OBSERVANCE

CONTINUING TO MAKE HISTORY

"Life can deal you a lot of curveballs. You hang in there and you don't quit."
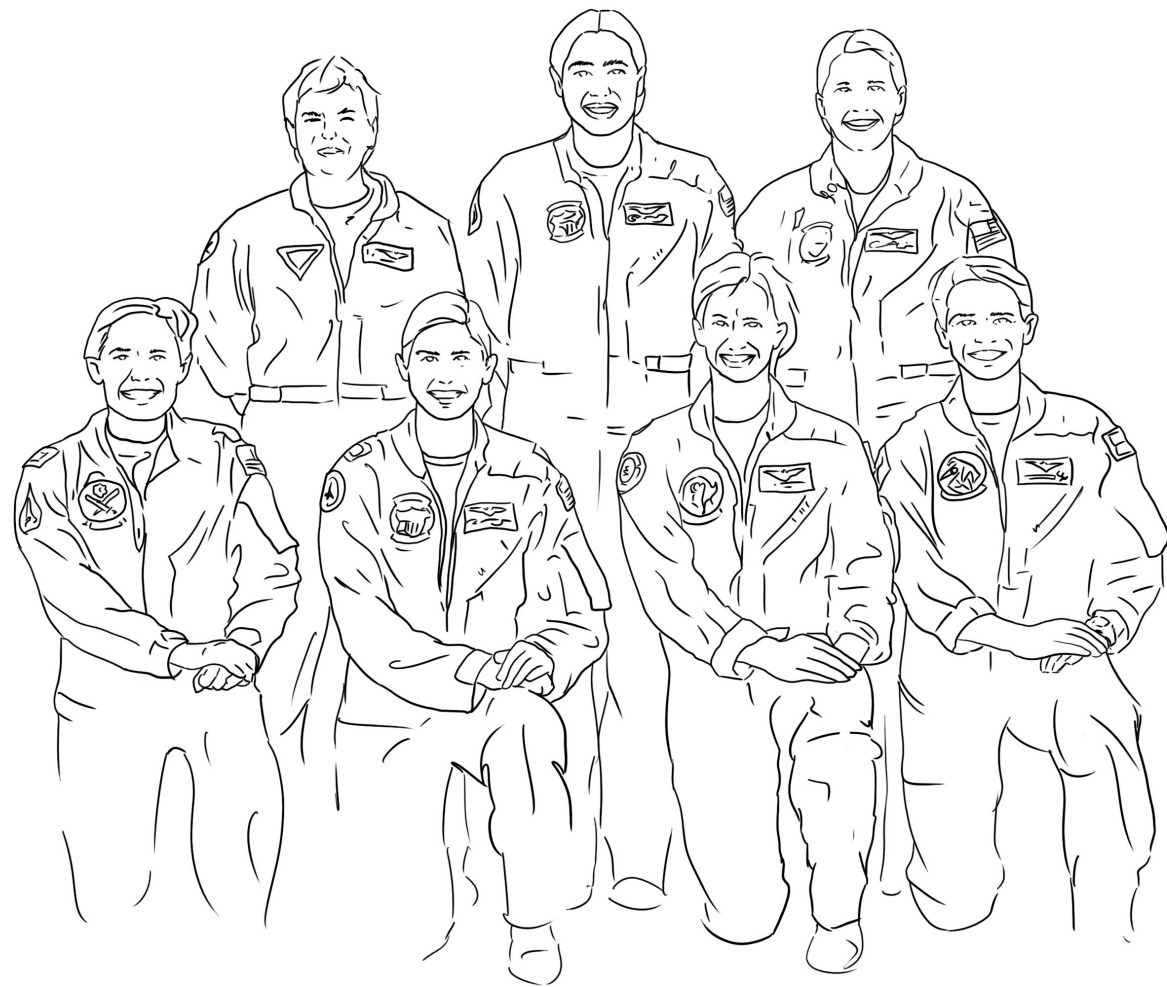
Seven women from the U.S. Navy recently made history when they conducted the first all-female pregame flyover at Super Bowl 2023.

The Navy flyover honored "50 years of women flying" for the maritime service branch, which began teaching women to fly in 1973.

The rules were clear when she was growing up, women were not allowed to fly U.S. military aircraft. That didn't stop **Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner**.

She made it her goal to be as qualified as possible to fly in the Armed Services. She got her private pilot's license at 17. Then she got her aeronautics degree from Purdue University in 1972 when she was 19.

She was in the inaugural class of women who earned their Navy wings in 1973. Mariner then became the first woman to fly a tactical fighter jet in 1974, at just 21. In 1982, she was among the first women to serve aboard a U.S. Navy warship. In 1991, during the Gulf War, she became the first woman to command an aviation squadron. Later, she was instrumental in the repeal of combat exclusion restrictions on women.

She died in January 2019.

Make Your Own Suffrage Sash

What is suffrage?

Suffrage is the right to vote, or the act of exercising the right to vote. You can celebrate women's suffrage by making a suffrage sash just like those worn by suffragists in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Supplies:
- sheets of white paper cut into long strips you can tape together
- tape or stapler
- scissors
- crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Directions:
1. Ask an adult to help you measure the length of your sash, so it fits you just right!
2. Write "Votes for Women" or your own slogan on the sash. Ask an adult if you need help.
3. Now decorate your sash!

Did you know?

Suffragists used three colors on their sashes. Purple for courage, white for purity of purpose, and gold/yellow for enlightenment.