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**Honoring the First Women to Fly for America's Military**

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**★1942-44★**

February 2022

Dear friend:

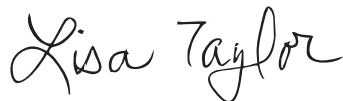
I write to you today to share information regarding our latest initiative at the National WASP WWII Museum and ask that you consider a contribution to help bring it to reality. The Museum is raising \$3.8 million for all-new exhibits across its 15-acre campus that will become a vital part of our educational programs. The Museum needs \$850,000 for the first installment of exhibits going into Hangar Two in late 2023. To date, \$700,000 has been raised leaving \$150,000 still to come.

For the past 15 years, the Museum has told a singular story of WASP achievements during World War II from the perspective of their commander, Jacqueline Cochran. Initially, this approach was tremendously successful in educating and inspiring visitors and students. In 2017, however, the Board of Directors realized the WASP story also had relevance for our youngest generation 80 years after the war and a new mission was penned to transform the Museum.

A new, dynamic campus will bring this initiative to life through expanded stories, thought-provoking questions, and interactive content, all designed to create a seamless web between past, present and future. Visitors will grapple with the social issues of the time and consider their impact on gender history. As visitors travel through the Museum, exhibits will culminate in the Legacy section. There, visitors will learn the stories of today's women pilots and aviation support personnel. These pilots will represent multiple generations across numerous ethnicities, ensuring every female visitor has an aviator she can identify with and relate to.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and hope that we can meet in the near future to further discuss opportunities for your foundation to be involved.

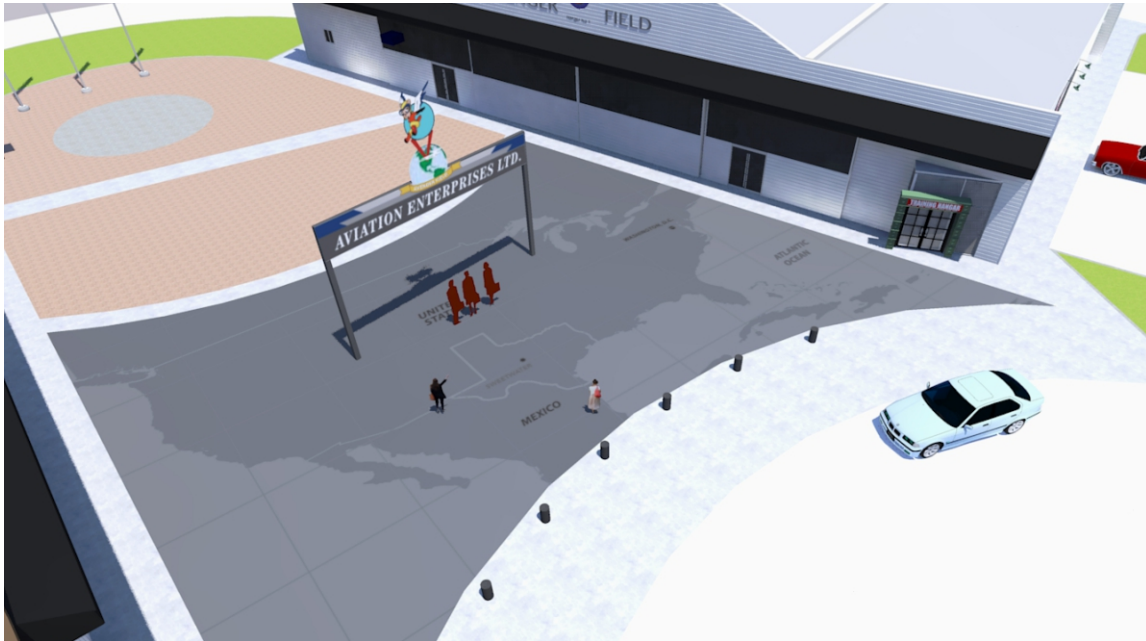
Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Taylor". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Taylor" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa Taylor  
Executive Director  
National WASP WWII Museum

# PHASE 3 \$3.8 MILLION EXPANSION

Future Exhibits To Come



**GRANITE MAP BETWEEN HANGARS**



**HANGAR 1 WELCOME CENTER EXHIBIT**





**HANGAR 1 OVERHEAD VIEW OF EXHIBIT HALL**







**HANGAR 2 WASP DATABASE & EXHIBITS**



**HANGAR 2 EXHIBIT HALL**









For full renderings of our future Museum Campus  
and a virtual Museum fly-through experience,  
please visit [www.waspmuseum.org](http://www.waspmuseum.org)  
and click the Fundraising tab to learn more.

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For more questions, contact Lisa Taylor.



# ABOUT THE NATIONAL WASP WWII MUSEUM

## Preserving the History, Promoting the Legacy

### *Our Mission*

The National WASP WWII Museum is dedicated to honoring the life and legacy of the Women Airforce Service Pilots and preserving the legacy of Avenger Field on which most of them trained. Our mission is to educate and inspire all current and future generations with the story of the WASP – the first women to fly America’s military aircraft – women who brought honor to our nation and forever changed the role of women in military and civilian aviation.

The National WASP WWII Museum began in 2002 with the vision of two women, WASP Deanie Bishop Parrish and her daughter, Nancy Parrish. They believed the history of the Women Airforce Service Pilots should be showcased at Avenger Field on the grounds where most of the WASP trained during World War II.

Plans to transform this vision into reality began in the fall of 2002 with a presentation to Sweetwater community leaders. On December 9th of that year, a steering committee met for the first time to investigate the Museum's feasibility. Incorporation documents were presented to the steering committee in January 2003, and the Museum was incorporated in the State of Texas in July 2003. The Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce supported the Museum both financially and with key leadership. In September 2003, the Museum Board of Directors leased 55 acres of land at Avenger Field from the City of Sweetwater. The two hundred-year lease included the land as well as a hangar that had been built in 1929 to serve as the first Sweetwater Municipal Airport.

With incorporation papers in hand and a site settled upon, construction of the Museum began. In 2004 the Board of Directors recruited new members to support the Museum, developed a master plan around architectural drawings, mailed the first official newsletters, and continued to seek funds to build a nationally recognized memorial to the WASP. Renovations to the hangar began in early 2005 culminating in the first National WASP WWII Museum Fly-In. Local, state, and national volunteers worked long hours in order to open the Museum in May 2005. The outside of the hangar was painted, and the inside of the hangar was fully renovated to house the exhibits. In celebration of much hard work, a grand opening was held on May 28, the same day the first class of WASP graduated 62 years earlier.

In 2006 the Museum continued to grow with new members and monetary donations as well as donations of historical artifacts and new exhibits. The first Homecoming Celebration for the pilots who had been part of the WASP, now held annually, was held on Memorial Day weekend. The highlight of the first Homecoming was the opening of the exhibit depicting a bay, a replica



of military training living quarters.

As membership and interest in the Museum grew, an executive director was hired to lead the organization in 2007. In 2008 the Museum began to register its extensive collection, to find new marketing and fundraising avenues, to increase membership, and to build new exhibits.

As a continually evolving project, the Museum continues to grow each year. In 2020, the Museum closed for six months to expand and grow, both in facilities and its mission. It reopened May 15, 2021 with a new Welcome Center and Gift shop, a temperature and humidity-controlled archival vault and suite, a fully stocked Catering Room, state-of-the-art Conference Room, and a beautiful Exhibit Gallery. The Mission has expanded to include preservation of WASP history and its airfield, and to promote WASP legacy pilots to all generations.

The Museum's future includes a \$3.8 million fabrication of all-new exhibits across the entire campus to be installed over the next four years in segments.

**Please enjoy the following pictorial history of the Museum.**

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For a complete package of current Museum pictures,  
please contact Lisa Taylor.

# A PICTORIAL HISTORY

## 1941 - 2021

Housed in the 1929 Sweetwater Municipal Airport, the Museum opens in 2005

1941 SWEETWATER AIRPORT



PRIOR TO MUSEUM OPENING IN 2005



2005 HANGAR 2 EXTERIOR





# **HANGAR 2 MUSEUM EXHIBITS**

## **HANDCRAFTED BY CITY LEADERS FOR 2005 OPENING**

**Preserving the History, Promoting the Legacy**



**CAPTURING WASP HANDPRINTS**



**WASP HANDPRINTS EXHIBIT**



**AVENGER FIELD BAY REPLICA**



**JACQUELINE COCHRAN EXHIBIT**



**PHASE 1 | 2016-2017**  
**\$3 MILLION EXPANSION**  
**Building Hangar 1**



**2016 WASP BREAKING GROUND**



**2017 HANGAR 1 EXTERIOR BUILT**





**PHASE 2 | 2020-2021**

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**\$1.5 MILLION EXPANSION**

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**Completion of Remodel in Hangars 1 & 2**



**2020 HANGAR 1 INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION**



**HANGAR 2 AIRCRAFT BAY DOOR BEING INSTALLED**



**2021 FINISHED STRUCTURES**



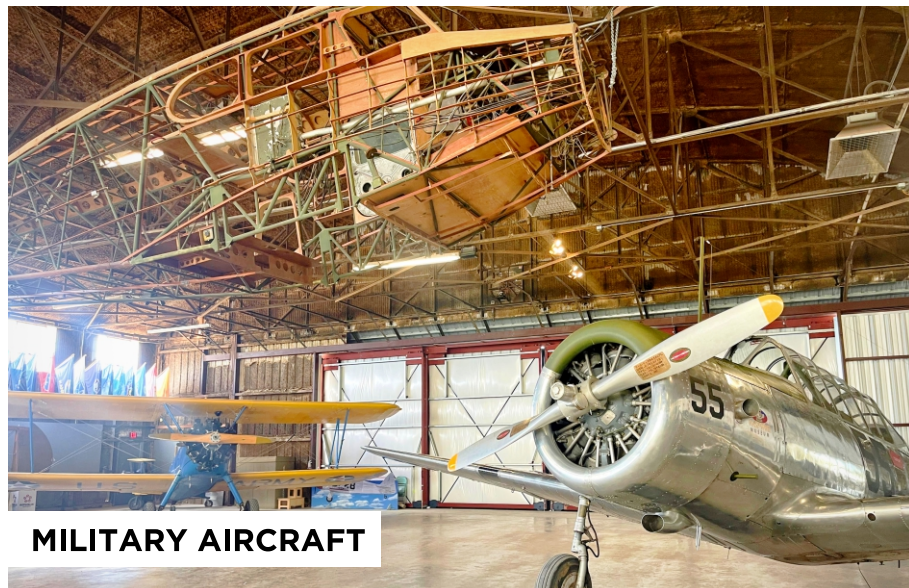
**PHASE 2**

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**\$1.5 MILLION EXPANSION**

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**2021 Hangar 2 New & Updated Exhibits**





**PHASE 2**

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**\$1.5 MILLION EXPANSION**

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**2021 Hangar 1 New & Updated Exhibits**



**HANGAR 1 ENTRY WAY**



**IN MEMORY OF  
THE 38 WASP  
WHO DIED**

*Dr. Michael Harbour*





**A WASP IN THE SPOTLIGHT EXHIBIT**



**FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR EXHIBIT**



**WASP SANTIAGO BLUE UNIFORMS**



**LEGACY PILOTS EXHIBIT**



**ARRIVAL EXHIBIT**



**TRAINEE SCHOOL HOLOGRAM**

# **CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES**

# **WHY INVEST IN THE MUSEUM**

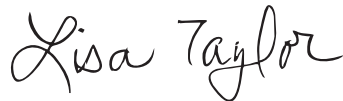
## **Education & Outreach**

An investment in the Museum is a vote of confidence for the continued education on the 80-year old accomplishments of World War II veterans, particularly our Women Airforce Service Pilots. Our veterans, both male and female, saved the world from totalitarianism and tyranny and preserved our American heritage. While the Museum's focus is on female veterans, America owes them all a debt of gratitude and the courage to follow in their footsteps should another situation present itself.

The National WASP WWII Museum ensures the WASP story is never forgotten while inspiring and connecting young generations to flight and other science, technology, engineering and math fields (STEM).

Although the Museum currently has vibrant two - eighth grade history and STEM programs, new exhibits are foundational to expanding into multiple programs all the way through twelfth grade. New programs will have the capability to be conducted both in the museum and at off-site locations.

In exchange for your generosity, the Museum would enjoy honoring families, foundations, and businesses in a variety of ways dependant on the type of gift. For further information regarding sponsor recognition, our 10-year strategic plan, our financials, and our Board of Directors, please contact:



Lisa Taylor  
Executive Director



### ***Contact Us***

National WASP WWII Museum

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