

#HonorTheWASP over Memorial Day Weekend

Visit and decorate a WASP gravesite from May 24-27, 2019



May 15, 2019 – Women in Aviation International members and friends will #HonorTheWASP over Memorial Day weekend by visiting their graves and leaving an appropriate decoration in the form of flowers or other remembrances.

“For individuals and families – and even companies – looking for a meaningful way to observe Memorial Day, #HonorTheWASP provides a way to do that,” says WAI President Dr. Peggy Chabrian. “Visiting and decorating a WASP gravesite is a history lesson, a way to honor these pioneering pilots, and, for most, a moving and emotional experience.”

You don’t have to be a WAI member to #HonorTheWASP. A database of WASP gravesites, including Google maps to their locations, may be found HERE [<https://www.wai-crc.com/honor-the-wasp>]. The original database was provided by Texas Woman’s University, the repository of the Women Airforce Service Pilots Archive, and augmented through research efforts of WAI staff.

#HonorTheWASP was launched last year, with nearly 100 WASP gravesites visited and decorated. With the improved maps and database, WAI’s goal is to increase that number substantially.

Participants are asked to photograph the decorated grave along with information on who and where and tweet it all using the hashtag #HonorTheWASP. WAI will retweet all posts to its nearly 15,000 Twitter followers.

“We have a group of WAI members who will #HonorTheWASP who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as a young woman who will #HonorTheWASP who were buried at sea,” adds Dr. Chabrian. “And since we are an international organization, we encourage anyone outside the United States to honor their own country’s women aviation military heroes.”

About the WASP: The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) were inducted into WAI’s International Pioneer Hall of Fame in 1993. The WASP was formed in August of 1943 as an adjunct to the Army Air Forces’ war effort. The organization was made up of two civilian-flying groups: the Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron and the Women’s Flying Training Detachment. Under the guidance of Jacqueline Cochran, the WASP became involved in all aspects of military flying operations, with the exception of combat and overseas ferrying. More than 1,000 WASP pilots flew over 70 million miles and delivered 12,650 airplanes across the country during their time of operation. The WASP program was suspended in December 1944.

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Women in Aviation International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing networking, mentoring and scholarship opportunities for women and men who are striving for challenging and fulfilling careers in the aviation and aerospace industries. For more information, contact WAI at 3647 State Route 503 South, West Alexandria, OH 45381, Phone (937) 839-4647; Fax (937) 839-4645 or through www.wai.org.

Contact: Molly Martin, Outreach Director, 850-508-8769, mmartin@wai.org