

# Women in History/Careers

## Long Overdue Recognition

### Women pilots blazed trail

(AP) -- They flew planes during World War II but weren't considered real military pilots. No flags were draped over their coffins when they died on duty. And when their service ended, they had to pay their own bus fare home.

These aviators — all women — got long-overdue recognition last week. They received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor given by Congress, in a ceremony on Capitol Hill.

About 200 women who served as Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs, were on hand to receive the award. Now mostly in their late 80s and early 90s, some came in wheelchairs, many sported dark blue uniforms, and one, June Bent of Westboro, Mass., clutched a framed photograph of a comrade who had died.



Wearing her World War II uniform, aviator Eleanor Brown of Victoria, Texas, attends a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony to honor the Women Airforce Service Pilots or WASPs. (AP Photo)

In accepting the award, WASP pilot Deanie Parrish, 88, of Waco, Texas, said the women had volunteered without expectation of thanks. Their mission was to fly noncombat missions to free up male pilots to fly overseas.

"We did it because our country needed us," Parrish said.

Thirty-eight WASPs were

killed in service in World War II. But they were long considered civilians, not members of the military, and thus were not entitled to the pay and benefits given to men.

They were only afforded veteran status in 1977 after a long fight. It's estimated that about 300 of the more than 1,000 WASPs are still alive.

### Attention: Contractors and Small Business Owners We need your input!

The Oregon Department of Transportation invites you to a public meeting to discuss what information we should gather when we update the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise **DISPARITY STUDY** later this year.

**When:** March 24, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

**Where:** ODOT Region 1 Headquarters in Portland  
123 Flanders NW, Rooms A & B

We want your suggestions on what we should include in the new study, which is a follow-up to the 2007 Disparity Study.

For more information, contact  
ODOT Office of Civil Rights,  
(503) 986-4350



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## Women Filmmakers Showcased in Festival

Portland's historic Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd. hosts the annual Women's Film Festival with the work of top women directors and co-directors as well as providing support and recognition for the next generation of leading women filmmakers.

The event takes place Thursday, March 18 through Sunday, March 21.

Forty-four selections of films, including features, documentaries, shorts and animations are on the schedule. In addition to the thought provoking lineup of independent films and documentaries, there will be the opportunity to participate in filmmaker panels and talks with filmmakers.

The complete list of the festival's programming is available at [powfest.com](http://powfest.com).

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## 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and Air-Quality Conformity Report

The Regional Transportation Plan guides investments in the region's transportation system for all forms of travel. To review these documents, visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp).

### Public comment period

March 22 through May 6, 2010

#### Submit written comments by:

**US Mail:** RTP Comments, Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232

**Web:** [www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp)

### Public hearing

5 p.m. Thursday, May 6, 2010

Metro Council Chamber  
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland  
([www.trimet.org](http://www.trimet.org) for current public transit information)

Testimony time is three minutes per person. For the public record, please bring a written summary of your remarks or be prepared to summarize them on a comment form at the hearing.

All Metro meetings are wheelchair accessible. To request language or sign interpretation or a hearing device, please call Metro 48 hours in advance at 503-797-1551 or TDD 503-797-1804.

**Questions:** Call Pat Emmerson at 503-797-1551 or send e-mail to [rtp@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:rtp@oregonmetro.gov).

