kansas, is a retired educator who has served the Forest as a volunteer and now a Board member for over 30 years. Her favorite contribution to the Forest is providing STEM activities for children who visit.

Susan Myers, PhD., is a retired school administrator from Atchison. As a new board member, Susan is thrilled to be learning about the forest's exciting past, present and future.

Janet Patton is a resident of Denton, TX, a Ninety-Nines International Director and a member since 1988. Having met the co-founder Fay at a young age, Janet is happy to help carry on the legacy of the Forest as a board member.

Karen Seaberg is Chairman of the Board of MGP Ingredients Inc., a publicly traded company on NASDAQ. She is president and founder of the Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation and Chair of the Amelia Earhart Festival. Karen lives in Atchison, Kansas and enjoys working on everything related to Amelia Earhart.

Linda Wells married Lin Wells in 1976 and so has been part of the Forest from the very start. Fay Gillis Wells got a daughter and the Forest the same year! She is excited to introduce her grandchildren to the Forest!

ATCHISON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Atchison, Kansas. On behalf of the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce and our entire community, it is my pleasure to welcome you as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the International Forest of Friendship.

We are truly honored that you've chosen to spend this special occasion with us. Atchison is a community that takes great pride in its rich history, strong traditions, and the people who make this place so welcoming. This weekend, we are especially proud to share that spirit with visitors from across the country and around the world.

The International Forest of Friendship has been a meaningful part of our community for the past 50 years, reminding us that lasting connections are built through kindness, respect, and shared experiences. Those same values are reflected throughout Atchison. Whether you're exploring our historic downtown, visiting museums, enjoying our local restaurants and shops, or simply meeting the people who call Atchison home, we hope you'll experience the warmth and hospitality that makes our community so special.

While you're here, I encourage you to take time to discover everything Atchison has to offer. From our unique attractions and beautiful riverfront to our vibrant local businesses, there is something here for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for being part of this historic milestone. Your presence helps make this celebration even more meaningful, and we hope the friendships you build and the memories you create here will stay with you long after your visit.

Welcome to Atchison, and thank you for celebrating with us.

Jill Thorne
Executive Director
Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce

Thank You to Our Sponsors

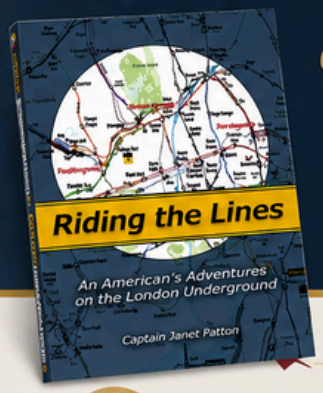




Riding The Lines

BOOK SIGNING

We invite you to explore the hidden gems of the London Underground in ***Riding the Lines: An American's Adventures on the London Underground.*** Purchase one as a gift or for yourself and have it personally signed by Captain Janet Patton!



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Join me at the
50TH ANNIVERSARY
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Celebrate 50 Years of *World Friendship Through Flight*

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SEPTEMBER 11–12, 2026 | ATCHISON, KANSAS

Scan to learn more about the 50th Anniversary weekend and to register!

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Welcome to Atchison, 99s!
Congratulations to all the Honorees!



Celebrating 50 Years of Friendship,
Unity, and a Greener Tomorrow

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Celebrating 50 Years of Friendship,
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AMELIA EARHART HANGAR MUSEUM
ATCHISON, KANSAS

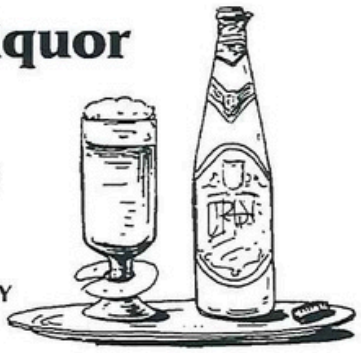
Congratulations
to the 2026 Inductees!

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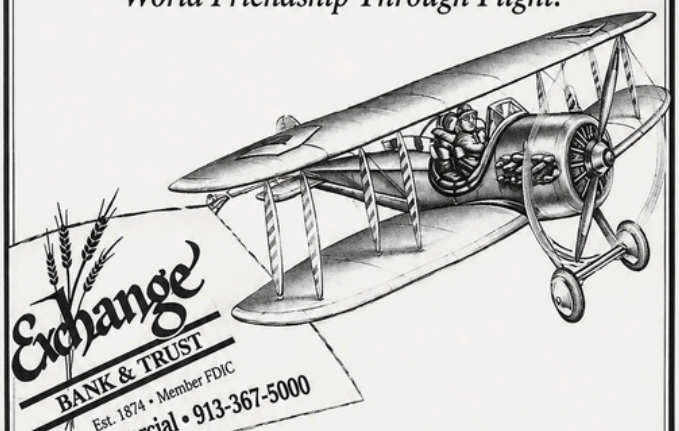
Thank you to the HCCTC students for all of your hard work at the forest and creating of our annual publication and photography.

Your hard work, creativity, and dedication truly shine through.

Well done!

Welcome International 99s

Honored to support the International Forest of Friendship and celebrate 50 years of *World Friendship Through Flight.*



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The Ninety-Nines Prayer

Oh, Lord, it is good to be able to fly,
to share with your winged creatures the joy of our freedom of flight.

We thank you for your wondrous natural laws that lift our wings skyward and we thank you for the courageous pioneers who first mastered those laws so that all of us could fly through your friendly skies.

But as we sour high above this beautifully jeweled island home we call Earth and survey its glory as few others can, heighten, Oh Lord, our appreciation for the beauty of your creation, and increase our dedication to care for it.

And we beseech your presence with each of us whenever we are airborne. Keep us steady when we find ourselves suddenly "on top" and our human balances begin to play tricks on us.

Keep us alert when our throttles are at cruise, but our minds become lulled into Idle, and keep us safe as we gently return to the earth from which we came.

We believe you are with us, Lord, but help our disbelief. Stay close by us and show the way, for it is so good to be able to fly.

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Congratulations to all Honorees!

Happy 50th Anniversary,

INTERNATIONAL FOREST OF FRIENDSHIP
WORLD FRIENDSHIP THROUGH FLIGHT

Happy 50th Anniversary to the International Forest of Friendship!

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When Bill was just out of high school in 1973, he approached Joe Carrigan about a job at a local industry. Joe told him to talk to John Smith who served on the Forest Committee. Well, John and Joe put their heads together and gave Bill a job! Ninety planted trees later, Bill knew all about the International Forest of Friendship! He still thinks it's a gem in our corner of Kansas!

Thanks to all those Atchison folks who have given their time and talent to making the Forest a wonderful tribute to world friendship through flight!





CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL FOREST OF FRIENDSHIP

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 INDUCTEES!

We look forward to your visit over the celebration weekend!

Ninety-Nines and Passport Holders will receive
a **10% discount** on gift shop purchases.

AMELIA EARHART Birthplace Museum
ATCHISON, KANSAS

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HAPPY 50TH
TO OUR
INTERNATIONAL
FOREST OF
FRIENDSHIP!















Hope to see you at our future events.

Upcoming Annual Themes

2027: "Flying, Forests, and the Future" -- Emphasizing contributions by people under 35.

2028: "Security and Solace through Flight" – Especially military aviators, flying medical staff, Angel Flight, etc.

2029: "Discovery through Flight" – Honoring those who have "pushed the envelope" in all aspects of aviation and aerospace

Thank You for Joining Us!

Thank you for being part of the International Forest of Friendship's 50th Anniversary Celebration. We hope you enjoyed a meaningful and memorable weekend.

Your registration was more than just a sign-up—it was a commitment to protecting and sustaining the Forest. Proceeds from the event help fund vital maintenance and special projects that ensure the Forest remains healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

Together, we're preserving a living legacy of friendship and nature.

www.ifof.org
forestoffriendship@gmail.com

Notes



Come Back Soon!

