



**THE NINETY-NINES, INC.**  
*International Organization of Women Pilots*

*Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929*

4300 AMELIA EARHART ROAD. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73159

Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NINETY-NINES COMPLETE FUNDING OF A PERPETUAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP HONORING THE LATE VICKI CRUSE**

### ***Scholarship namesake died while flying for USA at the 2009 World Aerobatic Competition***

99s Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund, Oklahoma City, OK. – (July 26, 2011) – Women pilots from the Ninety-Nines and aviators throughout the world have established the Vicki Cruse Memorial Scholarship to honor national aerobatic championship pilot Vicki Cruse who perished in 2009 while representing the United States in the World Aerobatic Competition in the U.K. The 99s announced the successful funding of the scholarship at the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) annual AirVenture at Oshkosh, WI on July 26th.

The Vicki Cruse Memorial Scholarship, a perpetual scholarship administered through the Ninety-Nines' Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund (AEMSFS), will provide financial aid to women pilots for emergency maneuver and aerobatic training. The scholarship was funded by an 18-month fundraising drive and major support from Lightspeed Aviation, the Lee H. Cruse Trust and the Ventura County (Calif.) Ninety-Nines, Cruse's home chapter within the international organization.

"Vicki touched many of our lives, inspiring some to pursue advanced training, or even become aerobatic competitors themselves," said Lori Parker, Chair of the Ninety-Nines' Ventura County (Calif.) chapter. "Her exceptional determination and focus should be shared with others. Vicki's devotion to perfecting flying skills and her many accomplishments will serve as an inspiration to future generations of pilots."

"Vicki was devoted to educating pilots about the safety benefits of emergency maneuver and unusual attitude training," said Master Flight Instructor-Aerobatic Judy Phelps, a competitive aerobatic pilot coached by Vicki Cruse, past chair of the Ventura County 99s and President of the Aviation Museum of Santa Paula at

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Cruse's home airport in California. "Her devotion to flying and safety inspired those who knew her to preserve her memory by enabling others to become more precise and safe pilots through the Vicki Cruse Memorial Scholarship."

Cruse won the U.S. National Unlimited Aerobatic Championship in 2007, and was a four-time member of the U.S. national team and a member of the Ninety-Nines. She served as president of the EAA's aerobatic division, the International Aerobatic Club (IAC), the world's largest aerobatic organization with a mission to promote the safety and enjoyment of aerobatics. She was a board member of EAA and Unlimited Aerobatics USA Inc. Along with other awards, she achieved the All Ten Achievement Award, 1998 U.S. Sportsman National Aerobatic Championship, and 1999 & 2000 Champion of the Americas. She was an active member of the Ventura County Chapter of the Ninety-Nines.

The Ninety-Nines, Inc., headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla., is a nonprofit organization of women pilots that promotes aerospace education and training, provides aviation scholarships and preserves the unique history of women in aviation through the 99s Museum of Women Pilots and the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum. Managed by trustees with the assistance of professional investment advisors, the 99s Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund has provided aviation scholarships to more than 500 women pilots since its inception in 1940.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Additional Vicki Cruse background info/photos available at [http://www.eaa.org/news/2009/2009-09-10\\_cruse\\_photos.asp](http://www.eaa.org/news/2009/2009-09-10_cruse_photos.asp).

Applications for the Vicki Cruse Scholarship will be available at <http://www.ninety-nines.org/index.cfm/scholarships.htm>.