

Jacqueline Cochran: The Fight For Women Aviators in the Military

Nadia Zaffanella and Natalie Marshall

Senior Division

Group Website

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When we were looking for a topic, we discovered the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs). We thought this topic was interesting, considering we did not know anything about them, and we were intrigued to learn about their impact in history. As we began our research, the name Jacqueline Cochran kept coming up, and since she seemed to have a significant role in creating the WASPs, we chose to focus on her. Through this, we were able to focus more on her impact, which made the project more specific rather than a general overview of the WASPs. These women set an important precedent for future generations of female aviators but are generally underrepresented in history.

We began our research by finding background information about the WASPs. Through our research, we discovered who Jacqueline Cochran was. While doing our preliminary research about Cochran, we came across the Eisenhower Library website, which was extremely helpful. It contains primary source letters, documents, and other significant sources, including Jacqueline Cochran's collection, which we integrated into our website. Another valuable primary source was *Jackie Cochran: An Autobiography* book. This source provided us with Jacqueline Cochran's perspective on her work, which was helpful to see the events from a personalized view. Our librarian was very helpful when citing these sources and navigating this process, ensuring we correctly cited legislative documents and letters.

We faced minor difficulties using the NHD WebCentral program. When we started working with the platform, we were unfamiliar with the tools and how to use them effectively. It was difficult to import the content we wanted initially, but the process became more manageable as we became accustomed to the format. We also faced difficulties with the content limit on the website. Due to the limited storage, we had to prioritize certain videos and documents. We were able to work around this by converting some of the videos into audio files, which took up less

space. Finally, we had difficulty finding the specific primary source of the legislation that gave the WASPs military recognition. We obtained this source by emailing the Library of Congress, which gave us access to the document.

The topic of Jacqueline Cochran and her WASPs was highly debated. Many people disagreed with women working in the military and expressed these feelings in public disputes. Although some disliked the idea of women aviators serving in the military, the WASPs proved their indispensability through their success in World War II. Furthermore, Jacqueline Cochran and the WASPs became role models for future generations of women, inspiring many through their perseverance. Overall, this topic is crucial in history, as many people do not know the significance of Jacqueline Cochran and the work of the WASPs. By researching and highlighting the work of these underrepresented women, we can acknowledge the impact they have today.