

## AMELIA EARHART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND JUDGES

### Commander Trish Beckman, US Navy (Retired)



As a child inspired by the American space program in the 1960's, Trish Beckman soaked up all the math and science courses offered by her schools. She enlisted in the US Navy at age 18 and took advantage of many aviation-related education opportunities for the next 28 years, including learning to operate and maintain flight simulators, completing flight training as a Naval Flight Officer, graduating from US Naval Test Pilot School, and earning a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering and a Master's degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

As a Naval Flight Officer she flew in 67 types of military aircraft, with primary qualifications in the EC-130Q, F/A-18D, E-6A, S-3A/B, and F-15E. She was the first American woman to qualify as a crewmember in the F/A-18 (F/A-18D, 1990, Weapon Systems Officer), having been in the right place at the right time (educated, experienced, and qualified) when the F/A-18 opportunity presented itself. Trish was the first woman to qualify as a crewmember in the F-15 (F-15E, 1992, Weapons Systems Officer); however, in spite of her qualifications she had to wage a 2-year war with the Secretary of Defense before the F-15 opportunity became reality.

Commander Trish Beckman, US Navy (retired), flies for Boeing Test and Evaluation, at Boeing Field in Seattle, Washington, as a System Operator for production test flights of the Boeing 737, and as a Flight Navigator for ferry flights and engineering test flights (Boeing 737, 747, 757, 767, and 777). She has now logged over 5600 flight hours in 72 aircraft types.

Trish is currently the only woman in the US to be FAA certificated as a Flight Navigator. In 2009, the United Kingdom's Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators awarded Trish a Master Air Navigator certificate in London, England. She is believed to be the first woman to receive the Master Air Navigator certificate.

### Janice Elrod



Janice began her aviation career as an aircraft mechanic for the Air Force Reserves. In 1983, Janice was hired by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), as a Quality Assurance Representative to assure parts and products met the Department of Defense specifications.

In 1989, Janice accepted a position in California with the Federal Aviation Administration, as an Aviation Safety Inspector (ASI). She was involved with many facets of the aviation manufacturing industry from large aircraft. In 1991, her next assignment was at FAA headquarters in Washington, DC writing and revising rules and regulations for ASI's. Not only did she write new rules for the maintenance of aircraft; she negotiated with other countries to standardize forms and procedures.

In 1992, she was approached by her manager, "about some women in aviation conference thing." He thought it might be a good idea if someone from the office attended, and since she was the only woman, she was it. After attending the conference held by Parks College, in St. Louis. Janice wrote Dr. Baty and said,

"if I can ever do anything to help, please call." Well, she called, and Janice had the privilege of helping to found the organization now known as Women In Aviation International (WAI). Because of her participation in WAI, Janice met and worked with many of the 99's, WASP, and aviation pioneers.

In 2003, Janice retired due to health problems; however she still enjoys her involvement with WAI and all her aviation friends. Attending conferences and emailing her aviation friends keeps her enthusiastic about promoting aviation.

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### Ed McCracken



Ed McCracken received his BSEE from Iowa State University and his MBA from Stanford University.

He held several management positions for Hewlett-Packard from 1968 until 1985. From 1985 until his retirement in 1998 he served as President and CEO of Silicon Graphics. He served on several Boards, including 3M, SatMetrix, U.S. Advisory Council on the National Information Infrastructure, California Children's Health Project and currently, the Board of National Semiconductor.

He has received several awards, including the National Medal of Technology and Executive of the Year.

Mr. McCracken is involved in several education ventures related to the support of math and science programs. He resides in Menlo Park, CA and Angel Fire, NM. He is an instrument rated pilot with more than 1100 flight

hours.