

Continuing with looking at the namesakes of the Civil Air Patrol Achievements awards that we started last month. This time we are focusing on women as it is Women's History Month.

None of the five senior member professional levels honor women.

The breakdown of the cadet achievements is as follows.

21 achievements, including millstone levels

16 achievements honor an individual

4 Honor Women

We talked about Willa Brown last month. The other three are Mary Feik (achievement 3), Amelia Earhart (Milestone earning the rank of Captain), and Sally Ride (achievement 15)

Civil Air Patrol has a long list of national level annual awards for different specialty tracks and the CAP mission areas. One of those is the Major General Jeanne M. Holm Aerospace Education Officer of the Year.

Mary Feik

[Civil Air Patrol Mary Feik "Aviation Legend" Movie - YouTube](#)

- Hired to work on aircraft engines and military aircraft at age 18 at Wright Field (now Wright-Patterson AFB).
- Credited as the first female engineer in the research and development of the Air Technical Service Command's Engineering Division.
- Taught aircraft maintenance to mechanics and crew chiefs
- Logged over 6,000 hours as a pilot flying
 - Fighters
 - Jets
 - Attack Aircraft
 - Bombers
 - Cargo
 - Gliders
- Worked as a restoration specialist at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Paul E. Garber Restoration Facility, restoring aircraft.
- 1994 Inductee into the Women in Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame [WAI Pioneers | Women in Aviation International](#)
- February 1996 First woman to receive the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award
- Col Mary S. Feik Composite Squadron (MER-MD-028) was renamed in her honor a few weeks before her death on June 10, 2016.

Amelia Earhart

- December 28, 1920, the first time she rode in an airplane – she was 23.
- She started flying lessons in January of 1921.
- The first woman to solo above 14,000 feet in 1922.
- 1929 – one of the founding members of [Ninety-Nines](#), an international organization for the advancement of female pilots.
 - [The Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots](#) is in Oklahoma City
- In 1932, the first woman to solo across the Atlantic
- The first person to solo from Hawaii to the US mainland in 1935

- She was last seen taking off from Lae, New Guinea, heading toward Howland Island in June of 1937. She and her co-pilot never arrived. Their disappearance remains a mystery today.

Sally Ride

- In 1973, Sally earned a Bachelor of Science in physics and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Stanford University.
- She continued to study physics at Stanford, earning her Master of Science degree in 1975 and doctorate (Ph. D) in 1978.
- NASA's astronaut class of '78 included six women.
- The first female to serve as CAPCOM (capsule communicator).
- She was involved in the development of the mechanical arm on the space shuttle.
- On June 18, 1983, Sally Ride became the first American female to fly in space with the space shuttle Challenger launch (STS-7).
- She became the first woman to fly into space twice on Challenger mission STS-41G.
- She served on the Rogers Commission, investigating the cause of the Challenger accident and the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB).
- She served as the Director of the California Space Institute and as a physics professor at the University of California San Diego.
- In 2001, Sally and her partner, Tam O'Shaughnessy, cofounded Sally Ride Science at the University of California San Diego.
- Sally and Tam also co-authored seven science and space books for children.
- Sally Ride died on July 23, 2012, of pancreatic cancer.

Major General Jeanne M. Holm

- Joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corp in 1942.
- Attended college for two years after the war before reentering the military in 1948.
- 1965 appointment as the Director of Women in the Air Force
- 1971, she became the first woman promoted to general officer in the Air Force
- 1973, the first woman promoted to two-star rank
- 1975 retired from the Air Force
- Special Assistant on Women for President Ford
- A policy consultant for the Carter administration
- Author of Women in the Military, An Unfinished Revolution.
- Jeanne M. Holm Center for Officer Accessions and Citizen Development at Maxwell AFB provides coordinated leadership and policy direction for the Air Force's officer recruiting, training, and commissioning programs at Officer Training School and Air Force ROTC.

[Air Force biography](#)

Lt. Col Patricia Schmidt