**The American Spirit**

**Hundreds of women who flew airplanes for the U.S. military in World War II were finally recognized this week, receiving the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress’ highest civilian award, at a ceremony in Washington. WASPs – Women Airforce Service Pilots – were barred from combat, but they flew thousands of missions starting in 1943. Overcoming a highly selective recruitment process, stigma, and a paucity of benefits, 1,000 WASPs flew a total of 60 million miles, paying for their own lodging, food, and uniforms. “You answered the call of duty,” Sen. Barbara Mikulski told the group, “and you did it on your own dime.” *(The Week magazine, March 19, 2010)***

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[**P. S. I have placed this excerpt in the Women's Influence document of the www.mondaymunchees.com website. For more quotes, stories, anecdotes, illustrations, trivia, and funnies on this topic, I invite you to scroll down the homepage of the website to the Women's World-section of documents, and click open the**](http://www.mondaymunchees.com/) **document(s) of your choice!**

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**May 9th, 2024 - *citizenship papers (Anthony C. Serkedakis, in Reader's Digest)***

***mother’s day***

**May 2nd, 2024 -** [**first United States**](http://www.mondaymunchees.com/) **Congress (*Alison Mclean, in Smithsonian magazine) teamwork***