

1992  
to  
2008



# PIONEER HALL of FAME

The WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame (PHOF) was established in 1992 to honor women who have made significant contributions as record-setters, trailblazers, or innovators. During the past 30+ years, a variety of individuals and groups have been recognized at WAI's annual conference during a PHOF awards ceremony and celebration. Learn more about all of these trailblazing pioneers on the Aviation for Girls app, and help share their stories in school projects and presentations.

## Amelia Earhart

Amelia obtained her license with money she saved from her salary as a nurse. In April 1928, she joined a transatlantic flight as the first woman passenger and became a national heroine. Amelia later flew across the Atlantic and the Pacific making her the first woman to do so. She participated in the first Women's Air Derby and was a founder of The Ninety-Nines. Her biggest challenge was an around-the-world flight at the Equator, a flight which had never been attempted. Unfortunately, the plane with Amelia and her navigator vanished near Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean in 1937.



## Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)

The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) were formed in August 1943 as an adjunct to the Army Air Forces' war effort. The organization was made up of two civilian flying groups: the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron and the Women's Flying Training Detachment. Under the guidance of Jacqueline Cochran, the WASP became involved in all aspects of military flying operations, with the exception of combat and overseas ferrying. More than 1,000 WASP flew over 70 million miles and delivered 12,650 airplanes across the country during their time of operation.

## 1992

Moya Olsen Lear Edna Gardner Whyte  
Emily Howell Warner Jeana Yeager  
Fay Gillis Wells

## 1993

Nancy Hopkins Tier  
Evelyn "Bobbi" Trout  
WASP

## 1997

Amelia Earhart  
Betty Skelton Frankman  
Navy Women Navigators  
of World War II  
Patricia "Patty" Wagstaff

## 1996

Lorna DeBlicquy  
The Fellow Lady  
Astronaut Trainees  
Audrey Poberezny  
Sheila Widnall

## 1995

Bessie Coleman  
Eileen Collins  
Wally Funk  
Jean Ross Howard  
Nadine Jeppesen

## 1994

Olive Ann Beech  
Mary Feik  
Evelyn Bryan Johnson  
Jessie Woods



## Galina Gavrillovna Korchuganova

Galina Gavrillovna Korchuganova became the first absolute world aerobatic champion among women, winning gold and silver medals at the World Championship in Moscow in 1966. Galina went on to set a total of 42 world records in Yak-32, Yak-40, and AN-24 aircraft.

Before setting her first world record on a 100 km closed circuit flying the Yak-32 jet in 1965, Galina worked as an engineer at Ramensk Avionics Construction Bureau. Only after winning championships and flying more than 1,000 hours did she receive a reply to her request to attend test pilot school from the Ministry of Aviation.



## Katherine Cheung

Katherine became the first licensed Asian American female pilot in the U.S. in 1932. Two years later, she earned her international airline license and flew as a commercial pilot. From 1935 to 1937, Katherine entered numerous competitive air races and continued her aerobatics career including the Chatterton Air Race in 1936. She was invited to become a member of the Women's International Association of Aeronautics, the International Association of Women Pilots, and The Ninety-Nines.

## 1998

Loretta Jones  
Harriet Quimby  
Jacqueline L. Smith  
The Whirly-Girls

## 1999

Arlene Elliott  
Gloria Heath  
Anne Morrow Lindbergh  
June D. Maule

## 2000

Katherine Cheung  
Jerrie Cobb  
Marion P. Jayne  
Louise McPhetredge Thaden

## 2001

Mary Barr  
Ann Baumgartner Carl  
Elizabeth "Betty" Pfister  
Elinor Smith

## 2002

Fiorenze de Bernardi  
Julie E. Clark  
Doris Lockness  
Blanche Stuart Scott  
Soviet Air Women of WWII

## 2003

100 Most Influential  
Women in Aviation and  
Aerospace

## 2004

Rosella Bjornson  
Ann Lewis Cooper  
Arlene Feldman  
Nelda Lee  
Dot Swain Lewis

## 1995 inductee



## Bessie Coleman

Inspired by the World War I pilots, Bessie Coleman became interested in flying and became convinced she should be in the sky, not just reading about it. She heard through her friend that Europe had a more liberal attitude toward women and people of color. So she learned to speak French and earned enough money to go to Paris to get her license. Bessie earned her license on June 15, 1921, from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, and became the first African American to earn an international pilot license. Upon her return to the United States, she worked to increase the number of African American pilots. For the next four years, she flew at shows whenever she could, and taught aviation to African Americans.

## 2008

Nancy Harkness Love  
Nicole Malachowski  
Geraldine "Jerrie" Mock  
Margaret Ringenberg  
The Women's Sections of  
the Air Transport  
Auxiliary

## 2007

Deanna Dee Brasseur  
Iris Cummings Critchell  
Marie Marvingt

## 2006

Fran Bera  
Galina Gavrillovna  
Korchuganova  
Jeanna Holm  
Betty Mullis  
Betty Jane "BJ" Williams

## 2005

Sandra L. Anderson Barbara Erickson London  
Anne Bridge Baddour Florene Miller Watson  
Colleen C. Barrett



2009  
to  
2024



# PIONEER HALL of FAME



2004  
Inductee

### Nelda Lee

Nelda Lee is responsible for flight and ground test engineering for the four military aircraft that are manufactured in St. Louis for The Boeing Company, including the F-15 Eagle, AV-8 Harrier, T-45 Goshawk, and F/A-18 Hornet. She was the Level 2 Manager for Test & Evaluation personnel who are located at various U.S. sites. Nelda was an employee with McDonnell Douglas Corp. and now The Boeing Company for 45 years. She has a BS degree in Aerospace Engineering and was the second woman to receive this degree at Auburn University.

**2009**  
Jacqueline Cochran  
Patricia Malone  
Ruth Nichols  
Dawn Seymour  
Anna Timofeyeva-Yegorva

**2010**  
Trish Beckman  
Vice Adm. Vivien Crea  
Suzanna Darcy Henneman  
Alice du Pont Mills  
Kathy Sullivan

**2011**  
Dr. Peggy Chabrian  
Tammy Duckworth  
Maj. Gen. Susan J. Helms  
Mary Ann Martin Wyall

**2012**  
Bernice "Bee" Falk Haydu  
First Women's National Air Derby Pilots  
Elizabeth "Elsie" MacGill  
Mary Magdalene "Maggie" Maga



2011  
Inductee

### Dr. Peggy Chabrian

Dr. Peggy Chabrian is the founder of Women in Aviation International and retired as WAI president in September 2019. She grew the organization from its first conference attended by 150 people in 1990 to an organization representing thousands of women in all aspects of aviation today. Peggy is a multi-thousand-hour commercial pilot as well as a rotary-rated pilot and flight instructor who has been flying for 25 years. Prior to her founding Women in Aviation International, Peggy held several top positions in aviation education.



**2015**  
Priscilla Blum  
Phoebe Omlie  
Deanie and Nancy Parrish

**2014**  
Nancy J. Currie  
Beryl Markham  
Sally Ride  
Sheila Scott

**2013**  
Lt. Col. Karen Fuller Brannen  
Mary Frances Silitch  
WAI Founding  
Board of Directors

**2016**  
Amy Johnson  
Brenda E. Robinson  
UPT Class 77-08  
Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger

**2017**  
Elizabeth "Betty" Everts  
The First Class of Women Naval Aviators  
Lt. Gen. Stayce Harris



2018 inductee

**Brig.Gen. Linda K. McTague**  
Brig. Gen. Linda K. McTague retired in 2009 from the United States Air Force having served more than 28 years as both a pilot and aircraft maintenance officer. During her military career, she logged more than 5,900 flight hours in military trainers and VIP transport aircraft and commanded at both the squadron and wing levels. Her final assignment was as the commander of the District of Columbia Air National Guard.



**2018**  
Bonnie Tiburzi Caputo  
Kathleen Fox  
Brig. Gen. Linda K. McTague

**2019**  
Leanne Caret  
First Women of U.S.  
Coast Guard Aviation  
Mary Golda Ross

**2020**  
U.S. Army's First Women  
Rotary Wing Aviators  
Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt  
Patricia "Patty"  
Jean Wagner

**2021**  
Joan Robinson-Berry  
Maj. Gen. Carol Timmons  
U.S. Marine Corp's First Class of Women Aviators



2014 inductee

Will you  
be a future  
pioneer?

**2024**  
Katherine Johnson  
U.S. Army Air Forces  
World War II Flight  
Nurses  
U.S. Air Force First Class  
of Women Navigators

**2023**  
Nancy Bird  
Martha and John King  
Merryl Tengesdal

**2022**  
Capt. Rosemary Bryant Mariner  
Cornelia Clark Fort  
Col. Peggy A. Phillips

**Joan Robinson-Berry**  
Joan Robinson-Berry retired as vice president and chief engineer for Boeing Global Services in June 2020. Her numerous accomplishments in the field of aerospace during her 33-year career have broken barriers and elevated the industry. Joan's trailblazing began early—she was the first African American from her childhood neighborhood to graduate from college with an engineering degree. Joan was the first female engineering graduate at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and the first African American program manager at McDonnell Douglas.



2021 inductee