

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Keynote Speaker** Captain Colleen Nevius, USNR (Retired) was the first U.S. Naval female test pilot. Captain Nevius, graduated and was commissioned in May 1977 from Purdue University as a member of the second group of women Midshipmen accepted into Navy ROTC.

She was selected for pilot training commencing October 1977, flying the T-28, TH-57 and H-1, earning the coveted Wings of Gold in February, 1979.

With Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Karen Thornton, Colleen was assigned as one of two women pilots to the sea-duty component of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Six (HC-6) at NAS Norfolk, VA, to fly the H-46 Sea Knight's Vertical Replenishment (VertRep) mission.

The first woman pilot to graduate from US Naval Test Pilot School, Colleen was assigned to the Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Directorate as lead pilot for H-46 and CH-53E helicopters. She completed more than 50 projects in a two-year assignment in the Attack Assault Branch.

She completed the assignment as Assistant Officer in Charge, HM-12 Sea Component flying the Vertical Onboard Delivery (VOD) mission, subsequently standing up HC-2 VOD Squad. She was deployed with the CH-53E to NAS Roosevelt Roads in support of carrier training, and to the North Atlantic in support of NATO exercises.

She and her husband Bill Readdy have three children raised in the Arlington, Virginia, area. Following in his mom and grandfather's footsteps, one of their sons continues the family flying legacy.



*Capt. Colleen Nevius*