

International Forest of Friendship



The International Forest of Friendship is a living, growing memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace by Atchison, Kansas. The Forest was a gift to America on her 200th birthday in 1976 from the City of Atchison, Kansas (the birthplace of Amelia Earhart); The Ninety-Nines (International Organization of Women Pilots), and the Kansas State University Forestry Extension.

Joe Carrigan of Atchison, Kansas, and Fay Gillis Wells, a charter member of The Ninety-Nines and noted journalist, co-chaired the Forest from its inception until their deaths. Their sons, Pat Carrigan and Lin Wells, and families picked up their dream of “world friendship through flight.”

The Forest is nestled on a gentle slope overlooking Lake Warnock, on the outskirts of Atchison. It is made up of trees from all fifty states and more than thirty-five countries around the world where Honorees reside.

There are trees from George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, the Bicentennial American Spruce, a tree from Amelia's grandfather's farm, and the Moon Tree—an American Sycamore--grown from a seed taken to the moon by Command Pilot Stuart Roosa on Apollo 14. It honors the 17 astronauts who gave their lives in America's pioneering of space exploration. In 2003 a monument near the tree was dedicated to the seven astronauts lost on Shuttle Columbia.

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Winding through the Forest is a pathway, honoring those who have, or still are, contributing to all facets of aviation and aerospace. It is a five-foot wide (wheel chair friendly) walk and embedded in the concrete walk are granite plaques engraved with the names of over 1,500 honorees. Memory Lane honors early inductees.

Included in this illustrious list are markers memorializing such aviation notables as Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, Jeana Yeager, the Wright Brothers, Sally Ride, John Glenn, Chuck Yeager, General "Jimmy" Doolittle, and Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman space shuttle pilot. 2019 induction ceremonies are Sep 20-21 (F-S).

In 1976, Memory Lane was designated as the first National Recreation Trail in Kansas. In 1991, a beautiful gazebo was dedicated to Fay Wells, in honor of her leadership of the Forest.

Nearby are the Amelia Earhart Earthworks and the Lake Warnock picnic grounds. The Forest is open all year round.

<http://www.ifof.org/>

forestoffriendship@gmail.com

Phone: 913-367-1419

Mailing Address:

International Forest of Friendship
Attn: Office Staff
913 Main Street
Atchison, KS 66002



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