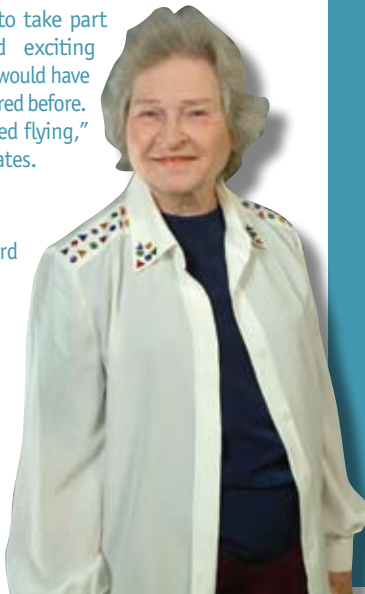


For Helen Holbird, learning to fly at age 52 opened up a whole new world. Her late husband, James, had caught the flying bug at an early age and thought everyone should want to fly, she says. Once their children had “left the nest,” Helen began taking flying lessons in a Cessna 150, earning her private pilot certificate in 1979. Soon the couple purchased a Cessna 172 Skyhawk II, a plane Helen would pilot on a weekly basis until she retired from flying at the age of 70.

A long time member of the Ninety-Nines, Helen, now 80, says learning to fly gave her an increased level of self confidence that allowed her to take part in new and exciting activities she would have never considered before.

“I really loved flying,” she simply states.

Helen Holbird



Photos courtesy of Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots

The Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots preserves the historic achievements of women aviators including Amelia Earhart, a charter member of the Ninety-Nines.

## An act based upon a love of flying results in a Great Gift. Great Gifts

Helen Holbird is a pioneer. Learning to fly while in her 50s, Helen warmly recalls the new friends and opportunities she discovered through aviation. When the Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots launched its Wings for History fundraising campaign, she was the first to respond with the donation of her beloved Cessna 172. Money from the sale of the aircraft allowed the organization to establish an endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, ensuring a perpetual stream of income for the museum.

“We hope that by preserving the history of women in aviation, we will also encourage and inspire young women to pursue a career in aviation,” says Margie Richison, the museum’s board chairman. “Helen’s gift was an important first step toward this goal.”

Established in 1929, the Ninety-Nines was named for

the group’s first 99 charter members including Amelia Earhart. Today the organization has more than 5,500 women pilot members representing 35 countries. The museum is located at the Ninety-Nines international headquarters in Oklahoma City and houses a unique collection of personal items and historic artifacts.

On June 19, Oklahoma City has the distinction of serving as the starting point for the 2007 Air Race Classic, the longest all-woman race in the world. Ninety-eight women pilots will compete in this year’s race which ends in New Brunswick, Canada. It’s an event Helen Holbird does not plan to miss.

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation makes charitable giving simple, flexible and forever. For more information on how you can support the organizations you care about through a Great Gift, contact us at 405/235-5603.

# Helping Our Community

Through a Great Gift

## Helen Holbird

With the Great Gift of her airplane, Helen Holbird enabled the Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots to establish an endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. While Helen earned her pilot's license at the age of 52, her commitment to aviation resulted in a gift that will help an organization continue its mission for years to come.

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation works with donors and organizations to reach charitable goals that benefit us all. If you are interested in making a Great Gift to help your community, please contact us at 405/235-5603.



Helen Holbird with the plane she donated to the Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots.

Photo courtesy of  
Ninety-Nines Museum  
of Women Pilots



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