



## WASP FACTS:

- ➔ The first women to serve as pilots and fly military aircraft for the United States Army Air Forces during World War II.
- ➔ There were 28 original WAFS under the command of Nancy Harkness Love.
- ➔ The WASP served in the Army Air Forces from September 1942 to December 20, 1944.
- ➔ 25,000 women applied for the Women's Flying Training Detachment, WFTD.
- ➔ 1,830 women were accepted and 1,074 graduated from the training program.
- ➔ The WASP were under the command of Jacqueline Cochran, renowned aviatrix and General Henry "Hap" Arnold, commander of the Army Air Force.
- ➔ The WAFS and WFTD merged on August 5, 1943 and were renamed the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP.
- ➔ Governed by the Civil Service Commission although under military discipline orders.
- ➔ The WASP were originally stationed at the Howard Hughes Municipal Airport, Houston, Texas but were transferred to Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas, in February 1943.
- ➔ WASP received seven months of training, including Primary, Basic, and Advanced training, the same as male cadets.
- ➔ The WASP were stationed at 120 Army Air Bases within the United States.
- ➔ The WASP flew 78 different types of aircraft, every plane the Army Air Corps flew, including the B-29.
- ➔ The WASP flew 60,000,000 miles of operation flights.
- ➔ Types of flying duties: ferrying, engineering test, demonstration, check pilot, safety pilot, administrative, flight instructor (Basic and Instrument), towing targets for anti-aircraft, towing targets for aerial gunnery, tracking and searchlight missions, simulated strafing, chemical missions, and radio controlled flights.

- ➔ WASP earned \$150 per month while in training and \$250 per month after graduation. They paid for their own food, uniforms, and lodging.
- ➔ 38 died while flying for the Army Air Corps.
- ➔ In 1977, Jimmy Carter signed a house bill giving the WASP military recognition. The WASP received veteran's status in 1979 under Public Law 95-202.
- ➔ In 1992, the WASP voted to establish their national archives at Texas Woman's University.
- ➔ In 2002, Irene Englund was the first WASP to receive Standard Military Honors.