

# WASP mourn Pat Pateman's last flight

**L**t. Col. Yvonne C. "Pat" Pateman (43-5) passed away quietly in her Orange County, Calif., home April 4, 2004. Pat's life was a testament to the spirit of all the WASP. She served as the WASP national president from 1990 - 1992, and she served as the WASP chairman of Military and Veterans Affairs for 10 years.

During this period, she urged and assisted the WASP in applying for honorable discharge from the Air Force; was instrumental in getting the WASP represented in the Military Women's Corridor Exhibit; served on the Women Veterans Committee for a Memorial in Washington, D.C., for all women veterans. Pat served on the original Board of Directors for Women in Military Service to America (WIMSA) a total of 12



Lt. Col. Pat Pateman

years, and was an honorary member of the National Advisory Council for the National WASP WWII Museum.

Intent upon promoting the WASP, Pat spoke before veteran and civilian groups and wrote several feature stories about the WASP.

She authored a book, *Women Who Dared* (1997), which features women military test pilots, and wrote a chapter on the Wasp in the WIMSA book, *In Defense of a Nation: Service Women in World War II*.

She also organized and indexed a WASP-Pateman collection of archival material and Army Airforces official records for acceptance by the USAF Military Academy.

Pat took her first plane ride in 1942. That was the beginning of a long and successful military career, spanning 22 years, that began as a WASP in Class 43-5.

After the WASP disbanded, Pat ferried civilian aircraft until recalled for active duty in the Air Force in March 1951. She served in the Intelligence career field during her entire career and served overseas in the Philippines, Japan, Alaska and Vietnam. She retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1971, having served her country during three wars.

She was inducted into the Forest of Friendship in 1986. In 1998 she was honored as the Southern California Woman Veteran of the Year for her efforts in the passage of Public Law 95-202 giving military status to the WASP.

## THE CALL

*Alyce Stevens Rohrer. Class 44-4*

Out on the far horizon,  
A distant lonely star,  
Tops the highest cirrus clouds,  
And calls me from afar.  
It seems to question silently,  
Asking me why I stay.  
It knows of the wild thing  
Chained in my heart,  
Which longs to be up and away.

To know as only a pilot knows,  
The ethereal thrill of flight.  
To find God in the flaming dawn,  
And in star spangled night.  
To fly alone beneath the stars,  
High into the darkened sky.  
To follow the paths the moonbeams make,  
On the ghost clouds whispering by.

But I'll never again see patterned earth,  
Beneath my flashing wings.  
Nor hear the music of the spheres,  
My flying chariot sings.  
The call of the star is silent now,  
And I must turn aside.  
For mundane earthly duties,  
The call must be denied.

## WASP News wins

WASP News Editor Janet McDaniel entered WASP News in the Press Women of Texas Communication Contest and won a First Place certificate for "Publications Regularly Edited by Entrant, Newsletters." Entries are judged by professionals throughout the country.

The judge wrote, "Ms. McDaniel produces an attractive newsletter for her organization and should be congratulated for bringing so many news articles and items of interest together in such a readable fashion." Janet credits the WASP for submitting such interesting material with which to work.