Jean Batten

Jean Batten developed a love for aviation that overcame her desire to be a concert pianist. Her interest in flying stemmed from the 1919 England to Australia flight by Ross and Keith Smith and later solo flights from pilots like Charles Kingsford Smith, who gave Batten her first airplane ride.

Willa Brown

Willa Brown was the first African American woman to earn a pilot’s license (1938) and a commercial license. While enrolled in a master’s degree program at Northwestern University, Brown joined the Challenger Air Pilots Association and learned to fly at Harlem Field on the southwest side of Chicago.

Nancy Love

Nancy Harkness Love learned to fly in Michigan in 1930 at the age of 16. She was educated at Milton Academy and Vassar College and earned her commercial pilot's license while in college. In 1935, she was one of three women hired by the Bureau of Air Commerce.

Jeana Yeager

On December 14, 1986, Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan took off from Edwards Air Force Base to break one of aviation's last records: to fly around the world non-stop and non-refueled. The round-the-world flight of Voyager lasted 9 days, 3 minutes, and 44 seconds, finishing at Edwards on Dec 23, 1986.

Women in Aviation History

Honoring those who paved the way so we could be part of the mission...