



A THANK YOU, A MONOLOGUE, AND A MESSAGE

Dear fellow CAP members, parents, cadets, and officers,

I composed this note to you all while sitting in my room overlooking Bellevue, Washington on a smoky Sunday afternoon following the 2023 National Conference. The experience was enlightening and overwhelming, and I had the opportunity to learn many new things, see many new faces, and gain plenty of new ideas to build a better program and strengthen our ongoing efforts as Civil Air Patrol.

It was a pleasure to meet many outstanding CAP members, such as Lt. Col. Seth Hudson, the CAP National Historian, who painstakingly selected a skillful and thoughtful Vietnam Heroes display for the attendees to view; Col. Darin Ninness, the Wing Commander from New Hampshire who has made efforts to modernize how we reach out and speak with our CAP membership; Brig. Gen. Regina Aye, who has worked tirelessly at furthering numerous CAP programs while helping new members in various tracks get their footing (my own included), and so many others.

As my name was called to the stage during the Keynote Session on Saturday morning to receive the Col. Lester E. Hopper Historian of the Year award, I can not tell you what was said by the MC. It seemed surreal, and almost a blur, as I was more focused on the word Maj. Gen. Phelka used to describe the citation. He said it was "impressive."

I will be the first to inform you, that I had never thought of my efforts as impressive. I see my efforts as the status quo, or at least what I believe to be the status quo. But

after talking to so many people at NatCon, I walk away feeling that perhaps it is impressive. But I don't believe that it should be. Rather, I emphasize something that I wish to impart on you, the members, and readers. I showed up.

Life is full of many obstacles, trials, and tribulations. I speak on this as somewhat of an expert on hardship. Many are shocked to know of my background as a middle school dropout or a delayed student in academia. It comes as a shock to many, as I can recall the dazed reaction of one cadet when I shared that fact with them. However, those failures do not define me. It was the fact that I showed up and put my best foot forward that has, does, and always will define me.

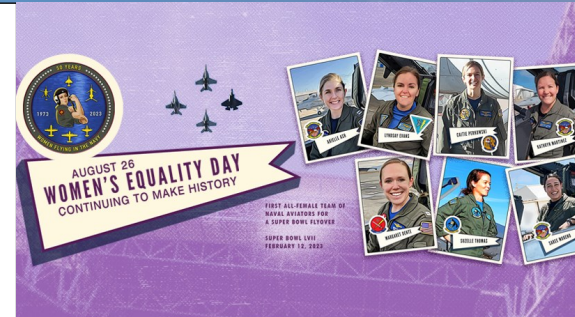
I had wondered to myself the night before the award, and the night of what I would have said in a speech if I had been asked to give one, and this as well as one other item came to mind.

History is something that I am sure many of you do not think of. Indeed, I am aware of the faces of many cadets and some seniors when I am providing a lecture. To borrow from one of my professors who I will simply refer to as "Wick", these individuals have a look reminiscent of "the cows in West Texas" where they appear "lifeless." However, I want you to understand this about history – if nothing else. You, and everyone know you know, is part of history. Everything you enjoy is part of history. Ask yourself, do you believe that some of the greatest commanders or pioneers knew they were making history at the time? Do you believe that someone set out on a mission simply to make history? In most cases the answer is "no."

Every single senior member, parent, and cadet is special and important. Every single one of you contribute to make history every day whether you know it or not. All of you have a story that deserves to be told, a mission to accomplish, a trail to blaze, and heights to reach. It's what makes life so precious, exciting, and valuable. To someone you matter, and the story you forge will impact them and touch them in some way – and that is what is so significant and important to remember.

So, as I accepted this award, I do not do so for myself. I do so to remind all of you, be it in the Iowa Wing, Civil Air Patrol, the Department of Defense, or anywhere else of one key thing: **you have a story that deserves to be told – and you matter.**

I would like to thank Col. Jonathan Lartigue, Iowa Wing Commander, Capt. John Stephens, 41st Composite Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Donald Hahn, 41st Composite Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets, and Lt. Col. Seth Hudson, National Historian, Civil Air Patrol for their mentorship and recommendation for this award. Your trust and faith in me has meant the world to me, and I look forward to continuing on this great adventure and working with our Civil Air Patrol.



On Women's Equality Day, we honor the movement for universal suffrage that led to the 19th Amendment. We celebrate the progress of women over the years and renew our commitment to advancing gender equity.

Female firsts still occur to this day. Seven women from the U.S. Navy recently made history when they conducted the first all-female pregame flyover at Super Bowl 2023. The Navy flyover honored "50 years of women flying" for the maritime service branch, which began teaching women to fly in 1973.

Today as we celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment, we are reminded we all have the opportunity—and the responsibility—to create a society that gives both men and women an equal voice.

For more information on Women's Equality Day, including additional history on the Women's Suffrage Movement and its progression to the Story of Capt. Rhea McFarland in 2023 from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, scan the code to the right.



MONTHLY TRIVIA

- 1 When was the Civil Air Patrol founded?
- 2 In what year did the last World War II combatant surrender?
- 3 What was the only continental U.S. state to be bombed from the air during World War II?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1 When was the Trinity bomb detonated in the Alamogordo Test Range?
16 JUN 1945
- 2 What is the name of the crisis in the Caribbean that took place in October 1962?
The Cuban Missile Crisis
- 3 What was the ship that was tasked with bringing components of the nuclear devices to Tinian Island?
USS Indianapolis

As a safety reminder, it is not medically sound, nor advisable by safety in aviation to affix non-pylon payloads onto a pylon. It's also ill-advised to affix non-pylon payloads onto a non-pylon. Look, that could be some of the nastiest barracks water you can find in for the bucket, it's still not going to pan out how you thought it would in your head, Airman. Put the bucket back on the ground and start mopping the parking lot like 1st Sgt. told you to.

1942	The 101st Airborne Division is stood up, commanded by General William Lee - "we have no history, but have a rendezvous with destiny."	16
1945	The atomic bombing of Hiroshima occurs shortly after 0700 local time in the first of two atomic strikes on the Axis Power.	06
1946	The B-36 Peacemaker makes its maiden flight, becoming the largest combat aircraft to ever fly.	08
1955	The U-2 Dragon Lady makes its unofficial first flight at Groom Lake.	01
1990	President George H.W. Bush announces Operation <i>DESERT SHIELD</i> following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.	07



AUGUST IN HISTORY

Cover photo: A view from above. As wildfires raged across the Pacific Northwest, blankets of smoke plumed into the skies in the path of our Boeing 737 on Thursday. Once we made it through, we were greeted with this view. Note Mount St. Helen's below the wing. Washington sure made a big first impression.

Did you miss an edition of the newsletter? You can find archived copies at <https://www.historicaffairs.com/archangel/civil-air-patrol/>. Got history you want to share? Let the historian know! New history features and a new history newsletter are coming soon. Stay tuned, October 2023 will begin a new kind of history newsletter.