

The weather was blustery, so we stayed inside the restaurant Thursday. Members attending were Sherry Kandle, BJ Carter, Mary Ann Richards, LuAnn Lyon and Bev La Brie.

Mary Ann Richards, Chair

Both the U.S. House and Senate have passed legislation to allow veteran Women Air Force of Service Pilots (WASPs) back into Arlington National Cemetery.

A U.S. flag flies over gravestone markers at Arlington National Cemetery. iStock photo. During World War II, 1,900 women were accepted into the WASP program in which they flew a number of noncombat missions in support of the war effort. Thirty-eight WASPs gave their lives in the service of their country performing missions that included ferrying and testing newly manufactured aircraft, towing targets, and training other pilots.

WASPs were first allowed inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery in 2002, but in 2015 the Secretary of the Army reversed the decision. In the following days and weeks, AOPA and a number of other organizations along with activists like Erin Miller, the granddaughter of WASP Elaine Harmon, spoke out against the change.

Harmon died last year and left instructions that she wished Arlington National Cemetery to be her final resting place. Harmon's ashes are currently with her granddaughter who has spent that time lobbying and building support.

Miller thanked AOPA for its support and said the legislation "will finally resolve the ambiguity over inurnment rights for the WASP at Arlington Cemetery."

Miller also called WASPs "trailblazers for today's female military personnel," and said allowing inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery, "recognizes their service as meaningful within the context of American history and creates a permanent historical marker for the WASP for future generations."

Miller said once the legislation is signed into law by President Barack Obama, her family plans to hold a funeral and inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery, but her work is not done. She is also helping two young Michigan students raise money attend a National History Day competition in Washington, D.C., where they hope to show their documentary on the WASPs.

Rep. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), the first American female fighter pilot to fly in combat, was also a strong advocate for the WASPs and co-sponsored the legislation in the House. "It's been just 19 weeks since the Army's decision to kick out our pioneering female World War II pilots was brought to light, and we've been fighting ever since," said McSally.

AOPA President Mark Baker called the WASPs “inspiring and pioneering,” and said, “it is only fitting to honor their service and allow their inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery.”

Nominee: Colonel Kathryn G. Hughes 54 E. Thruston Blvd Dayton OH 45409  
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For significant contributions to aviation safety, aerospace medicine and life support equipment development over a 25-year career as the U.S. military’s only female Pilot-Physician, and for mentoring female Air Force Academy Cadets, Flight Surgeons and Residents in Aerospace Medicine.

Colonel Kathryn G. Hughes is enthusiastically nominated for the 2016 Katharine Wright Memorial Trophy. There is no one more deserving than Kathryn who has both contributed to the success of others through both mentorship and leadership by example, and has made many personal contributions to aerospace medicine and the science of aviation throughout her 25-year Air Force career. Col Hughes is an Air Force Pilot-Physician with 25 years of flying and aviation medicine experience who is widely recognized as a leader in the fields of Aerospace Medicine, Human Systems Integration and Aviation Human Factors.

#### Achievements and Leadership

- Earned multiple degrees and qualifications: 1988 Graduate of US Air Force Academy; 1989 Graduate, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB; 1999 M.D. University of Nebraska Medical Center; 2007 Diploma in Aviation Medicine, Kings College London; 2009 Masters in Public Health (MPH), University of Michigan; Board Certification in Aerospace and Occupational Medicine; earned the Certificate in Aerospace Physiology (2014); completed the Certificate in Human Systems Integration through the Naval Post-Graduate School (2015)

- FAA Commercial, multi-engine, instrument-rated pilot; Single-engine CFI; avid Beechcraft Debonair owner and General Aviation enthusiast; FAA Aviation Medical Examiner since 2001 - Member, 99s International Organization of Women Pilots – previous chapter secretary and chairman; Member – Women in Aviation; Member – Daedalians, Fraternity of Military Pilots - Accomplished military pilot for seven years prior to selection to medical school on a Health Promotions Scholarship Program; taught over 100 students as T-38 Instructor, Standardization and Evaluation Pilot; flew world-wide strategic reconnaissance missions as an RC-135 Pilot

- Early recognition as an Aerospace Medicine expert, selected as 2001 Air Combat Command's Flight Surgeon of the Year
- Chosen to serve unique role of A-10 Pilot/Physician as flight surgeon/Chief of Airspace Medicine with the Idaho Air National Guard (ANG) supporting 1,500 ANG members; service the dual role of the only ANG unit physician for all waivers/medical boards and was the Human Factors (HF) consultant for A-10 weapon systems; Human Performance/HF representative to AF Surgeon General working group
- Premier USAF Exchange Senior Medical Officer/Pilot with Royal Air Force's Centre of Aviation Medicine; trained future 22 Typhoon pilots including 2 Saudis; led research and flight test programs in personal flying equipment design resulting improvements to Typhoon and F-35 helmet and G-Suit design and integration; conducted in-flight clinical rehabilitation resulting the return of 16 medically disqualified pilots to service
- Commanded the 412 Aerospace Medicine Squadron Commander at Edwards AFB, effectively leading a team of 104 medics which delivered care to over 2,500 patients. Her squadron provided Public Health, Bioenvironmental Engineering, Dental, Aerospace and Occupational Medicine Services to a work force of approximately 5,000 active duty and civilians in 110 work centers.
- Led Edwards Air Force Base's Aerospace Medical Squadron to excellence as Commander and Chief of Aerospace Medicine for the 412 Test Wing. Spearheaded medical investigations on F-22 physiologic incidents; evaluated seven test pilots; supported 30 missions/provided 720 health stats to the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine team and briefed Safety Investigation Board/Scientific Advisory Boards—allowing the \$19B F-22 fleet rapid return-to-fly within two months
- Supported Developmental and Operational Flight Test to 16 flying units include the DoD's latest fighter, the F-35 Lightning II. Taught human factors and supported student research with the USAF Test Pilot School

Leadership/Involvement in enhancing the role of women in aerospace medicine and aviation:

- One of ten USAF Pilot/Physicians (PP) in USAF, first and only female PP in the Department of Defense and AF history! Accumulated 3,400+ military flying hours in over 25 platforms to include fighters, bombers, helicopters and cargo aircraft
- Successfully balanced family with career/Air Force mission—one of first women to fly fighter aircraft after having children

- Third and only female USAF exchange officer to earn the Diploma in Aviation Medicine, King's College, London
- Completed research project, "Anthropometrics of Female Fighter Pilots: Impact on Cockpit and Flight Equipment Design"—huge impact on flight safety for female pilots
- Mentor for US Air Force Academy applicants/current cadets, Flight Surgeons and Residents in Aerospace Medicine

Leadership/Involvement in community organizations/aerospace medicine:

- President of medical school class for four years, student representative to University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Chancellor search committee and led student input for successful accreditation review
- Elected by peers in MPH class as student council representative, and served as student representative on faculty curriculum forum
- Deputy Director of the USAF Pilot-Physician Program, mentoring the current cadre of Pilot-Physicians and selecting future applicants to the career field
- Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association, (AsMA) and Member-at-Large for the AsMA Governing Council
- International Association of Military Flight Surgeon/Pilots – member and leader - past Secretary and Past-President
- Society of USAF Flight Surgeons, active member and leader – past business editor of their professional publication, FlightLines, and Chair of the awards committee
- Member, International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine
- Key member of the F-35 Aeromedical Community of Interest (ACOI), an international group of physicians, physiologists and researchers supporting the fielding of the F-35 for the Department of Defense, Partner Nations and Foreign Military Sales customers
- Aeromedical representative on the F-35 Physiologic Event Team, collaborating with government and industry representatives on investigation of physiologic incidents

Recognition/Awards:

- Winner of the 2012 Military Health Service Female Physician Leader, Air Force Category. This award honors outstanding female physicians who have made significant contributions to the practice of military medicine and who have served as exemplary role models for other female physicians. Objective is to advance the cause of women in medicine and to provide role models who will motivate the next generation of young women physicians

- Winner of 2011 Aerospace Medical Association's Julian Ward Award for outstanding commitment to developing the art and science of aerospace medicine, this award is given to the nation's top Aerospace Medicine Resident
- Winner of 2009 Aerospace Medical Association's Harry G. Moseley for superior dedication to improving aviation safety through rigorous ground/in-flight testing of protective flying equipment and conducting mishap investigations due to controlled flight into terrain and G-induced loss of consciousness
- Recognized expert in G-Induced Loss of Consciousness (GLOC) and acceleration protection, has aggressively led the way towards incorporating improved G-protection to mitigate aircraft mishaps and loss of life. Full coverage G-suits have since been implemented in F-15C and F-16 aircraft, resulting in a drastic decrease in GLOC rates and saving lives

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Nominator: Gene Nora Jessen 630 S. Tiburon Ave, Meridian, ID 83642 And The Idaho Chapter of Ninety-Nines [gnjflyer@aol.com](mailto:gnjflyer@aol.com), 208-855-0553

## **DOCUMENTARY ON WOMEN'S AIR DERBY COMING TO PBS**

**"Beyond the Power,"** a documentary that meshes the history of women pilots during the 1929 Women's Air Derby with their modern counterpart, will be made available to public television stations nationwide beginning in June.

The one-hour documentary from Hemlock Films juxtaposes the experience of the women pilots who flew in the 1929 air race with pilots competing in the Air Race Classic, the all-women's cross-county air race. Director Kara Matinelli was behind the camera for the 2014 Air Race Classic, but she also was a member of a racing team.

*Beyond the Powder* uses historic photos and re-enacted footage to tell how the Women's Air Derby pilots endure skepticism, sabotage, engine failures, an in-flight fire for a chance to compete. The 19 racers included Louise Thaden, Amelia Earhart, Florence "Pancho" Lowe Barnes, and Phoebe Omlie.

The documentary's title is a nod to the nickname "Powder Puff Derby," which humorist Will Rogers dubbed the 1929 race. The contemporary footage shows 50 teams of women pilots flying from the West Coast to the East Coast. Matinelli said she wanted to make the movie to inspire

young women to be interested in flying and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects.

*Beyond the Powder* is available on DVD and Blu-ray. It will be offered to Public Broadcasting System stations nationally in June, Martinilli said. For more information, see the website ([http://hemlockfilms.com/Hemlock\\_Films/Beyond\\_the\\_Powder.html](http://hemlockfilms.com/Hemlock_Films/Beyond_the_Powder.html)).

Jill W. Tallman, AOPA Pilots, June 2016