

International Forest of Friendship Newsletter
June 2017 Induction Ceremonies (our 41st Anniversary) and Plans for 2018

Welcome to this eighth edition of the Forest's newsletter! The focus is on the honorees who were inducted in ceremonies in Atchison on June 17, 2017, and other events during the Forest's 41th year. This newsletter includes:

- 2017 Induction Ceremonies and Speakers
- 99s Attendance
- Building a network of Aviation, Aerospace and STEM activities around Atchison
- Muriel and Upcoming Events at the Amelia Earhart Airport
- Plans for 2018 (Security and Solace Through Flight) and Beyond: **New Date Sept 21-22, 2018**

2017 Induction Ceremonies and Speakers

Following an enormously enjoyable Friday evening cocktail party on June 16th, sixteen honorees were inducted into the Forest on the morning of the 17th, and we welcomed a bench along the Forest's pathways sponsored by the Southeast Section of the 99s. Due to the heat, the Friday party was moved from the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum to Paolucci's restaurant, downtown. The Saturday ceremonies were held in the Fay Gillis Wells gazebo, surrounded by the waving flags of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 42 territories, foreign countries and other participants which have trees in the Forest. As always, they were preceded by the very special youth activities, including Smokey Bear, the children's program, and the parade of flags. The weather was a beautiful interlude between two stormy evenings. The trees in the Forest weathered the storms well and we greatly appreciated Carrigan Lumber and their team for being on-site at 6 AM before the ceremonies to tidy up fallen debris. Expanding on the Forest's overall theme of "World Friendship through Flight" (www.ifof.org), this year's theme focused on "Flying, Forests and the Future," emphasizing contributions of young people to all aspects of aviation and aerospace.

The honorees were:

- Fred and Karen Allina of Fort Wayne, IN, sponsored by the Three Rivers 99s
- Suzie Azar of El Paso, TX, sponsored by the El Paso 99s
- Theresa Levandoski Byers of Freedom, CA, sponsored by the Monterey Bay 99s
- The late Michele Cervone, and Alex Mandel of Odessa, Ukraine, sponsored by Amelia Earhart Society members: Dave Bowman, Lou Foudray, Ann Pellegrino, Michelle Stauffer, and Fred Tonsing
- The late Etta "Sue" Frantz of Greenville, SC, sponsored by her family
- Lara Zook Gaerte, of Auburn, IN, sponsored by the Three Rivers 99s
- Philip Helton of Trenton, MO, sponsored by his daughter, Rhonda (Helton) McCracken
- LT La'Shanda Holmes, USCG of Fayetteville, NC, sponsored by the Coast Guard Aviation Association, the Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl, and the Deputy Commandant for Operations, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
- Captain Barrington Irving of Miami, FL, sponsored by the International Forest of Friendship
- Darcy and Ken Kulesha of Greendale, WI, sponsored by the Wisconsin 99s
- The late James Muirhead of Peoria, AZ, sponsored by his wife, Anne Muirhead

- Southeast Section of the 99s, which donated a bench to the Forest and was represented by Governor Mae Marquet, and past Governor Myra Bugbee
- The late George Vorovka of Nebraska, sponsored by the Northeast Kansas 99s
- Karen Weldon, of New Orleans, sponsored by the NOLA 99s

A photo of the honorees is below:



Honorees 2017

1st row: Alex Mandel (for himself and Michele Cervone), LT La'Shanda Holmes, USCG, Karen Weldon, Suzie Azar, Darcy Kulesha,

2nd row: Myra Bugbee (former 99s SE Section Governor), Linda Murphy (for Fred and Karen Allina and Lara Gaerte), Sue Frantz (for Etta "Sue" Frantz), Evelyn Vorovka (for George Vorovka), Theresa Levandoski Byers,

3rd row: Barrington Irving, Anne Muirhead (for James Muirhead), Mae Marquet (99s SE Section Governor), Susan Brassard (for Etta "Sue" Frantz), Cheri Thompson (for George Vorovka)

4th row: Joe Frantz (for Etta "Sue" Frantz), Ken Kulesha, David Vorovka (for George Vorovka)

Not shown, Marjorie Ferguson (for Etta "Sue" Frantz)

Barrington Irving spoke at lunch about his experiences in becoming the youngest person to fly solo around the world and showed some of the ways "[The Flying Classroom](#)" has energized young minds and interested them in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) topics. LT La'Shanda Holmes, USCG spoke about her inspiring life experiences. It was a memorable session.

Ninety-Nines Attendance

Nineteen 99s attended the ceremonies, some as honorees, some as sponsors, some returning for the friendship and camaraderie that are hallmarks of the Forest.



99 attendees at IFOF 2017

1st row: Carole Sutton, Kathy Lester Ross, Michelle Stauffer, Annette Smith, Karen Weldon, Suzie Azar, Darcy Kulesha, Jeanne Hendrickson, Wally Funk,
2nd row: Judy Benjamin Godfrey, Myra Bugbee, Janet Gonzales, Mae Marquet, Anne Muirhead, Linda Murphy, Cheri Thompson, Theresa Levandoski Byers, Monica Graham, Ann Shaneyfelt

Special thanks are due to the Three Rivers 99s for their efforts to get attendees this year and to the SE Section for their sponsorship of a bench along the Forest's trails

Aviation and Aerospace Communities in Kansas

Surrounding the ceremonies there were some fascinating, and encouraging, interactions which suggest excellent opportunities for the aviation and aerospace communities in Kansas, as well as youth projects and STEM education. The pieces are (in no particular order--this is a growing network, not a ladder):

- (1) Atchison Chamber of Commerce ("Chamber"),
- (2) Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation ("Foundation"),
- (3) Amelia Earhart Airport ("AE Airport"),
- (4) The International Forest of Friendship ("Forest"),
- (5) Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum ("AE Birthplace Museum"),
- (6) the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson ("Cosmosphere"), and
- (7) NE Kansas Chapter 99s (NE Kansas 99s).

This year's theme at the Forest of "Flying, Forests and the Future" (emphasizing contributions by young people) is reflected in honorees Barrington Irving and his Flying Classroom (which focuses on STEM education), and LT La'Shanda Holmes, USCG. These discussions are the beginning of a conversation. I hope they will stimulate introductions and follow-on engagements.

These components tie together in several ways:

- A revitalized AE Airport, with the AE Airport Museum in place, contributing to growth in the community and the local economy, supported in its development by the Foundation and the Chamber.
- The Forest integrated into the Atchison community, and contributing to its prosperity, based around the Chamber, the AE Birthplace Museum, and other local activities.
- Aviation and forestry integrated into the Forest's management structure, including the 99s at the National level, the NE Kansas 99s, members of the AE Birthplace Museum and the Airport, and foresters such as Clinton McNemee and Doug Grimm on the Forest's Committee, as well as a close relationship with the Kansas State Foresters.
- STEM education addressed in ways that link aviation and aerospace to partners such as the Cosmosphere's space camps and other educational activities, the Airport's ties with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Barrington Irving's Flying Classroom, La'Shanda Holmes' inspirational stories for young people, local STEM activities around Atchison, and many more.
- International activities (through the Forest's core theme of "World Friendship Through Flight"), such as ties to The Ninety-Nines, Atchison's efforts to build sister city relationships with Derry, Ireland, etc.

These tie in directly to our efforts to get the Forest under a stable, sustainable, locally based management structure that's part of the vibrant network of aviation, aerospace, and forestry communities in Kansas.

Muriel and Upcoming Events at the AE Airport

We were excited to be able to see Muriel, the last remaining 1935 Lockheed Electra L-10E aircraft in the world – the same model aircraft Amelia flew on her final, fateful flight around the world. Muriel now resides in a private hangar at the AE Airport, even as the vision of the Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation is to develop an aviation museum within the AE Airport to showcase Muriel while creating an educational and visitor experience that honors the accomplishments of Amelia Earhart. The **Amelia Earhart Airport Museum** will encourage young minds to achieve the seemingly impossible while serving as an economic development initiative that will enhance the vibrant culture, commerce and entertainment Atchison currently offers.



Muriel in her hangar at AE Airport, Atchison

The Foundation adopted Muriel from Grace McGuire who had spent decades refurbishing the aircraft in preparation for recreating Amelia's flight. When Grace realized she would not be able to undertake her

quest, she agreed to let the Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation adopt her beloved plane. After weeks of meticulously dismantling and preparing the plane for her overland adventure, a cavalcade of escorts guided Muriel during her 18-day, 1,500-mile journey home from her hangar in El Cajon, California to Atchison, Kansas in 2016.

The airport, along with much of Atchison, will stage a “Total Solar Eclipse Party” on August 21st.

September 23 will see the “Girls in Aviation Day” and the Annual Vintage Fly-in at the AE Airport. We hope that the Forest will become more closely associated with these events in the future.

Plans for 2018 (Security and Solace through Flight) and Beyond

We are looking forward to next year’s induction ceremonies, which will be on **Sep 21-22, 2018 (Fri-Sat)**. **PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE**. Originally we had planned to move the ceremonies to early June to deconflict with the Air Race Classic, but an even more exciting opportunity has come up. The AE airport will have a girls fly-in on the morning of Sat, **Sep 22**, so we can have the cocktail party on Friday evening, attend the fly-in Sat morning, have the keynote speech at lunch, do the Forest induction ceremonies about 2:00, provide time to see Atchison, and have dinner and a hangar dance at the airport in the evening. This also will let us see construction progress on the AE Airport Museum. The focus for 2018 will be on “Security and Solace through Flight,” with an emphasis on military aviators, organizations like Angel Flight, flying doctors, aerial delivery of medicines, etc. As always, we welcome any nominees who have contributed, or are contributing to all aspects of aviation and aerospace.

Other upcoming themes include:

2019: “Discovery through Flight” – Honoring those who have “pushed the envelope” in all aspects of aviation and aerospace.

2020: “Flying and Forests” – Linking aviation and aerospace with the Earth’s green spaces.

2021: “World Friendship through Flight” – International partnerships and the promotion of peace through aviation and aerospace.

2022: “Flying, Forests and the Future” —emphasizing contributions by young people.

We welcome Ms. Janet Davis to the Forest office as Executive Director.

We’re excited to have The Ninety-Nines represented by Ellen Herr, our Vice Chairman (elherr88@gmail.com), and Laurie Probst, our liaison with the 99s (kosalof@aol.com).

We’d greatly appreciate your feedback on any aspect of the Forest and this newsletter. Suggestions for honorees and outreach opportunities would be welcome. Please feel free to reply directly to the transmittal e-mail (forestoffriendship@gmail.com) or via the website (www.ifof.org) which has more information about the Forest and points of contact, as well as sponsoring and reservation procedures.

Other contact information is:

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Office Phone: 913-367-1419 or Cindy Apple 913-208-5661

All the best.

The Forest Team

Help us keep the Forest Growing! The Forest is a 501c3 and your donations can help sustain the Forest’s upkeep and improvements. There’s a PayPal link on the website for your convenience.