



April 30, 2009

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0918

Reference: Support for House Bill 2014, Award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots ('WASP').

Dear Representative Ros-Lehtinen:

EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) represents *The Spirit of Aviation*[™] through an active community of aviation enthusiasts, pilots, and aircraft owners. Over 160,000 EAA members worldwide share knowledge, camaraderie, rewarding experiences, and the preservation of its history. EAA programs, activities, and events are known throughout the world for: *Preserving* the heritage of aviation; *Promoting* access to flight; *Protecting* the right to fly; *Preparing* for the future of aviation; and of our *Passion* for aviation safety and education.

As an organization dedicated to the preservation of our nation's aviation heritage, EAA strongly supports the passage of H.R. 2014. This bill represents a well deserved recognition of the efforts put forth by all the great women who supported our country during World War II.

It is a proven fact that for every servicemember serving on the front lines during WWII, there were three male servicemembers providing direct logistical support to them. Behind them were more than 6 million women (*WASP, Rosie the Riveters, Red Cross, USO, Civil Defense, etc.*) that directly supported the war effort.

The WASP carried the home front support burden, shared the sacrifice, and went the extra mile to carry out all required missions with deep focus and precision. They were the true force that directly led to the air victory over our WWII enemies. Their accomplishment during WWII reflect great credit upon themselves and as such, it is critical that our nation take the time and effort to reflect on the tremendous impact these women have had on the defense of our nation and the future growth of women in all aviation fields. House Bill 2014 will acknowledge the professionalism, confidence, commitment, and competence of these women, and our deep gratitude for a job well done in preserving the freedom of our nation.

Sincerely,

Tom Poberezny
President and Chairman of the Board