



WAI Connect

The Official eNewsletter of



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June 2019

[Message from WAI](#)

[Honor The WASP on Memorial Day Weekend](#)

For the second year, WAI members and friends visited the graves of Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) leaving an appropriate flower, flag, or note during last month's Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27.

This [#HonorTheWASP project](#) involved WAI chapter members from Connecticut to California and was a memorable event for those that participated and remembered these pioneering women. More information and a detailed database of WASP grave locations at cemeteries across the United States can be [accessed here](#). If you have any WASP updates or info, please [email WAI research intern Abigail Welch](#).



WAI members and friends visited more than 100 graves during Memorial Day Weekend as part of WAI's Honor The WASP event. View more photos and video tributes by searching #HonorTheWASP on social media.

[Watch the #HonorTheWASP video](#)



**Enjoy WAI Connect Breakfast at
EAA AirVenture Oshkosh**

[Purchase your advance tickets](#) for the annual WAI Connect Breakfast, co-sponsored by Avemco and United Airlines, on Wednesday, July 24 at 8 a.m. to kick-off a day of WomenVenture activities at EAA AirVenture! The fun event, featuring former naval aviator and [Southwest Capt. Tammie Jo Shults](#), will be held at the Paul H. Poberezny Conference Center (PHP Tent) located just outside the admission gate. Tammie Jo will share her story of safely landing Southwest Airlines Flight 1380 and talk about her upcoming book [Nerves of Steel](#).

[Purchase tickets online](#) for \$17 each until July 21, and \$20 at the WAI booth, Hangar B-2041.

A free limited-edition purple EAA WomenVenture t-shirt is available to all women who participate in the annual photo gathering on the Boeing Plaza at 11 a.m. **NEW in 2019**, you must register for your T-shirt in advance to ensure the correct size at [EAA.org/womenventure](#). One T-shirt per participant, while supplies last.



Southwest Airlines Capt. Tammie Jo Shults will speak to WAI Connect Breakfast attendees



Get your purple EAA WomenVenture t-shirt, and bring your smile for the annual group photo at Boeing Plaza



WAI2020 Conference Heads to Florida!

Save the dates for our 2020 conference, March 5-7, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. Start planning your trip with [this information](#).

Next month, Disney will complete a new 15-story tower. [View a flyover video](#) of all the exciting updates and changes at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort.

Are you interested in sharing your expertise and passion as a WAI2020 presenter? Proposals are due July 1, 2019.

[For more details visit our website.](#)



**DISNEY'S CORONADO
SPRINGS RESORT**
March 5-7, 2020

[Register for WAI2020 in Orlando, Florida](#)

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WAI Turns 25 Years Old!

Dr. Peggy Chabrian, founder and president of WAI, will share the history of the organization and why it was established in 1994, in a three-part series featured in *Aviation for Women*. Look for Part 1 in the July/August 2019 issue.



Peggy and her first husband Bruce Baty

Member News

Congratulations to **Marci Veronie**, WAI board chairman and lifetime member, for receiving the prestigious [Tokio Marine "Good Company Award"](#). Marci, Avemco vice president of sales and marketing was recognized for her outstanding achievements in 2018 during an award ceremony in April 2019 in Tokyo, Japan.



Marci Veronie accepts the "Good Company Award"

Trish Beckman, WAI 17, and **Eileen Collins**, WAI 3000, received Fellowship Awards at the Royal Aeronautical Society garden reception in Washington, DC, on May 13. **Marillyn Hewson**, chairman, president and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation, also received the 2019 Transatlantic Leading Edge Award. **Melinda Benson**, WAI 47286, and **Shelly Simi**, WAI 8, are active members of the annual event. In related news, **Jill Meyers**, WAI 16138 and president of the WAI San Diego Chapter, received a RAeS Fellowship Award in April 2019. Congratulations to all!



WAI members Kelly Murphy, Melinda Benson, Trish Beckman, and Eileen Collins at the RAeS in Washington, DC

Patty Wagner, WAI 246, **Jack Darst** (husband of **Betty Darst**, WAI 10337), and **Roger Saddler** (father of **Jennifer Saddler Thomas**, WAI business development manager) were recognized as Master Pilots during a recent gathering at the Moraine Airpark in Dayton, Ohio. The FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award recognizes pilots who have demonstrated professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise by maintaining safe operations for 50 or more years.



Patty Wagner, Jack Darst, and Roger Saddler are named Master Pilots

[Newly elected board members](#) include **Rhonda Larance** and **Shannon Weidekamp**--each will serve a three-year term. Thank you for your support of WAI!

Industry News

[Best of luck to many #WomeninAviation members](#) as they prepare to take off Tuesday, June 18 for the [43rd Annual Air Race Classic!](#) Starting in Jackson, Tennessee, #ARC19 teams will make several stops during the 2,538 mile route and will finish on Friday, June 21, in Welland, Ontario, Canada.

START – JACKSON, TN (KMKL)



Chapter News

Help Girls in Aviation Day 2019 Grow Again

WAI chapters and corporate members are encouraged to submit plans for Girls in Aviation Day 2019. This year's event on October 5, 2019, is estimated to host approximately 20,000 girls, ages 8-17.

Chapters, please tell us about your GIAD 2019 plans [here](#).

Corporate Members, please tell us about your GIAD 2019 plans [here](#).

The GIAD Host Kit is live [here](#).

Interested in being a [supporting partner](#) for this important event? [Contact Jennifer Thomas](#)

Advertising options in the 2019 [Aviation for Girls](#) magazine are still available. [Contact Kelly Murphy](#)



The Fifth International Girls in Aviation Day will be held October 5, 2019, all around the world



Get ready for lots of smiles at #GIAD19

Special Sporty's Offer for Chapters

Show your chapter pride by sending your logo to Sporty's, [WAI's official merchandise partner](#), and order jackets, backpacks, hats, polo shirts, and more. There is a one-time \$125 setup charge, then your chapter logo (PDF file, please) is on file for future orders.


Interested? Call Sporty's customer support at (513) 735-9100 or email support@sportys.com, and a representative will walk you through the process.

Thanks to the Sporty's partnership, WAI logoed gear is always available at WAI.org/store.








Visit WAI.org/store and purchase gear with your chapter logo

Get Your Official WAI Merchandise at Sporty's!



Women's Polo
\$34.95

A portion of all official merchandise goes to supporting your organization!



Ladies Hat
\$19.95

Short Sleeve Shirt
\$24.95

Women's T-Shirt
\$19.95

SHOP ALL WAI GEAR

Member Benefits

WAI members seek to inspire and stand for encouragement, continued education, and a whole lot of fun! We invite you to take advantage of exclusive discount programs, including many diverse benefits, available to our valued members. Are you a corporate member and want to offer WAI members a discount for your product or service? Email [Cassandra Bosco](#).

Exclusive Discount Programs for Members

- **Avemco:** 5% discount on insurance
- **Aviation Medicine Advisory Service:** 5% discount on standard case fees
- **Enterprise and National Rental-A-Car:** special discount rates with promotion code
- **Flying magazine subscription:** annual \$8.00 rate for new subscribers
- **General Aviation News subscription:** free sample issues and 50% off subscription
- **King Schools:** purchase a professional training course and receive a second course at a 50% discount
- **MedJetAssist:** reduced annual and multi-year rates
- **SmithAmundsen:** free 30-minute consultation on legal services
- **Travelpro®:** exclusive 15% discount on all products

[Learn More about Member Discounts](#)

Upcoming Events

*The calendar of events is a source of information about industry/organization events. Events marked with * are WAI events that we sponsor, exhibit, or partner.*

Interested in volunteering to help at events where WAI is participating? [Email Outreach Director Molly Martin](#) to sign up.

2019

June 21-22 - [*AOPA Fly-In, Livermore, California](#)

July 24 - [WAI Connect Breakfast](#) in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, during [*EAA AirVenture, July 22-28](#).

July 31- August 2 - [OBAP 43rd Annual Convention & Career Exposition](#), Los Angeles, California

September 13-14 - [*AOPA Fly-In, Tullahoma, Tennessee](#)

October 5 - WAI Fifth International [*Girls in Aviation Day](#)

October 22-24 - [*NBAA-BACE, Las Vegas, Nevada](#)

*"The WASP were and still are my role models."
--Col. Eileen Collins, USAF (retired) and NASA astronaut*

[Pioneer Hall of Fame](#)

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