

WINTER 2021



U.S. Airmen from Royal Air Force Mildenhall join World War II and 100th Bomb Group veterans, their families and 100th Bomb Group Foundation members as they join together for a photo at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas, Texas, Oct. 29., 2021. The Airmen and veterans came together for the 100th BG reunion as a way of keeping the Bloody Hundredth heritage alive. (U.S. Air Force photo by Karen Abeyasekera)

NATIONAL WASP WWII MUSEUM

HANGAR ONE

THE CAMARADERIE OF WORLD WAR II CONTINUES

Lisa Taylor, Executive Director of the WASP Museum, recently spoke at the 100th Bomb Group Symposium and attended several of its events. It was a marvelous time meeting heroes of yesterday and today, and learning how the 100th Bomb Group, the 100th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), and the WASP are all connected through shared veteran experiences.

Square D pride filled the air as U.S. Airmen past and present gathered together for the 100th Bomb Group reunion in Dallas, Texas, Oct. 28 to 30, 2021. Seven World War II survivors and veterans formerly stationed at Thorpe Abbots, Norfolk, England, joyfully met with some of today's Airmen from the 100th ARW, Royal Air Force Mildenhall. Representing the WASP was B-17 Bomber co-pilot, Lt. John Alden Clark, husband of WASP Marie Mountain Clark, 44-W-1 (deceased).

The veterans in attendance were Al Arreola, Hank Cervantes, John Clark, Al Lochra, John Luckadoo, Jim Rasmussen, and Joe Urice.

So, what is Square D pride and how does it unite all these veterans?

"During World War II, bomb groups departing from England joined massive formations over the North Sea before heading toward their targets on [continental Europe]," says Mark Howell, 100th Air Refueling Wing historian. "In order to ensure members from the same group met and formed together, the bombers had tail marking unique to each bomb group."

According to historic documentation, tail markings consisted of a

letter within a geometric shape. In the case of the 100th Bomb Group, the unit the 100th ARW descended from, the marking was the letter "D" inside a square - hence the Square D was formed. The Square D became the official designation of the 3rd Air Division and the subordinate 100th BG, who moved to RAF Mildenhall during the war.

The 100th ARW is the only Air Force unit to continue using their World War II tail marking to this day. Though the Army Air Force, 3rd Division, 4th Bombardment Wing and 100th Bomb Group only remain in history books, their legacies live on through the

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



Airmen show off their Square D Patch at the 100th Bomb Group Symposium

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Last week, I was visiting with Sandra Spears, this issue's Member in the Spotlight recipient. In our conversation, she expressed that being a member helped her feel more connected to the Museum. This biannual publication and periodic emails are the main driver for that connection. I hope this issue not only connects you to the activities and initiatives of the Museum, but also instills confidence that you are supporting a mission that is important to the betterment of America, a country of growth, passion and service.

My conversation with Sandra sparked a new idea for the newsletter. What if, in addition to you feeling more connected to us, we could feel more connected to each other? What if readers submitted articles to give us a greater personal perspective on the growth, passion and service of America?

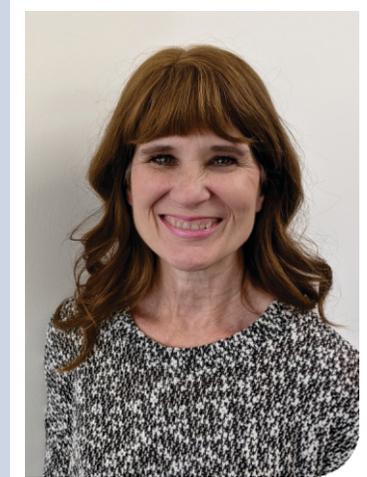
With this thought, we roll out a new initiative: A community page in the newsletter and on our website with content provided by our members and readers. These articles can come in many forms. WASP families are welcome to send in favorite memories of their WASP or current family news.

General members may submit articles highlighting WASP legacy pilots, organizations, or aircraft. There are some of you out there who have stories of male pilots who were instructed or inspired by WASP. Please submit all of them. Articles should include a picture and be kept to 300 words. New articles will be published to the website monthly and up to two articles will be included in each biannual newsletter.

Warm regards,

Lisa Taylor

✉ lisataylor@waspmuseum.org



JESSICA CRAVER
Lead Docent &
Retail Manager

New Additions to the WASP Museum Staff

The Museum welcomes its newest staff member, Jessica Craver, as lead docent and retail manager. Jessica brings a strong business mind and organized personality to the store, yet infuses beauty and warmth into all she does. In addition to keeping up with daily sales and merchandising, Jessica keeps us ready for trade shows and fly-ins. The Museum is glad to have her on the team.

The Museum also introduces you to Marc Kennedy, Event Coordinator. Marc juggles several balls including event creation and planning, making private events personalized and memorable, and helping our crew mobilize to get to airshows and symposiums. His hard work, loyalty and wit makes him a strong member of the team.

Welcome to the team, Jessica & Marc.



MARC KENNEDY
Event
Coordinator



THE CAMARADERIE OF WORLD WAR II CONTINUES

...continued from the cover page.

100th ARW and their Square D tail marking. Because of this connection, it has become tradition for 100th ARW airman to join the 100th Bomb Group at their reunions.

The WASP also have their place in Square D pride. World War II veterans Josephine "Doty" Pitz Egan, 43-W-5, and Marie Mountain Clark, 44-W-1, married 100th Bomb Group pilots Maj. John Egan and Lt. John Alden Clark respectively making them part of the 100th Bomb Group family. Lt. Clark lovingly tells his wife's story and sells her books at the conventions.



The WASP are also connected as forerunners for the female legacy pilots in attendance from the 100th ARW. During WWII, WASP were not permitted to leave the continental U.S. or fly in combat. Because of their service, however, the door was opened for today's female pilots to serve world-wide and fly in every position maintained by the military. This is a fact not lost on either the WASP or the airmen.

Too often, the WASP story is told in isolation; events such as this remind us that while they would not be considered veterans until 33 years after their service, they served in the military in key positions that enabled the U.S. to win The War. The WASP Museum commends the 100th Bomb Group and the 100th ARW for putting our female WWII pilots into the context of The War, where they belong.

U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Rachel Castrovinci, left, 100th Operations Support Squadron senior enlisted leader, Rob Paley, 100th Air Refueling Wing historian, Tech. Sgt. José Escano, 100th Maintenance Squadron resources advisor and nose art program creator, and Staff Sgt. Kaylene LaRose, 351st Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, pose for a photo with Al Lochra, World War II veteran and former technical sergeant and radio operator gunner, at Cavanaugh Flight Museum during the 100th Bomb Group reunion in Dallas, Texas, Oct. 29, 2021. Airmen from the 100th ARW represented RAF Mildenhall and today's Bloody Hundredth at the reunion with World War II and 100th BG veterans and their families. (U.S. Air Force photo by Karen Abeyasekera)

Square D history courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace, 100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

JOHN CLARK VISITS THE MUSEUM

The Museum was honored to host WWII veteran John Clark, husband of WASP Marie Mountain Clark, 44-W-1, and his family in the Museum on November 1 following their participation at the 100th Bomb Reunion in Dallas. Clark had not been in Sweetwater since 2000 for a WASP reunion with Marie, five years before the Museum opened its doors. Following a tour of the Museum campus, Clark spoke to a group of 20 gathered for lunch.

"When people ask me if I married an insect," John told the group, "I tell them, yes, a honey bee without the sting." Clark and Mountain met at Las Vegas Army Air Corps base. Clark was there to receive B-17 transitional training. Mountain had several duties including flying simulated fighter attacks on the B-17s, AT-6s, P-39, and P-63, and doing the same on ground gun emplacements; teaching instrument flying to pilots lacking the latest techniques; and serving as an engineering test pilot on "war weary" P-39 fighters. While there was instant attraction and admiration between them, they would wait until June 8, 1945 to marry and enjoy 62 happy years together.

Clark entertained the crowd with heroic war stories, some humorous and others tragic, that included both he and his wife's experiences. For those who regret not being in attendance, there will be another opportunity. Dr. Clark and his family plan to attend the 80th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration where he will represent the WASP on April 29 – 30, 2022. For those who cannot attend, consider purchasing Marie Mountain Clark's book, *Dear Mother and Daddy* and Dr. Clark's book, *An Eighth Air Force Combat Diary*. They can be found at waspmuseum.org store or <https://bit.ly/3qZUamz> respectively and all proceeds go to the Museum and the 100th Bomb Group reunion.



David Clark, Phil, Marie Mountain Clark, Eloise Clark in 2000



John Clark on November 1, 2021

"When people ask me if I married an insect," John told the group, "I tell them, yes, a honey bee without the sting."

INSIDE THE ARCHIVE "BATTLING THE COLD"

BY CHRIS CALIFA, ARCHIVIST

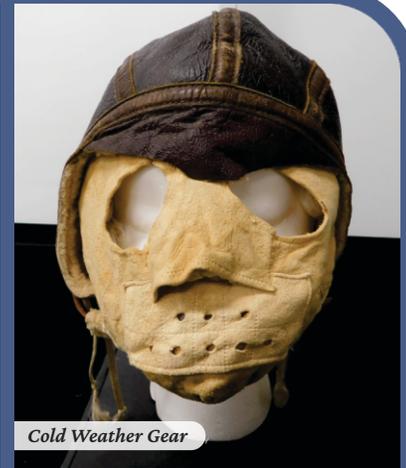
"In any Climate and Place," the mission of the WASP pilots had them traversing the skies of the United States throughout the years of their service. Piloting the multitudes of aircraft provided a unique challenge to the pilots, one that was compounded by their flight schedule, and the rigors of flight.

Be they soaring into the sky in a BT-13 Valiant, or zipping through the clouds in a P-38, WASP had to contend with long hours in the pilots' seats, and the cold weather of high-altitude flying. Some tools of the trade kept them warm, if not, warm enough, while in flight. While the "Bear Suit" did well to keep the body warm, a pilot's face was still exposed to the harsh cold of high altitude flight.

To protect the pilot's head, and face, from the biting cold, WASP had access to face masks, and insulated helmets. The combination of leather, and cotton, provided ample means for combating the cold of high-altitude flight. The mask, while acting as a windbreaker, had also allowed pilots to combat condensation from breathing in the mask. Condensation, in the freezing environment of 30,000 feet, does the pilot no good. The minor cutouts in the mouth segment are there to mitigate this.

It's the contributions of donors, like you, that keep the museum's archive vault stocked with facets of WASP life, which is why we thank you, and encourage you to continue your support.

If you have any items you would like to donate, please contact Ann at 325-235-0099 or ann@waspmuseum.org.



Cold Weather Gear



Leather Helmet

AIRVENTURE MEMORIES AND NEW ADVENTURES

BY JOHN MARSH

It was great returning to EAA AirVenture 2021. Coming back after a brief absence brought back wonderful memories for me. I have spent 15 years escorting WASP friends to various events at the show, making sure they had the best of everything. Evenings were spent at the Jesuit Retreat Center on Lake Winnebago, drinking wine and eating cheese with these women as the sun set over the water.

Coming back to the show and staying at the Retreat Center felt strange without my dear friends. It shifted my focus from the show being for them to about them. While I wish they were with me, it is my honor to represent the WASP at Oshkosh as a

Board Director for the Museum and as the son of WASP Marie Barret Marsh, 43-W-7.

We often talk about the WASP program being WWII's best kept secret, and it was. However, it is secret no more. This year, the WASP were represented all over AirVenture in several different ways. In addition to our exhibit, the Museum participated in a training aircraft display in Warbird Alley that included the Museum's UC-78, Kurt Landis' BT-13, and a Stearman. The Museum gave a presentation of the WASP program on the Warbird Alley stage that included Executive Director Lisa Taylor, Museum pilot Malcolm Laing, Lt. Col. Olga Custodio, USAF (ret.) and myself. The biggest surprise, though, came from Ford who manufactured a special edition WASP themed car.

It was enjoyable to see so much being done in their honor and to play a significant part in it. I will treasure my memories and make new ones.



Gigi Coleman, niece of Bessie Coleman the first Black American Aviator



Jan Goodrum, 43-W-8, Mary Wiyall, 44-W-10, and Dawn Seymour, 43-W-5, in 2011



Museum pilots Brian Laing and Malcolm Laing

A WASP IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EVENT RECAP

**NOV. 13, 2021
EXHIBIT**

**MERIEM "ROBY"
ANDERSON
44-W-4**



On Saturday, November 13, the WASP Museum unveiled a special exhibit in honor of WASP Meriem "Roby" Anderson, 44-W-4, with much celebration. The exhibit highlights Roby's many interests which included airplanes, motorcycles, and animals of every kind. The evening kicked off with a sunset motorcycle ride and flag ceremony led by the Combat Veteran's Motorcycle Association of Abilene, Texas. The crowd enjoyed a BT-13 flyover by Museum pilot, Brian Laing.

Seventy-five visitors attended to enjoy a good meal and reminisce with family members as they told heart-felt stories of Roby. Special guests included family members Madeleine Anderson, Theresa Anderson, Larry and Betty Anderson, and Marilyn Jenkins. The San Antonio Ninety-Nines flew in with taildragger aircraft in honor of Roby's membership in this special sisterhood.

The exhibit will be open until February 9, 2022. A video recording of stories will be available the first week of January on the Museum website.



Taken at Roby's 80th birthday party: Betty Richardson, Madeleine Anderson, Theresa Anderson, Jennifer Richardson, Larry Richardson, Troy Richardson



San Antonio Ninety-Nines



Ann Haub

UPCOMING EVENT

**FEB. 12, 2022
EXHIBIT**

**BETTY HEINRICH
BERKSTRESSER
43-W-4**



Betty Berkstresser will be our next featured WASP on special display beginning February 12, 2022. Please join Berkstresser's family on opening day to commemorate her life. The evening will begin at 6:30pm with the exhibit unveiling and family stories. At 7:30 pm, enjoy live music for a Valentine-themed dance, A Love-Letter to Aviation. Tickets are available for purchase on the website for \$10 per ticket or \$15 at the door. Food trucks will be available in the plaza.

BERKSTRESSER'S LIFE

Betty was born May 12, 1919 in Houston, Texas. She was a native Houstonian and graduate of the University of Houston. She jumped at the chance to learn to fly after a university math professor asked her, "Would you like to be a pilot?" She immediately enrolled in the Civilian Pilot Training program, took her flight training at Hobby Airport, and began adding hours to her logbook. She was accepted into the WASP Class 43-W-4 at Avenger Field Sweetwater, Texas. Betty's favorite plane was the AT-7 in which she flew over 500 hours.

Betty had a passion for exploring. She rode more than 50,000 miles around the U.S. and Canada on her Honda 500cc motorcycle with Herky and Garner State Park friends. Betty also took her family on yearly road trips throughout the west and Canada. She taught her children and grandchildren,

*"It's a big world out there...
stay humble but never settle.
Go Have fun!"*

To purchase tickets or to find out more about upcoming events, please visit www.waspmuseum.org.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE WASP HOMECOMING

JOIN US IN HONORING THE WASP BY
ATTENDING THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Save the Date

APRIL
29TH & 30TH
2022

FRIDAY
WASP FAMILY LUNCHEON

(PRIVATE EVENT FOR WASP FAMILIES ONLY)

1940s HANGAR DINNER DANCE

WITH A LIVE BAND

SATURDAY

FLY-IN ON AVENGER FIELD

KIDS' ACTIVITIES, FOOD TRUCKS, & MORE!

DOWNTOWN EVENING STREET DANCE

HOSTED BY NOLAN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
VISIT WASPMUSEUM.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

WORLD WAR II THEMED WEEKEND

PERIOD CLOTHING IS ENCOURAGED

ALL GUESTS

The Fly-in is **FREE** of charge!

To purchase Friday night dinner and WWII dance tickets, visit the website at waspmuseum.org or call Stephanie Cline at 325-235-0099. Because there will be no formal luncheon this year, please enjoy food trucks for Saturday's lunch.

PILOTS

Calling all Pilots - the Museum needs 80 aircraft on the field to honor 80 years of the WASP program. You are invited to participate. **Partial fuel reimbursements will be given for WWII aircraft based on miles flown.** To register your aircraft, please call or email Stephanie Cline at 325-235-0099 or stephanie@waspmuseum.org.

WASP FAMILIES ONLY

Let's make this the biggest family reunion yet!

Please register with the Museum that you are coming so we can plan special activities and goodies, and keep you informed accordingly. To **register, purchase tickets** to the WASP Family Luncheon on Friday, and buy dinner tickets for that evening, please visit waspmuseum.org or call or email Stephanie Cline at 325-235-0099 or stephanie@waspmuseum.org.

THE NATIONAL WASP WWII MUSEUM CELEBRATES THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

"In the beginning, I had my doubts that a slip of a young girl could fight the controls of a B-17 in the heavy weather they would naturally encounter in operational flying. However, you and nine hundred of your sisters have shown that you can fly wingtip to wingtip with your brothers. If there ever was a doubt in anyone's mind that women can become skillful pilots, the WASP have dispelled that doubt."

It has been nearly 80 years since Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold, Commander of the Army Air Corps during World War II, spoke these words to the last graduating class at Avenger Field on December 7, 1944. Although these words were bittersweet marking the end of the WASP program, they have proven true over the last eight decades. The program disbanded in two years' time, but the spirit of these pilots, their tenacity, and their influence blazes proudly on.

Women now fly every aircraft across all military branches serving in every rank. They also fly privately and commercially.

At this year's Homecoming Celebration 2022, we celebrate the Mighty WASP, their families, and their legacy pilots in Sweetwater, TX. The Museum has moved the celebration to April 29 - 30 for many practical reasons that will give the greatest number of families, supporters and pilots the ability to attend.

Visitors ask the Museum every year, "Will any WASP be there?" The poignant answer is no. Their spirit, though, will be embodied in every family member and female pilot in attendance and in the WWII aircraft on their field, Avenger Field.

Please join us as Avenger Field and Sweetwater, Texas comes alive for the biggest party of the year. The weekend is World War II themed and period clothing is encouraged.

The fly-in is free. To purchase dinner tickets, visit our website at waspmuseum.org.

Author's Corner

WASP STORIES YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS



Sarah Byrn Rickman

WASP Historian & Author

Author of 11 books about the WASF/WASP pilots of WWII



Erin Miller

WASP Granddaughter & Author

Author of 2 books about her Grandmother, a WASP pilot

Teresa James was a bold and gutsy pilot with a wicked sense of humor. Number eight to join Nancy Love's Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) in September 1942, she's one of the most recognizable names among the women pilots who flew in World War II.

Teresa James WASF Pilot: Gear Up/Gear Down—a P-47 to Newark is her rollicking biography aimed at teenage girls, their brothers, moms and older sisters too.

Teresa writes: "I was landing a sick A-25 dive bomber when exhaust fumes poured into the cockpit. I had to request a straight-in approach, then land with the cockpit canopy open and the wind blowing in my face. As the wheels touched the runway, the control tower operator said, "That was a beautiful landing."

"You ought to see me grease 'em in when I'm not applying my lipstick," I replied.

Teresa relates how, at nineteen, she learned to fly. "It was a man, of course"—and laughs. "One day, this beautiful silver airplane lands. Out steps this Greek god. 'Where you been hidin'?" He asked her to go flying with him, and she did.

To surprise him, she took lessons and soloed. Then she learned "Bill" had gotten married. "Breaks 'o' the game."

Teresa earned her license and never looked back. She went on to thrill airshow audiences with 26 ½ tail spins followed by a series of loops in the OX-5, while falling from an altitude of 9,800 to 1,200 feet above the ground before coming out of those dizzying spins.

The legend of Teresa James was born. She never looked back.

On November 9, 2021, I published the children's book, "What Grandma Did," in honor of my grandmother, Elaine Danforth Harmon, WASP class 44-W-9. The book is a family effort as I wrote the text and my cousin Randal Harmon did the illustrations. After my previous book, "Final Flight Final Fight," which discusses my relationship with my grandmother, her time as a pilot with the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of World War II, and the campaign I led to have a bill passed through Congress to recognize her service at Arlington National Cemetery, I was inspired to write a children's version of the story. The grandmother character in "What Grandma Did" is loosely based on my grandmother but inspired by the WASP in general. She explains her piloting days during the war to her granddaughter, to include going to Congress to be recognized properly for her service. This is a story that teaches history, leadership, and courage through intergenerational learning.

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2021, I was honored to officially launch the book at the National Museum of the United States Air Force and National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio. During the day I read the book aloud to some of the museum's visitors. In the evening, we had a VIP reception in the museum followed by a general presentation to introduce the book. We had family members from at least six WASP at the event – Nadine Nagle, Marty Wyall, Elaine Harmon, Nancy Mayes, Jane Doyle, and Lillian Yonally. We also had Kara White and Adam White, the filmmakers of "Rise Above WASP" present the film. After the book reading and movie screening, Kara and Adam joined with me on stage for a panel to discuss the history of the WASP, moderated by Amy Spowart, president and CEO of the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

To purchase *Teresa James WASF Pilot* by Sarah Byrn Rickman or *What Grandma Did* by Erin Miller, please visit:
www.waspmuseum.org



WASP Muriel "Mimi" Lindstrom Segall 44-W-2



SWEETWATER THE MUSICAL

Patricia Noonan and Sean Mahoney didn't set out to tell the story of the WASP. In fact, their initial quest was simply to write and produce a musical honoring a team of women who came together to fight for something bigger than themselves. But as Patricia reflected, "as we dug more deeply into American history for ideas, we came across the WASP...and they wouldn't let us go." Newly-inspired by the various accounts of WASP heroism and tenacity, the duo completely overhauled their original draft to create Sweetwater. From the fringes of history books, Sweetwater brings the WASP and their ongoing fight for recognition to the musical theater stage in an epic story of sacrifice, duty, love and the joys and heartache that come with being groundbreaking female pioneers.

They came out fast in 2018 with performances at the iconic Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut, the 75th anniversary WASP Homecoming in Sweetwater, the 99s International Conference in Philadelphia, and the National Alliance for Musical Theaters (NAMT) Festival of New Musicals in NYC. All to rave reviews.

When the theater community and greater world shut down in 2020, it was hard to see a way for Sweetwater to move forward. But just as the story of the WASP wouldn't let them go, it stayed with them through the shutdown. During the pandemic, a story of brave young women who found their lives shaken by forces beyond their control and came together from across the country to find a way to serve their country-- doing what they love--seemed more potent and necessary than ever. Just because the musical's creators couldn't put Sweetwater on stage as intended, didn't mean they couldn't find a way to keep telling the story.

In the fall, they were thrilled to have composer Liz Filios join the team. Coming from a family of pilots herself, Liz was the perfect fit to keep them moving forward. An invitation to present Sweetwater with the Philadelphia Women's Theater Festival in the summer of 2021 meant they'd have to get creative around Covid restrictions. So they designed an adaptation of the piece that married the radio plays of the 1940s with a modern musical.

Bringing Sweetwater to life during the ever-shifting CDC guidelines of the summer took a village. An incredible group of actors, musicians, and creatives (including director Emily Maltby, music director Gina Giachero, sound designer and engineer Rob Kaplowitz) brought their hearts and talents to the table to create something that could be recorded and shared with audiences at a safe distance. During the broadcast, they were all once again connected, as people in the 1940s must have been--in their separate living rooms, but tuning into the same experience. It wasn't quite the same as sitting in a theater, breathing, laughing, and crying together... but it was close.

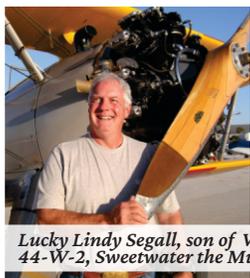
Patricia and Company will take Sweetwater back to the live stage with the 11th Hour Theatre Company in Philadelphia for their Spring 2022 season. From there, they'll continue to make the musical the best it can be, share the story with new audiences, and eventually license it for high schools and colleges to produce so students can learn from the WASP "up close and personal." They can't wait to be back in person, but are grateful to the community that came together to make the radio play possible--and are now part of the fabric of Sweetwater. Said Patricia, "When writing about such tenacious and indomitable women, it was only fitting that we came together as a team...turning an obstacle into an opportunity to create something beautiful."

"We must never let these voices go silent."

Sweetwater co-creator Patricia Noonan



Patricia Noonan and Julia Johanos performing at the 75th Anniversary Homecoming on Avenger Field



Lucky Lindy Segall, son of WASP Muriel Lindstrom Segall, 44-W-2, Sweetwater the Musical investor and supporter



Sweetwater the Musical Cast

For more information about this show, please visit:
<https://11thhourtheatrecompany.org/shows/sweetwater/>



Omaha Beach Monument

D-Day Composition created by Adam Goha "Ghosts of Time"

EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES



Mont Saint Michel



Aerial View of Pointe du Hoc



Church a Ste Mere Eglise



American Cemetery Entrance

Hello Travelers,

Nothing can match learning about the Normandy landings as you visit the very places where these events unfolded and hear the stories of those who fought there. If you have ever dreamed about learning about Normandy first hand, we have an opportunity for you to travel with a group from The National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

The story of D-Day and the Allied invasion of Normandy have been at the heart of The National WWII Museum's mission since they opened their doors as The National D-Day Museum on the 56th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 2000. Since then, the Museum in New Orleans has expanded to cover the entire American experience in World War II. The foundation of this institution started with the telling of the American experience on D-Day, and the Normandy travel program is still held in special regard – and is considered to be the very best battlefield tour on the market.

Drawing on the historical expertise and extensive archival collection, the Museum's D-Day tour takes visitors back to June 6, 1944, through a memorable journey from Pegasus Bridge and Sainte-Mère-Église to Omaha Beach and Pointe du Hoc. Along the way, you'll learn the timeless stories of those who sacrificed everything to pull-off the largest amphibious attack in history, and ultimately secured the freedom we enjoy today.

Led by local battlefield guides who are experts in the field, this Normandy travel program offers an exclusive experience that incorporates pieces from the Museum's oral history and artifact collections into presentations that truly bring history to life. After planning dozens of trips to Normandy over the years, the Museum added new locations and experiences, forged new friendships and partnerships, and uncovered countless untold stories of those who fought to liberate Europe.

We are honored to work with the National WWII Museum in offering D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy and Liberation of France, to honor those who fought for our freedom.

Best regards,

Lisa Taylor Executive Director
National WASP WWII Museum



To reserve your space(s), contact the National WWII Museum Travel at 877-813-3329 X 257.

Join us in
welcoming
our new
Board Directors!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terri Petty is a long-time community member and leader in Sweetwater. She teaches math at Sweetwater High School, home of the proud Mustangs. While Petty enjoys teaching content, she is equally invested in the students she teaches and is committed to their success both in and outside of the classroom.

As a Board Director, Petty is instrumental in leading and guiding efforts for one of the Museums top two initiatives: to develop WASP-themed STEM curriculum aimed at grades 7 – 12. When asked why she has chosen to serve on the board, Petty states:

"The WASP deserve to be honored for their service to our country. Their bravery and their dedication must be recognized and remembered. I intend to help promulgate their role in maintaining the freedoms we have in this country."

Retired F-16 fighter and Thunderbird pilot, Caroline "Blaze" Jensen is a long-time supporter and friend of the WASP. Her personal friendships with many of the pilots and her own professional flying career has led her to become a champion of WASP history. When asked why she chooses to serve on the Board, Jensen explains:

"When I decided I wanted to be a fighter pilot as a girl growing up, women weren't legally allowed to fly in combat. The story of the WASP inspired me to keep working towards my goal so that I would be in the right place at the right time when the laws changed. Luckily the year before I entered the USAF Academy the combat exclusion for women in aviation was lifted. Their performance in WWII proved that women could handle any aircraft in the inventory and helped to open that door to the women military aviators of today. I owe my wings and the unlimited opportunities I had in my Air Force career to the service of the WASP. It is an honor to be a part of a team that will use WASP history to motivate the next generation to follow its dreams."

As an officer of the Board, Jensen is instrumental in building strategic alliances that allow the Museum's mission to continue forward in powerful ways. Although she works remotely from Wisconsin, Jensen remarks that, "I have the mindset of being at Avenger Field and am extremely passionate about the mission of the museum. I am looking forward to leveraging my experiences in the Air Force, on the air show circuit, at the US Capitol, and defense industry to help identify the strategic challenges and opportunities available to the museum."



Terri Petty



WASP Shutsy Reynolds & Caroline Jensen

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT SANDRA SPEARS - THE TOTAL PACKAGE

What I remember best about the WASP is taking my daddy to work every day. My sister and I would still be in our jammies. We had to stop at the gate and the guard would flash his light and look around the car then wave us in. At the end of the day, Daddy would buzz the house three times and I would say, 'Mama, it's time to pick up Daddy.' That was our cell phone."

The Museum has many different kinds of supporters. Some volunteer or donate while others support through membership. Sandra Spears gives her all to this Museum in these capacities. When asked why, Spears states, "My interest in the WASP began when I was only two years old and my father, Rigdon Edwards, was a flight instructor for the WASP." When the idea of developing a commemorative museum in Sweetwater formed in 2002, Spears knew it was the perfect way to honor the WASP and the legacy of her father.

Spears joined the Museum in 2003 as member #10. Later, she rolled up her sleeves and spent weeks helping to restore the hangar that would eventually become Hangar 2, home of the WASP Museum. She is a founding Board Director and Officer who also serves as the Museum's Membership Chair. If you have ever received a reminder to renew your membership, it came from her. Spears' favorite duty, however, is giving tours. She "never passes up an opportunity to talk about the WASP." Her love for the story comes blazing through and returning groups request her by name.

"Although I log about 1,000 hours of volunteer time per year,"

Spears adds, "monetary donations are also needed especially for special projects. These donations, along with many others have transformed the Museum over the last 19 years, growing from a grassroots initiative to a large, expanded facility with new exhibits and programs."

Spears encourages everyone to become a member and a donor. In addition to small perks the Museum is able to offer, "you will feel more connected to what is going on," she explains. She also believes that being a financial contributor allows you to be part of something bigger than yourself and fills you with pride.



Sandra Spears

Sandra Spears is proud of the Museum, and it is proud of her.





NATIONAL
WASP WWII
 MUSEUM

PO Box 456 • Sweetwater, TX 79556

Non-Profit
 Organization
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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 12 - WASP in the Spotlight featuring Betty Berkstresser and *Love Letter to Aviation* dance

MARCH 17-19 - Visit the Museum and our special WASP exhibit at the Women in Aviation Conference, Nashville, TN

APRIL 29-30 - 80th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration

MAY 21 - Big Country Airfest 2022, Abilene Regional Airport

JULY 25-31 - EAA AirVenture 2022, Museum will have two airplanes and a booth.

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 _____