

# NAA NEWS



National Aeronautic Association

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## **Patty Wagstaff wins 2005 Katharine Wright Award**

The National Aeronautic Association announced that world-renowned aerobatic pilot Patty Wagstaff won this year's Katharine Wright Award for her many years of dedication to flying.

The award is given each year to a woman who made a personal contribution to the advancement of the art, sport and science of aviation and space flight over an extended period of time. The award was named in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright's sister, Katharine. She used money from teaching to purchase supplies for her brothers' experiments, nursed Orville back to health after he crashed in Fort Myer, Virginia, contributed ideas to their experiments and trials and acted as a public figure to endorse the safety of flying and the Wrights' aircraft.

Wagstaff is most famous for her work in aerobatics, and is recognized as one of the most skilled aerobatic pilots ever to fly. From 1985 to 1996, she was a six-time member of the U.S. Aerobatic Team. She was also the first woman to become a U.S. National Aerobatic champion, a feat she achieved three times.

The Katharine Wright award is one of many honors Wagstaff has earned in her career. In 1997 she became an inductee of the Women in Aviation International Hall of Fame. In 2004, she was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame. In past years, NAA bestowed Wagstaff with the Stinson Award (2002) and a Tissandier Diploma (1996). Her plane, the Goodrich Extra 260, is on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, where it has resided since 1994.

Her impact on aviation goes beyond just her awards and achievements in aerobatics, however -- she has done a great deal of philanthropic work as well. For the last five years Wagstaff has traveled to Kenya to help train members of the wildlife service in flying. Her efforts have helped the service become more efficient in reducing poaching in the African country. Wagstaff has also given her time to Challenge Air; a non-profit group that gives special needs children the opportunity to fly.

NAA is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. NAA is the caretaker of several major aviation awards and it certifies all world and national aviation records set in the United States.

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