



**"Women must try to do things as men have tried.  
When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others."**

**Amelia Earhart** *Courage, 1927*  
US aviator (1897 - 1937)

## January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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**January 4, 1985** - Maj. Patricia M. Young becomes the first woman commander of an Air Force Space Command Unit - Detachment 1, 20th Missile Warning Squadron.

**January 11, 1935** - Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Pacific.

**January 13, 1993** - U.S. Air Force Maj. Susan Helms, a member of the space shuttle Endeavor crew, becomes the first U.S. military woman in space.



*"It's an honor for me to be chosen to be the first woman to command a space shuttle, but I also see it as an evolutionary process. I wouldn't be sitting here today if it weren't for all the people, the women in particular, who've gone before me and set the stage to bring women into aviation."*

**U.S. Air Force**  
**Lt. Col. Eileen M. Collins**  
Pre Flight Interview

## February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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**February 3, 1995** - U.S. Air Force Lt. Co. Eileen M. Collins becomes the first woman space shuttle pilot.

**February 10, 1994** - Lt. Jeannie Flynn, the first woman selected for U.S. Air Force combat pilot training, completes training in an F-15E Eagle.



*According to Women in Aviation International, women represent almost six percent of U.S. pilots, about 2.5 percent of military fixed wing pilots, almost four percent of military helicopter pilots, and about three percent of military aircraft crew members.*

## March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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**March 2, 1971** - The U.S. Air Force introduces a policy permitting women who become pregnant to remain on active duty or to be discharged and return to duty within 12 months of discharge.

**March 10, 1977** - The first woman navigator candidates report to Mather AFB, California to begin undergraduate navigator training.

**March 15, 1993** - The SBA Reauthorization Act redefines procurement goals for women-owned businesses.

**March 17, 1971** - Jane Leslie Holley becomes the first woman commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

**March 18, 1971** - Capt. Marcelite C. Jordon becomes the first woman aircraft maintenance officer after completing Aircraft Maintenance Officer School. She later becomes the first black woman U.S. Air Force General.



*Elizabeth MacKethan Magid flew planes for the U.S. military during World War II and wrote a poem entitled "Celestial Flight" that has been used at numerous funerals for female pilots. She wrote the poem for her friend and pilot Marie Mitchell Robinson, who was killed in a B-25 crash.*

## April

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*April 7, 1971 - Second Lt. Susanne M. Ocobock becomes the first woman civil engineer in the Air Force and is assigned to Kelly AFB, Texas.*



*E. Lillian Todd was the first American woman to design and build an aircraft, unveiling her first airplane in 1906. Todd went on to found the Junior Aero Club of America.*

## May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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**May 2, 1977** - First Lt. Christine E. Schott becomes the first woman undergraduate pilot training student to solo in the T-38 talon.

**May 2, 1980** - Second Lt. Mary L. Wittick is the first woman to enter the Air Force undergraduate helicopter pilot training program in Class 81-05.

**May 5, 1970** - The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps expands to include women after test programs at Ohio State, Drake, East Carolina and Auburn Universities prove successful.

**May 18, 1979** - Carter Executive Order 12138 establishes the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise and the Office of Women's Business Ownership.



According to the Center for Women's Business Research, as of 2004, there were approximately 6.7 million privately-held, majority (51 percent or more) women-owned firms, accounting for 29.9 percent of all privately-held firms in the U.S.

## June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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26	27	28 ●	29	30		

**June 10, 1989** - Capt. Jacqueline S. Parker becomes the first female pilot to graduate from U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School.

**June 12, 1948** - Congress passes the Women's Armed Service Integration Act, establishing Women in the Air Force.

**June 17, 1993** - Lt. Col. Patricia Fornes assumes command of the 740th Missile Squadron at Minot AFB, North Dakota. She is the first woman commander of a combat missile squadron.

**June 28, 1976** - The U.S. Air Force Academy becomes the first of the big three service academies to admit women cadets when it admits Joan Olsen.



**According to the National Museum of the United States Air Force, all women pilots flying for the Army Air Force were consolidated into the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program in the summer of 1943. One thousand eight hundred and thirty women were accepted into the program, 1,074 graduated, and 900 were still in the program when it ended. The WASP program allowed women to go on to serve in a variety of flight-related positions.**

## July

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**July 14, 1988** - The Women's Business Ownership Act, HR 5050 passes.

**July 16, 1971** - Jeanne M. Holm, director of Women in the Air Force, becomes the first woman promoted to Brigadier General.

**July 26, 1947** - The National Security Act created the independent U.S. Air Force, and Executive Order No. 9877 defined the roles and responsibilities of the new military branch.



*"Leadership means being good at what you do, and much more. It means building teams, nurturing and setting the example for others to follow."*

**Dr. Sheila Windall,**  
     Secretary of the  
     U.S. Air Force  
     (1993-1997)

## August

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**August 1, 1911** - Harriet Quimby becomes the first American woman to earn her pilot's license.

**August 5, 1943** - The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) merges with Jackie Cochran's training program to form the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

**August 6, 1993** - Dr. Sheila E. Widnall is sworn in as Secretary of the Air Force, becoming the first woman armed services Secretary.





According to the National Museum of the United States Air Force, the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) was created within the Air Transport Command in September of 1942 under the leadership of Ms. Nancy Harkness Love. The squadron's original mission was to ferry Army Air Force (AAF) trainers and light aircraft from factories, but the pilots in this small group eventually delivered fighters, bombers, and transports as well.

## September

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25	26	27	28	29 ●	30	

**September 2, 1977** - The first class of women pilots graduates at Williams AFB, Ariz.

**September 24, 1965** - Executive Order 11246 adds women and veterans to the non-discrimination standards for federal contracting.

**September 29, 1976** - The first of two groups of ten women-pilot candidates enter undergraduate pilot training at Williams AFB, Ariz., the first time since World War II that women can train to become pilots of military aircraft.



**According to the National Woman's Business Council, \$8.3 billion in federal procurement dollars were awarded to women-owned small businesses in fiscal year 2003.**

## October

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**October 12, 1977** - The first class of five U.S. Air Force women navigators graduates, with three of the five assigned to Military Airlift Command aircrews.

**October 13, 1994** - The Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act establishes a federal-wide goal to award five percent of prime contract dollars to women-owned small businesses.



*"We realized what a spot we were in. We had to deliver the goods, or else there wouldn't ever be another chance for women pilots in any part of the service."*

**Cornelia Fort**

Women's Auxiliary

Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), 1942

## November

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**November 17, 1942** - The first class of 28 recruits from the Women's Flying Training Detachment reports to the Houston Texas municipal airport.



*According to the Women's Financial Network at Siebert, women start businesses at twice the rate of men.*

## December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

*December 17, 1943 - The WASP wings are made available in time for the graduation of Class 43-W-8.*