



Women in Aerospace  
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**THE 34<sup>th</sup> WOMEN IN AEROSPACE AWARDS HONORS FIVE EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN INCLUDING LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT WINNER, BETTY SAPP, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.**

Washington, D.C. – Women in Aerospace (WIA), a leading professional organization dedicated to expanding women's opportunities for leadership, education and visibility in the aerospace community, is proud to honor five remarkable women for their contributions to the aerospace industry and to the advancement of women in the field. These women will be honored at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual WIA Awards Dinner and Ceremony with a reception and dinner to be held on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA.

The WIA Awards celebrate women's professional excellence in aerospace, annually recognizing female leaders who have made outstanding contributions to the aerospace community.

The 2019 Women in Aerospace Award recipients are:

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Ronna Kirchoff**, Greeneblt, MD, in recognition of her unwavering dedication to NASA missions and her commitment to the advancement of underrepresented women and minorities in the STEM field.

**AEROSPACE AWARENESS AWARD: Cori Lupton**, Cleveland, OH, in recognition of being the first woman Qualified Supersonic Wind Tunnel Operator at the NASA Glenn Research Center. The Supersonic Wind Tunnel has been in operation for 70 years.



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**AEROSPACE EDUCATOR AWARD: Dr. Seetha Raghavan**, Orlando, FL, for her leadership in advancing the technical, professional and global impact of aerospace students and mentorship of young women in aerospace.

**INITIATIVE, INSPIRATION, IMPACT AWARD: Dr. Wendy A. Okolo**, NASA Moffett Field, CA, in recognition of her work in systems health monitoring and unconventional control techniques for air vehicles/spacecraft and for being an inspiration to the next generation of scientist/engineers.

**LEADERSHIP AWARD: Stephanie Murphy**, Houston, TX, is recognized for successful commercial development of a permanent space-testing platform, significantly expanding technology advancements through research in the harsh environment of space.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Betty Sapp**, Alexandria, VA, is recognized for her steadfast leadership and dedication to the mission and people of the NRO, and her enduring commitment to public service and national security space.

This year, over 63 women were nominated across the award categories. Each of these women serve as an inspiration to our community and this year we are deeply honored to recognize Betty Sapp with our most prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. As a pioneer and role model for women, Sapp has dedicated her entire life to the advancement of women and the defense and aerospace community of the United States.

As part of the Awards Ceremony, the Women in Aerospace Foundation will also present four merit-based scholarships to promising young women who will serve as the next generation of female leaders in the aerospace industry.

This year's scholarships go to:

**Aigneis Frey**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**Abigail Gries**, Iowa State University  
**Shu Yu (Michelle) Lin**, University of Colorado Boulder  
**Kristen Susuki**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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To learn more about WIA, visit: [www.womeninaerospace.org](http://www.womeninaerospace.org).

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in the awards dinner on October 17, 2019, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Arlington VA, should register online at [www.womeninaerospace.org](http://www.womeninaerospace.org) or by calling 202-547-0229 for more information.

WIA anticipates selling out tables for this event and encourages interested parties to purchase tables early to be sure space is available. Sponsorship opportunities also available. [Register Here.](#)

For more information, visit the WIA website at [womeninaerospace.org](http://womeninaerospace.org)  
or call our Headquarters at (202) 547-0229.

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