



NATIONAL WASP WWII MUSEUM

HANGAR ONE

Homecoming 2022 Fly-in a Success



By Lt Col (ret) Caroline "Blaze" Jensen, USAF, Board of Directors, Vice-president, National WASP WWII Museum



Surprisingly, fewer women are flying on active duty in the U.S. Air Force today than the 1,102 WASP pilots of WWII. Of the nearly 13,500 pilots in the active-duty USAF today, less than 8% are women- less than 1% of Air Force pilots are women flying in fighter aircraft. In April 2022, thirteen women combat pilots and combat system operators made the pilgrimage to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas. This reunion within the Homecoming allowed an elite group of aviators to honor the trailblazing WASP's

flew over 20,000 USAF jet flight hours and over 4,000 combat hours. Some of the accomplishments of this group include: being one of the first three women selected for fighter aircraft training, the first woman to fly an F-35, the first woman qualified as a pilot-physician, and the first mom to fly for the USAF Thunderbirds. The CFPA was in fantastic company with women like, Theresa Claiborne, the first black woman to graduate from USAF Pilot training; Olga Custodio, the first Latina U.S. Military pilot; and Peggy Phillips, a 2022 Women in Aviation International Hall of Fame inductee. These women will tell you that none of them set out to be the first; they just wanted the opportunity to serve their country as a pilot.

This was the first trip to the hallowed ground for many of these women. Lt Col (ret) Sharon "Betty" Preszler said, "Going to

Read more about this story and photos on page 3...

service, embrace their unique heritage as women military aviators, and inspire future generations.

The group of women combat aviators attending the 80th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration informally calls themselves the "Chick Fighter Pilot Association" (CFPA). After the WASP were disbanded in 1944, it wasn't until 1976 that women could finally join their male counterparts in military flying programs. Like the WASP, the women who underwent pilot training in the '70s flew the same missions as their male counterparts, except combat. That changed in the spring of 1993 when the combat exclusion was lifted for women in combat aviation.

The CFPA is a group of women sown from the seeds planted by WASP's wartime service. The group in attendance consisted of fighter pilots and weapon system operators in many aircraft, including the A-10, F-15, F-16, and F-35. These 13 women alone



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As director of the WASP Museum, I often find myself immersed in the daily activities of growing our organization. While it's a dynamic job fraught with triumph and tragedy, I miss simply delighting in the historical accounts that initially compelled me to take this role.

Last year, an acquaintance gave me a fortuitous introduction to archivist and historian Julia Lauria-Blum. Julia gave me a wonderful invitation to shed my executive persona and visit her in Farmingdale, NY over Memorial Day weekend to make several historical connections. She declared that New York is considered the cradle of aviation (just like the museum that bears that name), and I should understand it better. After impulsively accepting her offer and refusing to waiver even as office demands began to mount, my husband, Thomas, and I went to New York.

We visited the Cradle of Aviation and the American Airpower museums both of which have beautiful WASP exhibits created by Julia. I learned of the rich history and importance of Mitchel Air Force Base. Many highlights delighted us. At the Cradle, I smiled at a mannequin of Jaqueline Cochran "flying" in the aircraft at the Roosevelt Aviation School where she earned her pilot's license. At

Republic Aviation, I stood near the iconic control tower used by the WASP as they ferried P-47 Thunderbolts from Republic Aviation where this aircraft was manufactured. I touched Hap Arnold's B-25 while trying to imagine my hero in the left seat soaring above the clouds with his crew.

What an invigorating visit! We all need to go back to the basics sometimes to remember why we chose the life we're living. This trip was that moment for me.

To read a great story authored by Julia Lauria-Blum on Republic Airfield and the famous 10 Grand P-47 Thunderbolt, visit the link listed below.

Warm regards,



Lisa Taylor

✉ lisataylor@waspmuseum.org



<https://www.waspmuseum.org/uncategorized/republic-aviation-and-10-grand-farmingdale-ny/>

SEE YOU AT
EAA AIRVENTURE
OSHKOSH
2022

Visit the WASP Museum at EAA AirVenture

July 25th - July 31st

Attendees are invited to meet our team in Warbird Alley next to the National WASP WWII Museum's UC-78 Bobcat and BT-13 Vultee aircraft display. Visit our special exhibit booth in the WomenVenture Center tent at Aviation Gateway Park, booth WV11.

We hope to see you there.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS JOIN THE WASP MUSEUM STAFF

The Museum welcomes three new team members.

Cole Clark is our new Office Manager and Event Coordinator. She is a wonderful addition who comes to the Museum with a wealth of WASP knowledge thanks to her many female aviator mentors and an internship at Texas Women's University (TWU) Archive. She holds a B.A. in History and Public Relations from Gonzaga and an M.A. from TWU with an expected graduation date in late 2022. Although hired in a temporary capacity to help us at Homecoming, her organizational skills and passion led to a permanent position at the Museum.

Christina Speck is our Gift Shop Manager. This complex position requires superb abilities to please people while juggling the many facets of merchandising our main store, our mini stores, and our on-line presence. However, we know she is up to the task because she comes to us from our local school district where she had many tiny student-customers along with their very complex needs and demands. Christina's creativity, spunk, and organization makes her ideal for this position.

Beth Hamaty joins Christina in the gift shop two days a week. As a retired high school history teacher, we know she is in her element and ready to help. Beth's extensive knowledge of aircraft and WASP history makes her invaluable to the Museum. Additionally, Beth's prowess as a master gardener has led her to adopt the difficult terrain around the Museum and turn it into a place of beauty.

Welcome, Cole, Christina, and Beth!



...continued from the cover page.

Avenger Field for the first time was like coming home. The WASP were an inspiration to me as I was working to become the first woman F-16 pilot in our Air Force and that bond was strengthened by their homecoming celebration. It is a place to celebrate strong, patriotic, and inspirational women." This was the first trip for many but will not be the last.

Today's CFPAs and women military pilots hope to accomplish what the WASP did for them, to pave the way for more women and diversity in the cockpit for years to come. Many CFPAs will be at the next Homecoming on April 28, 2023, the 30th anniversary of lifting the combat exclusion. There's no better place to celebrate this anniversary than the birthplace of the woman military aviator.

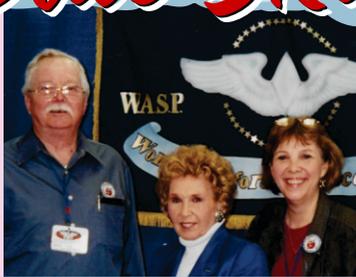
Note: Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2023, April 27-29, 2023



Blue Skies and Tailwinds



DEANIE BISHOP PARRISH 44-W-4



WASP Deanie Parrish, Class 44-W-4 passed away peacefully at her home in Waco, Texas on February 24, 2022, just one day shy of her 100th birthday. She met every challenge of her century-long life with spunk, determination, persistence, humor, kindness, integrity, steadfast faith, and a sparkle that lit up the room.

Deanie's first solo flight experience was taking off in a Piper Cub. She was controlling the plane from the backseat as you do when you first solo. She was climbing to altitude when the control stick came off in her hand. She didn't hesitate to tear her seatbelt off and hop into the front seat just in time to keep the plane from stalling and crashing. Once she landed safely, her instructor found out about her harrowing story and told her, "Now you know! You have the right stuff to be a pilot!"

Deanie was the WASP who not only had the dream of having a museum to honor the WASP on the site where they had trained, but she implemented the idea by presenting the idea to community leaders in Sweetwater in 2002. Through her efforts and guidance over several years, the National WASP WWII Museum opened on May 28, 2005. Her lifelong belief was, "Failure is not failure unless you let it be. It's simply a change in direction. Just count your many blessings and move on. With God's help, nothing is impossible." What seemed like an impossible dream came true.

WASP Dorothy Lucas, age 99, passed away on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, in San Antonio, Texas. While working for the Pentagon in Washington, D. C. during World War II, Dorothy learned about the WASP. Wanting to do her part to support the war effort, she applied and was accepted into the program as part of Class 44-W-7. After her graduation, Dorothy was stationed at Moore Field in Mission, Texas, where she was assigned to tow targets used to train male pilots in aerial gunnery. She towed the target behind an AT-6 which she always said was her favorite aircraft to fly. While there, she met a young Army Air Force Captain, Alfred T. Lucas, who was an instructor pilot also stationed at Moore Field. When the WASP were disbanded in December 1944, she began her 56-year marriage to Al.



DOROTHY ANN SMITH LUCAS 44-W-7

When the WASP Museum opened in 2005, Dorothy began attending the Homecoming Celebrations at Avenger Field in Sweetwater every year. Her family accompanied her to these events. Her warm smile and great stories endeared her to all who met her.



DOROTHY MOULTON ROONEY 44-W-3

Dorothy took her final flight on April 24, 2022 at 103 years old. Dorothy was known for her indomitable spirit and positive attitude. She overcame many health obstacles, including breast cancer, heart surgery, and a brain aneurysm, to lead a full and exciting life.

When World War II broke out, she applied and was one of the few chosen for service with the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). She was the first in her class to solo and served as a maintenance test pilot, flying planes after they had been repaired to ensure they were fully capable.

In 2009, the WASP were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. Dorothy and other WASP received their medals at a ceremony held in March 2010 at the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

WASP Barbara Kennedy, age 99, passed away on Thursday, May 26, 2022, just one day shy of her 100th birthday. She was born in Sacramento, CA, and later went on to study at the University of California at Berkeley, but her studies were interrupted by a call to service and to the skies.

During World War II, she joined an elite group of women who served as WASP, Women Airforce Service Pilots. She was stationed at Minter Field in Bakersfield, California, where they tested and trained students to fly twin engine aircraft, specifically the UC-78 "Bamboo Bomber".

After the war, her life in the skies continued as she worked as a stewardess for Pan American Airlines in the Pacific and Asia until 1948 when she married her husband. In 2010, Barbara was among 180 surviving WASP who received the Congressional Gold Medal.

After her service, she attended one WASP reunion in Phoenix, AR, where Gen. Hap Arnold was also in attendance.



BARBARA H. HART KENNEDY 44-W-6

CELEBRATING 100+ YEARS OF BLACK WOMEN IN AVIATION

The WASP Museum is pleased to have a new exhibit entitled, Celebrating 100+ years of Black Women in Aviation.

Author Monica Smith and the six Black pilots featured in this exhibit enable the Museum to tell a more complete story of women in aviation. The Museum is charged with preserving the history of the first women to fly America's military aircraft. The Museum has missed a critical part of that history by only celebrating who was accepted while quietly walking around the issue of who was not accepted into the WASP.

Lt Col Marcella "Marcy" Hayes Ng, U.S. Army (ret.), the first African American Woman Aviator in the US military, calls this exhibit "a great tribute and achievement... enabling us each to finally bridge many gaps and disparities in aviation."

While joyful that the WASP found acceptance in 1942, no one should ever be denied a seat at the table of the American family because of ethnicity, gender or race. The Museum commits to talking honestly about the past, celebrating a present and future that is open to all of us, and proactively safeguarding the rights of all female pilots.



JOHN AND MARIE CLARK

The WASP Museum is elated to display the exclusive exhibits of WASP Marie Mountain Clark and her husband, B-17 co-pilot John Clark from April 15 – July 15, 2022. Although displayed individually in their home museum, Yankee Air, the WASP Museum's Collections Manager, Ann Haub, intertwined their collections. She reasons, "The Clark story is a love story and needs to be told that way."

John Clark agrees citing their 63-year marriage as proof. Over the years, he became accustomed to folks laughingly asking him if he had been "stung by a wasp." He finally formulated the answer, "Yes, but more like a honey bee without the sting."

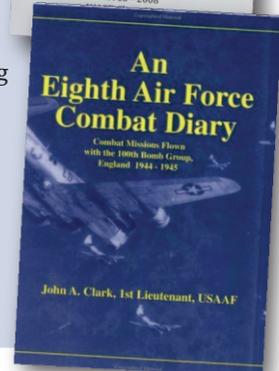
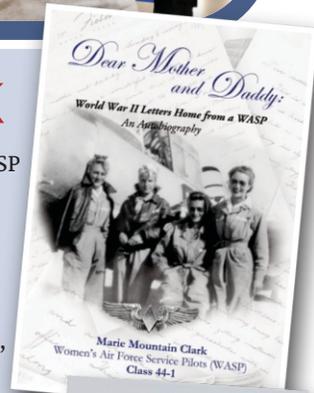
Exhibit artifacts depict Marie's gunnery service at Las Vegas Air Force Base and John's work as part of the 100th Bomb Group, Eighth Air Force. Moments of their lives together post World War II are also shown revealing a full life of education, service and loyalty to each other and their community.

When asked how he felt about seeing their exhibits at the Museum, John asserted that he felt fulfilled to see it on the grounds where Marie trained. He commended the Museum for creating a high-quality exhibit that honors both of them.

The Museum was honored to have John and his daughter Eloise with her husband, Rodney Loeffler, for the opening of the exhibit at its Homecoming Celebration and anniversary fly-in. Marie took her final flight in October 2008, but one will find her alive and well in John's eyes.

For outstanding diaries and memoirs regarding the Clark family, read the following books carried in the Museum's gift shop:

Dear Mother and Daddy: World War II Letters Home from a WASP
A Tribute To A Lady
An Eighth Air Force Combat Diary





WASP HOMECOMING

★ 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ★

Weekend Highlights

“Lisa, I told you come hell or high water, I would be at the Reunion and I will,” proclaimed WASP Shirley Kruse. Shirley made good on that promise when she arrived at Avenger Field airport in grand style in a V35 Bonanza piloted by Jerry Gazda. Flanked by her grandchildren, Shirley set foot on the tarmac to flashing cameras. Composed and ready for a crowd, Shirley flashed a beautiful smile and walked confidently while greeting her fans.

Shirley’s smile never left her face over the next two days. With close friends and family by her side, she regaled audiences with humorous stories. She recalled the moment when she picked up her government-issued zoot suit. When asked what size she wore, Shirley informed the officer she needed a size 4, but was promptly handed a size 44. Thinking this was surely a mistake, she asked around, but found out all the girls had enormous coveralls. “I wonder why they asked my size?” she laughs.

While Shirley enjoyed looking at all the aircraft and even took a flight in That’s All Brother C-47, she put people first. She was just as happy talking to small children as notable adults, always taking care to ask people about themselves and then listening intently as if nothing else mattered.

While all the moments were special, one stands above the rest, especially for pilot Devyn Reiley.

“Well, today was a fairytale. I soloed my beloved BT-13 today at Avenger Field . . . It felt so special to follow directly on their taxiways, and pathways in the skies above Texas. I was also so humbled and honored to be greeted by a living legend, WASP Shirley Kruse, as the first woman to give me congratulations as I got back!”

Seeing two pilots standing beside the aircraft that they had both

flown, 80 years apart, was a beautiful sight.

At almost 100 years old, Shirley Kruse is a strong woman with a beautiful soul. The Museum was so honored to have welcomed her back home to Avenger Field. Happy birthday, Shirley, and many happy returns!

Shirley J. Chase Kruse

 44-W-6



WASP

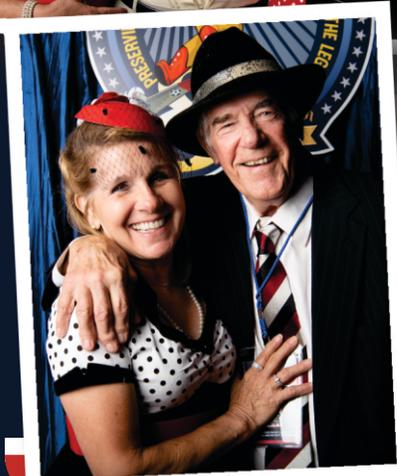
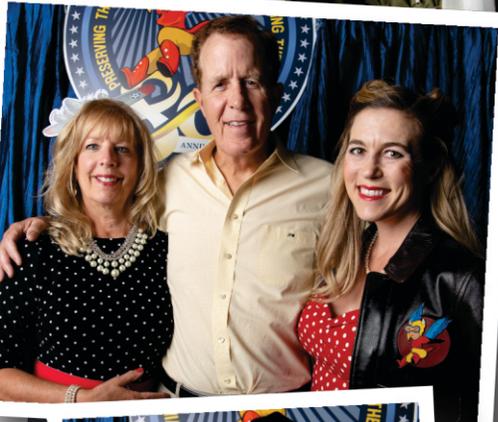


A special thank you to the Womens Vintage Society of Dallas for being our candy girls at the Birthday Bash Ball!

Birthday Bash Ball Photos

VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE TO DOWNLOAD YOUR PICTURES OR CLICK ON THE LINK ON THE AVENGER NEWS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzMJwz>



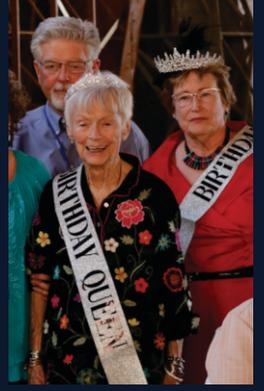
WWW.WASPMUSEUM.ORG



1 WASP
 Shirley J.
 Chase
 Kruse
 44-W-6



3 BIRTHDAYS
 - The WASP
 - Shirley J.
 Chase Kruse
 44-W-6
 - Sandra Spears
 (WASP Board
 Member)



**7 AVIATION
 GROUPS**

- United States Air Force
- CAF
- Chick Fighter Pilots Association
- Sisters of the Skies
- Commercial Pilots
- Private Pilots
- Re-enactors



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



7 AUTHORS



50 AIRCRAFT
Abundant smiles and rides given



51 WASP FAMILIES VISITED
Countless mom stories



2,000 ENTHUSIASTS
coming together in celebration and honor of the WASP

\$161,000 RAISED FOR MUSEUM EXPANSION
Dedicated for the newest installation of exhibits in Hangar 2.

Thank you for helping us reach our goal!

A WASP IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CURRENT EVENT

**JULY 16, 2022
EXHIBIT**

**DOROTHY
FULTON SLINN
WAFS**



UPCOMING EVENT

**OCTOBER 2022
EXHIBIT**

**MARGARET PEGGY
HELBURN KOCHER
43-W-6**



On Saturday, July 16, the WASP Museum will celebrate the seventh WASP in the Spotlight special exhibit in honor of WAFS Dorothy Fulton Slinn. The exhibit highlights Dorothy's life which included being the twenty-second WAFS (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron) to join the program. Dorothy was born October 14, 1918, in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. As a child, Dorothy's hero was Amelia Earhart. Flying became a passion, and with the support of her parents, she began flying at fifteen. She attended Teaneck High School, which was the first high school to offer a two-year flying course for students. Dorothy earned her private pilot's license on August 5, 1937.

After graduating, Dorothy taught flying and ground school at Bendix Airport. She attended New York University as an aviation major and started running flight schools at several New Jersey airports. Dorothy joined the WAFS, and her first assignment base was in Wilmington, Delaware. After coming down with a severe case of pneumonia and being hospitalized for two months, she resigned from the program in the summer of 1944.

After the war, Dorothy went back to instructing and continued to teach in New York and New Jersey. She married, had one son, and eventually divorced. She died of pneumonia and other complications on February 11, 1985.

Margaret Peggy Helburn Kocher will be our next featured WASP beginning October 2022. Margaret was born on February 6, 1921, in Salem, Massachusetts. She went to Radcliffe College (Harvard University) and in her senior year, she received her private pilot's license from Harvard's Civil Air Pilot Training Program. Her first job was as a secretary to her aunt at Theatre Guild in NYC.

She left the theatre to join the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) with class 43-6. After graduation, Margaret was stationed at South Plains Army Air Base in Lubbock, Texas. There she was a tow target pilot for gliders. Later she became commanding officer of the WASP at Eagle Pass Army Air Base. Margaret held this position until the program was discontinued. After the program ended, Margaret worked as a sales pilot for Republican Aviation in Farmingdale, New York. In 1947 she married and had three sons and a daughter.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more information about her display.

UPCOMING SPOTLIGHTS

In 2023, WASP in the Spotlight will feature Nell "Mickey" Stevenson Bright 43-W-7, Betty Jo Streff Reed 44-W-7, and Louise Grace Peck 44-W-10T. Look for more information in future newsletters.



The afternoon WASP in the Spotlight program will feature a reception and a conversation with author Sarah Byrn Rickman. Dorothy's younger sister, Honey, will also tell stories about Dorothy. Come see our first WASP in the Spotlight to feature a WAFS.

To find out more about upcoming events, please visit www.waspmuseum.org.



THE CATHERINE "CAPPY" VAIL BRIDGE EDUCATION CENTER

We are pleased to announce that the WASP Museum's education center, located in Hangar 1, has been named in honor of WASP Catherine "Cappy" Vail Bridge! Cappy was a graduate of Class 43-W-2, one of the three classes to train at Houston Municipal Airport before the program moved to Sweetwater, Texas in the summer of 1943.

One day, during training under the Texas sun, Cappy decided to play a prank on a fellow WASP pilot. She poured water on her while waiting for her turn on the flight line. A chase ensued. Cappy made a hard right turn into a building and slipped and whammed straight into the door frame. She hurt her shin so bad she couldn't walk. After 10 days on crutches and being left to recover at the hotel, the commanding officer decided she needed to get back to training because she was losing too much flight time. He said if she could get to the plane out on the runway, she could continue training to be a WASP. Otherwise, she would wash out and have to go home. So she would make her way out onto the runway on her crutches, as a fellow trainee carried her parachute for her and helped her get into the aircraft. After her flight, she would be greeted by more class mates that would bring her crutches to her and carry her parachute back off the airfield. She says without her classmates she would not have been able to stay with her class to become a WASP.

As a member of the museum since 2014, Cappy is one of sixteen living WASP and will celebrate her 102nd birthday this August. She has long supported the museum's efforts to preserve the legacy of the WASP.

Thank you Cappy for your generous and loyal contributions!



MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT SARAH BYRN RICKMAN

Why am I proud to be a charter member and supporter of the WASP WWII Museum for Women Pilots?

I met my first WASP, Nadine Nagle (44-9), in 1990 and, because of her and her story, began my now 32-year journey with the WASP that continues today as I have just published my 12th book about these amazing women.

In 1992, I met WAFS Nancy Batson Crews. She asked me to write the story of Nancy Love and the WAFS. Nancy Crews changed my life forever. She introduced me to five of her fellow living WAFS. I recorded their stories and wrote *The Originals: The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron of WWII*. The WAFS, who became WASP in 1943, have given me these last 30 very productive writing years. And because there are still stories to tell, I continue to write about these 1,102 women who flew for America in WWII the WASP that this museum proudly celebrates.

Not only do I feel that my membership supports the WASP Museum, but I feel so strongly about it that for many years I have given gift memberships for my four grandchildren. Katie Rickman, the eldest who is now 19, is a Charter Member like I am. The other three Daniel, Emaline, and Alex became members soon after they were born. In 2022, Emy was able to attend Homecoming with me.

Emy helped me to sell my latest book, *Jean Landis WASP Pilot*, which is about a Class 43-W-4. As squadron leader at Avenger Field, August 7, 1943, Jean marched her class – 112 strong – to the graduation ceremonies. Jean, who became a ferry pilot, is still with us at age 103.



Sarah Byrn Rickman with granddaughter Emy



Sarah's grandchildren: Katie, Daniel, Emaline, and Alex

Thank you for supporting the National WASP WWII Museum!



Thank You

WASP HOMECOMING

2022 Sponsors

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ABILENE, TEXAS



Share your memories! #WASP80TH #AVENGERFIELD80





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WASP WWII
 MUSEUM

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UPCOMING EVENTS

7/16 | A WASP in the Spotlight featuring Dorothy Fulton Slinn - WAFS
 and A Conversation with Sarah Byrn Rickman

7/25 - 7/30 | EAA AirVenture Airshow | Oshkosh, WI

9/10 | High Sky Wing CAF AirSho | Midland, TX

10/TBA | A WASP in the Spotlight featuring
 Margaret Peggy Helburn Kocher 43-W-6

10/22 | Alliance Airshow | Fort Worth, TX

4/28 - 4/29 | WASP Homecoming
 2023

Please visit our website for more on upcoming events.



www.waspmuseum.org

I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER



\$10 Cadet (Student)	\$38 Aviator (Adult)	\$100 - \$499 Bronze Wings
\$500 - \$999 Silver Wings	\$1,000 - \$2,499 One Star General	\$2,500 - \$4,999 Two Star General
\$5,000 - \$9,999 Three Star General	\$10,000 - \$19,999 Four Star General	\$20,000 or above Five Star General

Your Membership keeps us flying!

I would like to join as a member to the National WASP WWII Museum at the price of:

Annual Membership Price: \$ _____

Full Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

VISA MC AMEX Check Total \$ _____

Card # _____ Exp _____ CV Code _____