



## News Release

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### **Beechcraft Heritage Museum plans new “Fly Girls Tullahoma” exhibit**

TULLAHOMA, TN. (June 1, 2009) – The Beechcraft Heritage Museum plans to unveil their latest exhibit “Fly Girls Tullahoma” during a celebration on the eve of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Designed to celebrate the achievements of the Women’s Airforce Service Pilots (“WASP”), “Fly Girls Tullahoma” follows current Tullahoma resident Barbara Manchester Robinson through her training and achievements as one of the first women trained to fly America’s military aircraft.

Barbara’s husband, William C. Robinson, Major USAAF (Ret.) was a driving force behind the exhibit. “Barbara and I were in flight training at the same time, so it was interesting to read her letters, and realize the differences in what we were going through. For example, she spent many more hours in the aircraft simulator (known as the Link Trainer) than I did. Barbara also flew longer cross-country training missions, most of which were overnight trips, where she had to find her own food and lodging, at the tender age of 21.”

Of the over 25,000 women who applied for the program, 1,830 were accepted, and 1,074 served as WASP. The WASP flew every aircraft in the USAAF inventory, from the low powered trainers up to the highest powered fighters and bombers. Barbara graduated from the 1<sup>st</sup> WASP class of 1944, and spent a number of hours flying the C-45, a military variant of the venerable Beechcraft Model 18 “Twin Beech”.

Recently, the U.S. Senate passed bill S.614, which was introduced by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the WASP for their service in fulfilling such an important role during World War II. The companion HR.2014 has tremendous support in the House of Representatives.

The Museum has planned a unique evening celebration for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, complete with exclusive viewing of the local Kiwanis Club fireworks show, featuring a dusk performance by famed airshow pilot Julie Clark and her Chevron Mentor, an ex-USAF T-34A trainer, built by Beechcraft in 1956.

For more information on the WASP, see [www.wingsacrossamerica.org](http://www.wingsacrossamerica.org) created in 1998 as the vision of Nancy Parrish, daughter of a WASP. Tickets to the Beechcraft Heritage Museum’s event are available by calling 931-455-1974.

The Beechcraft Heritage Museum is a one-of-a-kind aircraft museum open to the general public, with 1,250 members, 60,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of display area, and over 30 aircraft. Located 70 miles southeast of Nashville, Tennessee at the Tullahoma Regional Airport (THA), the museum’s facilities are available for aviation, corporate, or other special events.

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