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The Official eNewsletter of
Women in Aviation International

Women in Aviation INTERNATIONAL

November 2026

Meet the WAI2027 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductees!

Each year, WAI honors the new inductees into the Pioneer Hall of Fame (PHOF) during a very special event. Join us for our 2027 celebration as we honor our newest members of the PHOF. The evening ceremony and celebration will be held Friday, February 26 at the Savannah Convention Center from 7-9 p.m.



Dorothy Cochrane



Kara Spears Hultgreen



Susan Kilrain

Congratulations to the WAI2027 inductees for their unique trailblazing efforts that inspire more women in aviation!

Dorothy Cochrane

Dorothy Cochrane spent nearly five decades at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, joining in 1977 as one of its first female curators. As curator of general aviation and the history

joining in 1977 as one of its first female curators. As curator of general aviation and the history of women in aviation, she spearheaded the museum's first gallery devoted to general aviation, the Thomas W. Haas "We All Fly" gallery, which opened in 2022 to define, explain, and display what general aviation is. A longtime friend of WAI, she drew on decades of WAI conferences and events to reach the general aviation community, and she acquired aircraft for the national collection, including Patty Wagstaff's Extra 260. She also led the Military Women Aviators Oral History Initiative, recording interviews with fifteen trailblazing military women pilots. A leading authority on Anne Morrow Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart, she received the 2020 Katharine Wright Trophy and retired in 2025.

Kara Spears Hultgreen (deceased)
The late Lt. Kara Spears Hultgreen was the first modern-era combat-qualified female Naval Aviator and the first female Navy fighter pilot to die on duty. A Distinguished Naval Graduate of Aviation Officer Candidate School, she flew the EA-6A Prowler and became a fierce advocate for repealing the Combat Exclusion Laws, writing to Congress and meeting with any lawmaker who would listen. After combat aircraft were opened to women in 1993, she was assigned to the F-14 Tomcat and qualified aboard USS Constellation in 1994, joining the Black Lions of VF-213. She was lost in an F-14 accident on October 25, 1994, and laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Her perseverance helped open combat aviation to women in every service.

Susan Kilrain
Susan Kilrain, Commander, U.S. Navy (retired), is the youngest person, and one of only three women, ever to pilot the Space Shuttle. One of the first women selected to fly the F-14 Tomcat and a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, she logged more than 3,000 flight hours in over thirty aircraft types during a 20-year Navy career. Selected by NASA in 1995, she piloted Columbia on STS-83 and returned to orbit months later as pilot of STS-94, logging nearly 472 hours in space. Today a motivational speaker and STEM advocate, Susan is the author of the children's book *An Unlikely Astronaut* and the memoir *Slaying Snakes in the Cockpit*.

PHOF Info and Past Inductees

Don't Miss Out—Register for Conference Today!

Will we see you in Savannah at the 38th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference on February 25-27, 2027, at the Savannah Convention Center?

Professional Development seminars are now open for registration, and Mind.Body.Spirit. sessions are live! Start building your schedule with sessions to sharpen your skills, grow your network, and recharge.

- **Professional Development seminars:** Select one of three, four-hour sessions for an additional $125. *See details below.*
- **Mind.Body.Spirit. sessions:** Select a Yoga or Sound Bath & Mindfulness session for $15

Seats are limited. Reserve yours today! Register and Choose Your Sessions

Remember: You must complete conference registration to receive WAI group rates at one of the 15 select hotels.

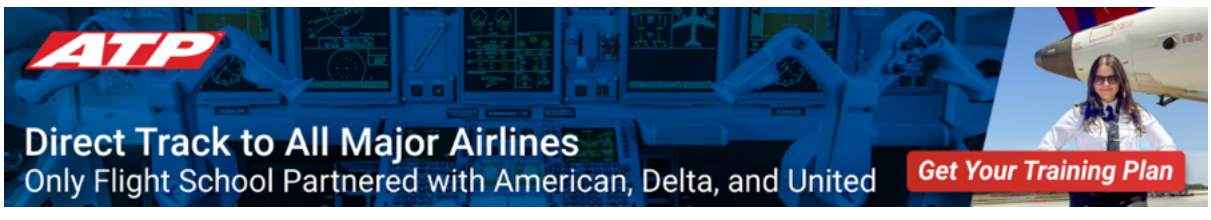
Register here for WAI2027

Exhibit Hall Info

Become a Sponsor

See Professional Development Seminars





Let's Hear it From the Girls!

Our Lift Every Girl, Everywhere campaign is still going strong. In this video, Laura and Kate Laster share how the year long program has brought value to their respective aviation journeys. Student pilot certificate eligibility starts at 16 years old, and 14 for gliders and balloons. Our virtual, year-round Aviation for Girls programs begin at age eight to not only show girls what careers are possible, but prepare them with resources and community to reach their goals.

Funding these programs doesn't happen without all of us. Consider making a donation today for girls like Kate around the world.



Listen to WAI members and mother-daughter duo Laura and Kate Laster share their four-year Aviation for Girls program experience.

Donate Here

Mentor Connect Has a New Home!

Great mentoring relationships deserve great tools! After four years of connecting WAI mentors and mentees on Guider, we're moving Mentor Connect to a new platform this fall (powered by Thrive), built to help you get even more out of every conversation.

Want a guided tour? Join our live walkthrough on **Tuesday, November 10, at 11 a.m. ET (U.S.)** and learn how to:

- Pick up right where you left off by signing in and refreshing your profile
- Make every session count with Content Packs that guide your conversations
- Set goals that matter to you and track how far you've grown
- Get recognized for your commitment with new rewards for mentors and mentees

We'll save time at the end for your questions, so come curious! All current Mentor Connect participants are welcome. Can't join live? Sign up anyway and we'll send you the recording afterward.

Save My Seat for the Mentor Connect User Update

Become a Mentor



Register for the November 24 WAI Together Monthly Virtual Meetup

Topic: Gratitude in Action: Celebrating Wins and Recognizing Those Who Lift Us
Date: Tuesday, November 24 at 12 p.m. EDT Virtual

Take a moment to reflect and celebrate the people and achievements that make our aviation community thrive. This session will highlight the power of gratitude, recognizing colleagues, mentors, and peers who inspire and support us. Learn how small acts of appreciation can create a positive ripple effect, strengthen relationships, and fuel a culture of encouragement and success.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions directly during the event.

Join WAI Together here: WAI Together - Women in Aviation International
Our virtual meetups take place on the last Tuesday of every month.
Download our free WAI Together app to join the conversation and get access to the meetup.



Register for the November Event

Join WAI Together



Welcome New Official WAI Chapter!

Congratulations to our Türkiye Chapter on becoming official!

Welcome New Provisional WAI Chapter!

We also welcome our newest provisional chapter, Philadelphia, to the WAI chapter network!

WAI chapters are the heartbeat of our organization, creating local communities where members can connect, mentor one another, and turn their passion for aviation into lasting friendships and career opportunities. To find a chapter near you, visit the WAI website's chapter directory at https://www.wai.org/chapters/.





A huge thank you to the WAI Las Vegas Chapter members who volunteered all week at Booth 750 during NBAA2026! You helped us share WAI's networking opportunities and spread the excitement for WAI2027.

Lead the Market in 2027 — Download the Media Kit!

Secure your 2027 WAI advertising program now. By planning early, your company can lock in prime print and digital placements, boost your brand visibility, and set your campaigns up for maximum impact with WAI's 20,000 members around the world.

Download the 2027 WAI Media Kit for print and digital advertising options in *Aviation for Women* and *Aviation for Girls* magazines, plus monthly Connect eNewsletters and the WAI website. WAI Corporate members receive a 10% discount on all ad rates.

Email Kelly Murphy, director, communications and education, with questions or for more information.



Download the 2027 WAI Media Kit

Review the Media Kit

Did You Watch the Latest WAI On Air Podcast Episode?

Discover a world-class podcast that informs, inspires, and educates - WAI On Air. Each episode will take you behind the scenes of the aviation/aerospace world to meet the remarkable women and allies shaping its future.

Be sure to FOLLOW or SUBSCRIBE so you never miss our bi-weekly episodes!

Available on Spotify, YouTube, **Apple Music,** and **Amazon Music.**



On Air podcasts are brought to listeners and viewers by WAI Strategic Partners Amazon, American Airlines, and United.

Listen on Spotify

Watch the Latest Episode

Watch Seasons 1 & 2 on YouTube



Upcoming Events

The calendar of events is a source of information about industry/organization events.

2026

November 4-6: NGPA's 2026 Aviation Inclusion Summit, ALPA's Valo Park, McLean, Virginia NGPA.org

November 6: 20th Annual Aviation Education & Career Expo, Rider Jet Center at Hagerstown Regional Airport, Hagerstown, Maryland ParagonAviationGroup.com/aviation-education-career-expo/

November 24: WAI Together Virtual Meetup - Gratitude in Action: Celebrating Wins and Recognizing Those Who Lift Us on WAI Together

December 8-10: MEBAA Show, Dubai Airshow Site, Dubai, United Arab Emirates https://www.mebaa.aero/

2027

February 4-7: NGPA Palm Springs Winter Warm-Up, Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, California NGPA.org

February 25-27: 38th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference, Savannah Convention Center, Savannah, Georgia WAI.org/2027-conference





Visit the WAI Store

"Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them."
- Madam C.J. Walker

Pioneer Hall of Fame	Education & Careers	Scholarships

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