Fellow Aviators,

Wow! What an amazing month this has been! We’ve seen the world begin to re-emerge from the COVID-19 posture, businesses begin to re-open, workers return to their workplaces, and more and more people out and about. I hope you and your family have stayed safe, healthy, and are recovering quickly if you or your loved ones were negatively impacted by the virus.

I’ve also had the honor and humbling opportunity to hear the heart-cry of many who are hurting right now. Not from the coronavirus pandemic, but from a different type of concern which is sweeping our nation, that of inequality.

In my opinion, this concern is one of the heart. The level of awareness in our country after the death of George Floyd is helping us all bring our thoughts into focus and cements the need for us to have serious conversations. Now. In EVERY forum we can. This is a conversation about humanity.

I want to listen. I want to learn. I want to be part of the solution. I want all of us, our children, and their children to live in a more perfect Union. I want schools and books to teach about how the United States, right now, made cultural changes to ensure that the country we have sworn to protect and defend insures domestic tranquility, provides for the common defense, promotes the general welfare, and secures the blessings of liberty to all of her citizens.

My fellow sisters and brothers in arms, your voice matters in this conversation. Your ears and heart also matter. Please join me in listening to those who are hurting. Continue to uphold the rule of law. Continue to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Continue to challenge those around you to rise to be better and better people. Including me.

Thank you for all you do. Thank you for who you are!

Blue Skies, Charlie

Happy June! I hope everyone is emerging from quarantine with renewed energy and ready to start living life to the fullest again. This month’s newsletter celebrates the 245th birthday of the US Army, and the next chapter of Space exploration with the first launch by the US in 9 years. Women have been and are an integral part of both and will continue to do so with 5 women astronauts in the Artemis Group, one a USMC helicopter pilot and one a Navy submarine officer. They continue to forge the path for women and I’m excited to see one of them step foot on the moon. The sky is no longer the limit! ~ Sophia (communications.WMA@gmail.com)
Images from the Past

Amanda Clary and Jennifer Fortenberry

Amanda Clary getting her wings pinned on by her father, Dick Fortenberry, at US Army Flight School graduation 2005

Jennifer Fortenberry at US Army Flight School graduation 2005 with her parents, Dick and Linda Fortenberry

Such an incredible memory for my twin sister and I. Our father, Dick Fortenberry, was a World Champion Skydiver featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated in 1962. He was also on the original Army Golden Knights Parachute team. Following his amazing skydiving career he went to US Army Flight School and flew UH-1 Huey gunship helicopters in Vietnam. Almost 40 years later, my sister and I decided to follow in his footsteps and become Army helicopter pilots. We attended US Army Flight School at Fort Rucker, Alabama from 2004-2005. One of the proudest moments in both our lives was the day our dad was able to attend our graduation and pin US Army Aviator wings on our chests! We graduated as UH-60 Blackhawk pilots and both served 3 tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Service, sacrifice, and the love of flying runs deep in our family and I am so grateful that I was able to continue the legacy my father started. ~ Amanda Clary
A STEP TOWARD DESTINY
by Peter Varisano

COL Sally Murphy
First female Army pilot (1974), first Army female pilot to fly Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopters.

LTC Linda Horan DuMoulin

The Honorable (MG) Jessica Wright
Helicopter pilot (1978), Army National Guard’s first female aviator, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

LTG Laura Richardson
UH-60 pilot, first female commander of United States Army North.

COL Nancy Currie-Gregg
Helicopter pilot (1982), first female Army Astronaut

LTC Marcella Hayes

MAJ Marie Rossi-Clayton
(1959-1991)
The first female pilot in U.S. history to fly combat missions, the first female in U.S. military history to serve in combat as an aviation unit commander, during the Persian Gulf War, in 1991. She was killed when the CH-47 Chinook she was piloting flew into an unlit tower in Saudi Arabia and crashed on March 1, 1991.

CW3 Lori Hill

CPT Kimberly Nicole Hampton
(1976 – 2004)
First female military pilot in U.S. history to be killed as a result of hostile fire.

1LT Kelly Heffernan ~ First female OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot (1993)
1LT Angie Norman and CWO Cathy Jarrell ~ First female AH-64 Apache pilots (1993)


Tribute to Women in the US Army
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OxZOci5yc
June 18, 1983 ~ Sally Ride becomes the first American woman to fly in space, 20 years after the first woman in space, cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. At 32, Sally Ride was the youngest American to fly in space.

https://www.youtube.com/Sally Ride

The first US manned space launch in 9 years occurred May 30th with SpaceX Crew Dragon, and it was spectacular. The launch began a new chapter in US space exploration and women are a big part of it. Some came up through the ranks of military aviation but all go through special training and wear wings. Our group celebrates pioneering women so it is fitting that we acknowledge and applaud the women who venture into Space.

Meet Lt Gen Susan Helms USAF. WMA Life member, first U.S. military woman in space (1993) and, with astronaut James Voss, performed the longest space walk (2001).

Women in Space

https://www.youtube.com/NASA Women in Space
https://www.youtube.com/NASA Women Shuttle Astronauts

Check out the links for a list of all the women Spacefarers and their accomplishments. There have been 66 women launched into Space, 52 have been American, 10 have been military aviators. There are 5 women in the Artemis Program and one of them will be the first woman on the moon.

https://www.history.nasa.gov//women.html
Bravo Zulu!

BZ!, Julie “Casper” Macholz, CDR/USN (ret), for heroically jumping into the Chicago River and saving a man’s life. (https://www.youtube.com/Julie Macholz)

Also, listen to her interview on Chicago’s Bravest Stories Podcast, “Roll call with Julie Macholz. She talks about the rescue and flying in the Navy.

During the March convention, many of you requested WMA logo items. So we went in search of a virtual store front. Here is your chance to declare your pride by wearing our logo proudly. Here is photographic evidence of our Virtual presence. We now have an agreement with Sporty’s Pilot Shop.

How to order follows:
https://www.sportys.com
1. Select Apparel and Sunglasses from top banner.
2. Select Custom Embroidered Apparel from drop down menu
3. Select your Item choose color and size from drop down menu
   Embroidery Options choose Large Logo from drop down menu
4. Another drop down menu will appear Scroll down to Women Military Aviators Proceed thru checkout.

For every purchase made Sporty’s contributes 3% of each sale directly to WMA! Now is your opportunity to gift yourself and while giving to WMA. ~ Kelly Hamilton, Booth Boss 2020
Recommended Books and Movies

This feature is a list of recommended books and movies that feature women aviators or are written by women aviators. The reviews are from members and future reviews are welcome (sgconerly@yahoo.com)

So sit down, and enjoy some quiet time with a good book or a bowl of popcorn with a good movie.

Amber Smith writes about her Army experience, from training to war, and the challenges of training and assimilating into a male dominated environment. I found myself relating to many of her experiences. The book is a good read and I recommend it to those who’ve been there and those just starting their military aviation adventure. ~ Sophia Conerly

*Sister in the Sky, Volume 1* (The WAFS) and *Volume 2* (The WASP), by Adela Rieck Scharr. Del was a WASP and a true character — the life of the party at WMPA/WMA conventions. Del kept every scrap of paper, every chart, every note from her days as a WAFS/WASP and used them in these books. You get the real sense of how challenging it was to fly an aircraft across the US 70 years ago with primitive NAVAIDs, uncontrolled airspace, and the requirement to stay in visual conditions. Add to it being a female in an era when women didn’t travel solo much less fly airplanes. I came away with a profound respect for the flying skills and courage of the WASP. ~ Peggy Carnahan


*Apache Warrior,* on Prime Video

A fascinating documentary from inside the cockpit of 1LT Carrie Bruhl and CW4 Brian Stewmon, on their flight during the initial surge into Iraq in March, 2003.

[https://www.youtube.com/Apache Warrior trailer](https://www.youtube.com/Apache Warrior trailer)
This Month in History

15 June 1921 - Bessie Coleman became the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license.

28 June 1939 - Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force is formed.

4 June 1974 ~ 1LT Sally Murphy becomes the Army's first female pilot, and the Army's first female pilot to fly Bell UH-1 Iroquois.

20 June 1979 ~ Lt. Donna L. Spruill became the first Navy woman pilot to carrier qualify in a fixed-wing aircraft.

10 June 1983 ~ LT Colleen Nevius becomes the first female aviator to graduate from the Naval Test Pilot School, and be designated a Navy test pilot.

18 June 1983 ~ Sally K. Ride becomes the first American woman in space.

10 June 1989 ~ Capt. Jacquelyn S. Parker, USAF, becomes the first woman to graduate from the Air Force Test Pilot School.

5 June 1991 ~ Astronauts Tamara Jernigan, Margaret Rhea Seddon, and Millie Hughes-Fulford launch aboard Space Shuttle Columbia on STS-40 mission.


2 June 1998 ~ Astronaut and Navy helicopter pilot Wendy B. Lawrence, and Astronaut Janet L Kavandi launch aboard Space Shuttle Discovery on STS-91 mission.

5 June 2002 ~ Astronaut Peggy A. Whitson launches aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour on STS-111 mission.

24 June 2005 ~ LTjg Jeanine McIntosh-Menze receives her Wings of Gold becoming the first African American female USCG pilot.

15 June 2010 ~ Astronaut Shannon Walker launches aboard Soyuz TMA-19 to the International Space Station.

7 June 2017 ~ NASA announces Astronaut Group 22. Marine helicopter pilot and test pilot, Jasmin Moghbeli along with four other women are selected.

6 June 2018 ~ Astronaut Serena M. Auñón-Chancellor launches aboard Soyuz MS-09 to the International Space Station.
Fellow WMA, I have the good fortune of serving as the USAF Air Attaché in Berlin, Germany. For those who are unfamiliar with Attaché duty, it is a far cry from slipping the surly bonds of earth but has its own complexity, challenges and rewards. I work daily with the German Luftwaffe and German Ministry of Defense to identify areas where we can compliment one another and strengthen both our nations' national security. I deal heavily in the cyber and space domains as well as our traditional "air breathing" domain. The storied (and harried) life of three to four parties a week came to an abrupt halt with COVID. Like many of you I am becoming a key-board/telephone warrior. My waistline does not mind this transition but my fingers certainly do. If anyone who is in Europe and would like to reach out, please do. Maybe when we have vaccine we can arrange a WMA gathering for our European-based family members.

Blue skies!
~ Jill (raggededge.us@gmail.com)