



WAI Connect

The Official eNewsletter of



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March 2021

Countdown to Conference!

The Women in Aviation International team is looking forward to seeing members and friends at our first virtual conference March 11-12, 2021! [The WAI staff members](#) are happy to answer your questions as we prepare for the launch of our WAI2021 conference.



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Astronaut Sunita Williams To Speak at WAI2021 Conference

Newly added to the [#WAI21 Keynote Speaker roster](#), [Sunita Williams](#) will speak to attendees on Thursday, March 11. Sunita was selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1998 and is a veteran of two space missions Expeditions 14/15 and 32/33.

She is currently training for the first post-certification mission of Boeing's Starliner spacecraft - the second crewed flight for that vehicle - and her third long duration mission aboard the International Space Station. Sunita and her crewmates are working closely with Boeing to develop their spacecraft systems, which will provide roundtrip crew transportation services to the International Space System and along with SpaceX's Crew Dragon, return the ability to launch humans into space from U.S. soil.



A veteran of NASA space expeditions 14, 15, 32, and 33, Suni is the first person to run a marathon in space on a treadmill.



NBAAGO
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
March 24-25, 2021

WAI members are invited to register for 20% off using code **LEADERS**

INVEST IN YOU!

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Gifts WAI \$250,000 for Scholarships

Thanks to a generous \$250,000 grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, [new 2021 Spring scholarships](#) are being offered in a variety of aviation/aerospace career pursuits.

Active WAI members can view the details of each scholarship, application requirements, FAQs, plus tips for submitting a winning application at wai.org/scholarships starting today, March 1.

Applications for the 2021 Spring Scholarships are due May 18, 2021. Winners will be notified by July 1, 2021, with funds disbursed by August 1, 2021.

With the additional 48 2021 Spring Scholarships, total WAI scholarships awarded this year are valued at \$736,805, and nearly \$14.1 million since 1995.



WAI members are encouraged to view the 2021 Spring scholarships open on March 1. Applications are due by May 18, 2021.

[Learn More](#)



Girls in Aviation Day To Host Astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli

In addition to female leaders of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, Astronaut [Jasmin Moghbeli](#) will connect with attendees of Girls in Aviation Day on March 13, 2021.

Jasmin will talk about her path to joining the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. She reported for duty in August 2017 and having completed the initial astronaut candidate training is now eligible for a mission assignment. The New York native earned a bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering with Information Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, followed by a master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. Jasmin is also a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School and has accumulated more than 1,600 hours of flight time and 150 combat missions.



Jasmin is a member of the Artemis Team, NASA's modern lunar exploration program that will land the first woman and next man on the Moon in 2024 and establish a sustainable human lunar presence by the end of the decade.

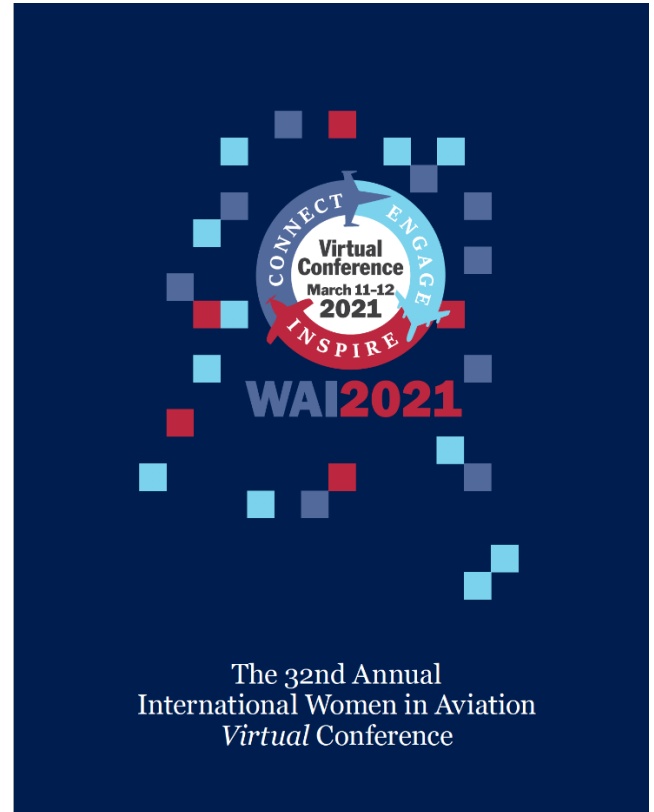
[Register for Girls in Aviation Day WAI2021](#)

10 Days Until WAI2021!

There's no better place to be inspired, share your enthusiasm, and connect with others who share your passion for the aviation industry. While we can't meet in person, we look forward to this year's gathering to connect, engage, and inspire with our valued members through a virtual platform on March 11-12, 2021.

All registered attendees will have access to all the content through March 31, 2021.

[Read our Conference Overview](#) and learn about the amazing lineup of [keynote speakers!](#) Follow your interests by attending [education sessions](#) and [professional development seminars](#). Learn about [exhibiting](#), bidding on dozens of [silent auction items](#), and attending the virtual [Pioneer Hall of Fame Induction Celebration](#). Also, for our younger members and friends, enjoy the [virtual Girls in Aviation Day Reno](#).



Reference the WAI2021 Conference Program for all the details of our two-day virtual event.

[Register for WAI2021](#)

[Reserve Virtual Exhibit Booth](#)



Virtual Conference March 11-12, 2021

Thank you to [our WAI2021 sponsors](#) for their generous support of #WAI21!

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Industry News

Meet Gigi Coleman-Brooms, the grandniece of trailblazing aviator Bessi Coleman who earned her pilot's license 100 years ago this June. [In a 1920's era video](#), Gigi tells the story of Bessi's journey from Atlanta, Texas, to Paris, France, where she became the first African American to earn an international pilot's license.

Gigi, who leads the nonprofit educational Bessie Coleman Aviation All-Stars organization, plans a 10-city U.S. tour - part virtual and part in-person - depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

[Bessie was inducted into the WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame in 1995.](#)



Gigi inspires youth to be interested in STEM through her nonprofit program - [The Bessie Coleman Aviation All-Stars](#). Her one-woman show portrays the story of her Great-Aunt Bessie.

Passages

Mike Collins, WAI 243 and a frequent WAI conference attendee and photographer, died on February 25, 2021, at age 59 years old after a two-week battle with COVID-19. He was the treasurer and founding member of the WAI Blue Ridge Chapter. Mike will be sorely missed in the aviation community and by his [AOPA team](#) where he excelled as technical editor and director of business operations.



#RIP Mike Collins, WAI 243

Staff Sgt. Remington Kristine Viney, WAI 53697 and a founding member of Wisconsin's WAI Four Lakes Chapter, passed away on February 16, 2021, at age 26. Remington and Tanner Byholm died after the Velocity V-Twin crashed in Janesville, Wisconsin. "She was flying in the seat of an airplane surrounded by miles of breath-taking sky; doing what she loved," stated [her obituary](#).

A University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate, Remington served as a Staff Sergeant for the 115th Fighter Wing in Madison. She was remembered as an [inspiring mentor](#) and passionate about any adventure that life had to offer.



#RIP Staff Sgt. Remington Viney, WAI 53697



Passion. Fellowship. Aviation.
July 26 to August 1, 2021

EAA
WomenVenture

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WAI STORE

Gear Up for Spring

Adjustable WAI polyester mask \$12.00

#IamWAI mandala t-shirt \$20.00

Save by using discount code **5SHIPOFF** through March 31, 2021!

Aviation Plush Throw 50"x 60"
Custom design by AC Aviation Art
\$45



Water Bottle
24 oz.
\$12



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and show your
membership pride!**

Shop at
www.WAI-Store.org

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.

2021

March 11-12 - 32nd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference, All-Virtual WAI.org/21conference

April 13-18 - Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland, Florida www.FlySNF.org

September 25 - 7th Annual International Girls in Aviation Day WAI.org/giad

July 28 - WAI Connect Breakfast at EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh July 26-August 1 www.EAA.org

September 25 - 7th Annual International Girls in Aviation Day WAI.org/giad

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.

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:** free package of 5 King courses focused on Risk Management and 20% discount on all King Schools course
- **MedJetAssist:** reduced annual and multi-year rates
- **SmithAmundsen:** free 30-minute consultation on legal services
- **Travelpro®:** exclusive 20% discount on all products

"I'm an Air Force officer first, a pilot second, and then Nicole. The female part is last...My job is the best right wingman that I can be."

-Capt. Nicole Malachowski, first female pilot with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds

[Pioneer Hall of Fame](#)

[Education & Careers](#)

[Scholarships](#)



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