



### EDIBA Corner

March is Women's History Month. This month is used to commemorate and encourage the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American History. The celebration began locally in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women held a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a group of women and historians led by the National Women's History Project (now known as the National Women's History Alliance) successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History Week. Subsequent Presidents continued proclaiming National Women's History Week in March annually until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as "Women's History Month". Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating March as "Women's History Month". The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes the yearly theme. The theme for Women's History Month 2025 is "Moving Forward Together: Women Educating & Inspiring Generations."

WTSI is celebrating Women's History Month as a part of their goal to bring together people of different backgrounds and beliefs to discuss topics related to transportation and promote understanding and tolerance between all people. More information can be found on Women's History Month at [this site](#).

Cecilia Aragon is an award-winning author, scientist, keynote speaker, data science professor at the University of Washington, and a pilot. As a first-generation Latina whose parents spoke with thick accents, she was always placed in the slow reading groups in school. She loved math and science, but she internalized others' expectations of her and began to believe that she was not smart enough to do scientific research. She was afraid of failure, so she dropped out of school. However, she overcame her fears, learned to fly, and became an aerobatic pilot. Then she applied what she



learned from flying to her technical career. Once she represented the United States at the World Aerobic Championships, she was invited to give speeches about her journey from a fearful child to champion pilot. Her innovative research and a stint at NASA designing software for Mars missions led President Obama to call her “one of the top scientists and engineers in the country.”

She received her B.S. in mathematics from the California Institute of Technology in 1982, and her M.S. in 1987 and Ph.D. in computer science in 2004 from the University of California, Berkeley.

Aragon first won a slot on the US Aerobic Team in 1991 and holds the record for shortest time from first solo in an airplane to membership on the US Team (less than six years). She was also the first Latina to win a slot on the Team.

A team member from 1991-1994, she was a bronze medalist at the 1993 US National Aerobic Championships and the 1994 World Aerobic Championships. She has won over 70 trophies in regional aerobic competitions at the Unlimited level and was California State Unlimited Aerobic Champion in 1990. She has flown airshows (separately from aerobic competitions) professionally since 1990.

Aragon has been a flight instructor since 1987. In 1989, she founded one of the first aerobic and tailwheel flight schools in Northern California. She helped develop an “unusual attitude recovery training”, whereby flight students are taught how to recover from emergency situations in flight. From 1987-2008, she was a flight instructor at Oakland, Livermore, and Tracy Airports, giving over 2400 hours of flight instruction and over 3000 hours of ground instruction.

More information on Cecilia Aragon can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Lindsey J. Jones was the very first African American female Black Hawk pilot for the North Carolina National Guard. She flew the UH-60 Black Hawk and the UH-72 Lakota. She has a Master’s Degree in Clinical Mental Health from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is an author of the book, “Level Your Wings: A Pilot’s Guide to Healthy Relationships”.



Her dream to serve her country began at 17 with the JROTC in high school. She rose to platoon leader for an air assault company before taking command of the MEDEVAC Detachment and then the Lakota Detachment. She also has a Bachelor's in Psychology and Sociology and a Minor in Military Science, which built the foundation for her Master's degree. Those degrees and her experience as an Army Reservist have helped her have a private counseling and consulting practice called Level Your Wings Counseling and Consulting PLLC in Germany, where she lives with her husband, who is stationed there.

She is part of the permanent "Trailblazing Women" exhibit at the Sullenberger Aviation Museum in Charlotte. The exhibit showcases her uniform, flight gloves, and other items.

More information on Lindsay Jones can be found at these links:

[Service Knows No Limits for Army Reservist](#)

[Forever on the Fly – Lindsey Jefferies Jones](#)

[First NC National Guard African American woman pilot takes farewell Black Hawk flight](#)

#### Upcoming Events

- Paving the Way: Women Leading in Transportation & Construction, March 5, 2025, 11:30am-1pm, 4920 O'Hear Avenue, #Suite 400, North Charleston, SC 29405. More information is available at this link: [Paving the Way: Women Leading in Transportation & Construction | WTS](#)
- Neurodiversity In The Workplace, March 6, 2025, 5:30-7pm, HNTB, 60 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 3800, Minneapolis, MN 55402. More information is available at this link: [Neurodiversity in the Workplace | WTS](#)
- Southeast Rail Forum, March 10-12, 2025, 8:00am-5:00pm each day, Sheraton Raleigh Hotel, 421 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27601. More information is available at this link: [Southeast Rail Forum | WTS](#)
- Modernizing How We Think About Youth Cycling, March 10, 2025, 1pm, virtual. Register at this link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlc--trz0pG9ODhezFTzdhTTLHIMJDSdld?utm\\_source=America+Walks&utm\\_campaign=24b10fda-February+Newsletter+2025&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f2013291e9-24bbd10fda-583890763#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlc--trz0pG9ODhezFTzdhTTLHIMJDSdld?utm_source=America+Walks&utm_campaign=24b10fda-February+Newsletter+2025&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f2013291e9-24bbd10fda-583890763#/registration) . More information is available at this link: <https://www.nybcouncil.com/links>
- HNTB Webinar: Delivering the Goods: Women Leading the Way in Freight Transportation, March 12, 2025, Noon-1:30pm, virtual. More information is available at this link: [WTS Strategic Partner Webinar - HNTB: Delivering the Goods: Women Leading the Way in Freight Transportation | WTS](#)
- Women's History Month Tour: Changing the Face of Democracy – Shirley Chisholm at 100 – Members Only, March 12, 2025, 5-7pm, Museum of the City of New York, 1220 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, NY 10029. More information is available at this link: [Women's History Month Tour: Changing the Face of Democracy - Shirley Chisholm at 100 - Members Only | WTS](#)
- Reading Group Discussion: Experiences with Personal Safety & Security in Transportation for Women & Girls, March 20, 2025, Noon-1pm, virtual. More information

is available at this link: [Reading Group Discussion: Experiences with Personal Safety & Security in Transportation for Women & Girls | WTS](#)

- WTS-Boston DEI Book Club, Justice and the Interstates: The Racist Truth About Urban Highways, March 26, 2025, 6:00-7:00pm, virtual. More information is available at this link: [WTS-Boston DEI Book Club - Justice and the Interstates: The Racist Truth about Urban Highways | WTS](#)
- Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport Tour, March 31, 2025, 11am-1pm, 20 Martin Court, Savannah, GA 31419. More information is available at this link: [Savannah / Hilton Head International Airport Tour | WTS](#)
- WTS Charlotte: Embracing New Challenges featuring NCDOT's Julie White, April 1, 2025, 11:30am-1pm, The Hamilton, 820 Hamilton Street, Charlotte, NC 28206. More information is available at this link: [WTS Charlotte: Embracing New Challenges featuring NCDOT's Julie White | WTS](#)
- Community Relations Event, April 23, 2025, 11am-1pm, Harry P. Leu Gardens, 920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL, 32803. More information is available at this link: [Community Relations Event | WTS](#)
- 2025 Illinois Bike & Walk Summit, 8:30am-4:30pm daily, Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL, 62701. More information is available at this link: [https://rideillinois.org/events/2025-illinois-bike-walk-summit/?utm\\_source=America+Walks&utm\\_campaign=24bbd10fda-February+Newsletter+2025&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f2013291e9-24bbd10fda-583890763](https://rideillinois.org/events/2025-illinois-bike-walk-summit/?utm_source=America+Walks&utm_campaign=24bbd10fda-February+Newsletter+2025&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f2013291e9-24bbd10fda-583890763)
- WTS International Annual Conference, May 7-9, 2025, 8am-5pm daily, Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Ontario. More information is available at this link: [WTS International Annual Conference | WTS](#)
- COMTO 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation Awards Breakfast, May 21, 2025, 8-10am, Smithsonian American Art Museum & National Portrait Gallery, 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW and G Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001. More information is available at this link: <https://comto.org/programs-events/celebrating-women-who-move-nation>
- 54<sup>th</sup> Annual COMTO National Meeting and Training Conference, July 12-15, 2025, Marriott Marquis – New York, 1535 Broadway, New York, NY, 10036. More information is available at this link: <https://members.comtonational.org/page/2025-conference-home>

Continue to be a DEIB Advocate for Women!