

Fight for Equality

The Women Airforce Service Pilots, also known as the WASP, inspired me to reach for goals that seemed impossible before. They were strong, intelligent, determined and that is what helped them through all their challenges. I am thankful to the WASP pilots for playing a crucial role in paving a path for all women who wanted to be in male-dominant careers.

Women in the WASP program were constantly tested for their courage and skill, stunning and astounding civilians, when they succeeded. Sometimes people also test me because of my gender and it always makes me insecure, but I show them that I can be just as smart or just as strong. During these moments I feel exactly what the WASP pilots felt: criticized for being a woman. In Chuck Yeager's quote, he said: "It makes no difference what a pilot's reproductive organs are shaped like. It's skill that matters." I agree that women are belittled even before they can prove themselves. This is irritating because women can have the same skill level as men. The WASPs helped their country by flying the B-29 Superfortress. The B-29 was known as the "widow maker" because the male pilots that flew it usually crashed and died. The WASP pilots knew about this, but they still flew it, even with the high risk of crashing. Another thing they did that many were afraid to do was pull aerial targets so the soldiers on the ground could get their shooting practice.

The WASP program ended abruptly at the end of WWII; the military stopped letting women be pilots. The WASP only flew for two years before the program suddenly ended. For the next thirty years, the WASP tried continually to get the female pilots who fought in WWII to be recognized as veterans. Finally, after hard work and determination, they succeeded in getting veteran status. This moment in history is important to me since after everything they did for their country, they were not recognized for their efforts until three decades later. This proves that women's rights issues are still present today. I feel that young girls like me must continue to fight for gender equality all around the world.