

# Thanksgiving Day



## *The Outer Marker*

Volume 18 Issue 11

Bonnie Gottschalk - Editor



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**2022**

## **“Important Dates”**

### **General Meeting**

**November 12th**

**8:30 AM**

**Gateway EAA Chapter 1401**

**Merced Regional Airport**

**Hangar 10**

### **Board Meeting**

**December 1, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**Mike Bodine**

**2519 Sea Breeze Ct.**

**Merced, CA**





Bonnie Gottschalk  
Editor



Hello Flight Enthusiasts!

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of Gail McCullough passing away peacefully on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Her smile and love of anything aviated related will be missed by all who knew her.

I am leaving last month's "Chapter Events" and "Bit of History" pages as a tribute to this beloved woman and pilot. Gail's "EAA Brown Arch Brick" was selected and will read:

**Gail McCullough**

**Charter Member Gateway EAA Chapter 1401**

**Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award 9/10/22**

Gail requested no service, and her family is honoring that request. The Wright Brother's Master Pilot Award Ceremony; while she was still with us, is a much greater tribute to her. I am sure she is flying with her husband Jack with angel wings now. Deepest sympathy to all who loved and will miss this wonderful soul.

On a lighter note; John and I flew a disc golf friend of his and his significant other over to Auburn for lunch a couple of weeks ago. Neither had ever been in a small plane before; she loved every minute of it. He was a little anxious but enjoyed the flight as well. We flew them over their house which they got a big kick out of. Was a smooth flight most of the time with only a couple of small bouts of turbulence. Lunch at Wings was delicious as always.

Until our next encounter, I pray God blesses you all with good health, prosperity and clear blue skies!

Bonnie



# President's Post

November 12, 2022

Gateway EAA Chapter 1401



Mike Bodine

## **General Meeting**

Nov12th, at 8:30AM

Merced Yosemite Regional Airport, Hangar 10.

## **General Meeting Business**

Tim Wennberg will be the speaker, on aerobatic flying.

November general meeting will be the election of officers:

Vice President & Treasurer

## **With sorrow we regret the passing of Gail McCullough**

Sunday Oct 30,2022

Gail will be remembered at **EAA Oshkosh** with her brick, at the **Brown Arch**, next to her husband Jack McCullough.

## **October 15<sup>th</sup> was a special event for Young Eagles with the Boy**

**Scouts.** The event was a huge success. With Kathleen having all the Young Eagles forms preprinted and organized. A big thank you goes to both Linton and Katheen Wollen. 16 Young Eagle, Boy Scouts, were flown, with only 3 aircraft available!

## **December General Meeting Will be a Social starting at 11:30**

Members will be able to purchase tickets for the lunch, \$10 each, at the November General meeting.

## **2022 Gateway EAA Meeting Schedule**

Board Meetings	General Meetings	Meeting Location	Meeting Agenda and Activity
	Nov 12	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and social
Dec 1	Dec 10	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Christmas party starting at 11:30AM



# Chapter Events

## Young Eagles Event







*Thanks to all who made this event a success*  
*Kathleen & Linton Wollen*  
*Margaret & Mike Bodine*  
*Kim Ochoa & Suzie Wallace*  
*John Gottschalk & Tim Wennberg*



# In Remembrance of Gail

## Gail McCullough Receives FAA Wright Brothers Award



### Congratulations Gail McCullough

Dearest Gail,  
Congratulations on  
winning us as one of the  
Wright Brothers Award recipients.  
We are so glad we could help you  
celebrate! Love Kathleen & Lynn

Bill,  
you will always  
be known! Love Nancy  
Gail, Congratulations  
on your well  
deserved award!!  
John & Bonnie  
Congratulations!!  
Kim Olson  
Cindy Wallace

Dear Gail -  
you have given  
special meaning  
to all our lives.  
Thank you -  
Love Always  
The Whitehurst Family

Dear Gail  
Congratulations  
on the many years  
you have spent in  
aviation. It is an  
amazing achievement  
to have been  
recognized for your  
contributions to the  
world of aviation.  
Love, Mary

Let's hope  
we'll  
Congrats  
Gail!!  
Love, Mary

What a journey  
we have had! So  
much fun!  
Love, Donna  
Congratulations  
to a great  
Pilot!!  
Love,  
Dore

Dear Gail,  
Through the years, thank  
you for letting your life  
lead you through the  
adventures of flight  
and for letting a little boy  
follow. I love you!  
- Scott Chastin  
Congratulation  
GAIL!  
You're the  
best!  
Anne Conover

Brett Spink!!  
Dear Gail,  
well deserved  
KOKO Peggy Managum

Much respect!!  
Congratulations  
to a great  
Pilot!!  
Love,  
Dore

Congratulations  
Gail!  
Didn't she have fun!!  
Love,  
Key

Congratulations  
Gail!  
Love,  
Jerry & Donna  
CONGRATULATIONS  
GAIL LOVE  
Kelly









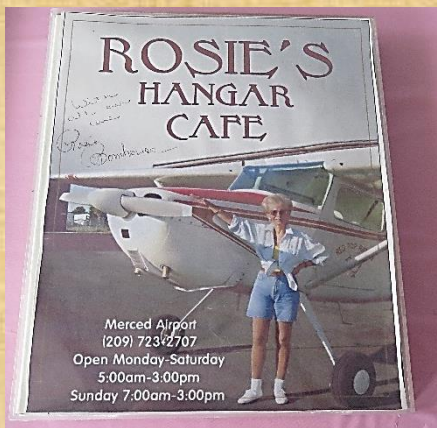














To: Gail McCullough  
From The 1974 U.S. Army Silver Eagles



*Bob Smith* Capt  
*Bill Hamner* Capt  
*Steve Smith* Capt  
*Frank Wright* Capt  
*John Smith* Capt  
*John Smith* Capt

To Mrs. Gail McCullough  
With Sincere Best Wishes, The USAF Thunderbirds



Dear Mrs. McCullough: We are very proud to have you as a member of our family and we hope you are enjoying your time with us. We are very proud to have you as a member of our family and we hope you are enjoying your time with us.



*Bob Smith* Capt  
*Bill Hamner* Capt  
*Steve Smith* Capt  
*Frank Wright* Capt  
*John Smith* Capt  
*John Smith* Capt



Gail McCullough  
Flight  
Dive Competency Program  
1 Dec 99 - 1 Dec 99  
Portage, Iowa



93d Bomb Wing

Presents to  
Gail McCullough  
B-52 Avatrix  
for participation in the Seattle AFB  
orientation flight program

To Gail McCullough  
With Sincere Best Wishes, The USAF Thunderbirds



*Bob Smith* Capt  
*Bill Hamner* Capt  
*Steve Smith* Capt  
*Frank Wright* Capt  
*John Smith* Capt  
*John Smith* Capt

Congratulations  
Gail McCullough





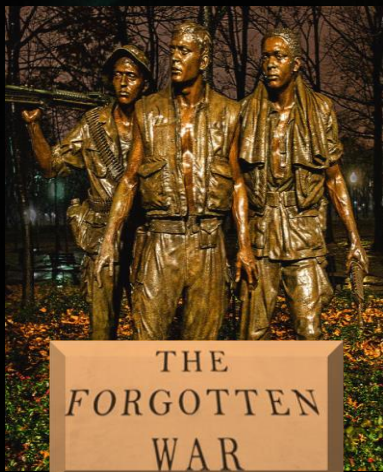
THANK YOU



VETERANS

## The Price of Freedom

Freedom Wall holds 4,048 gold stars. Each gold star represents one hundred American service personnel who died or remain missing in the war. The 405,399 American dead and missing from World War II are second only to the loss of more than 620,000 Americans during our Civil War.



THE  
FORGOTTEN  
WAR



NATIONAL DESERT STORM  
WAR MEMORIAL



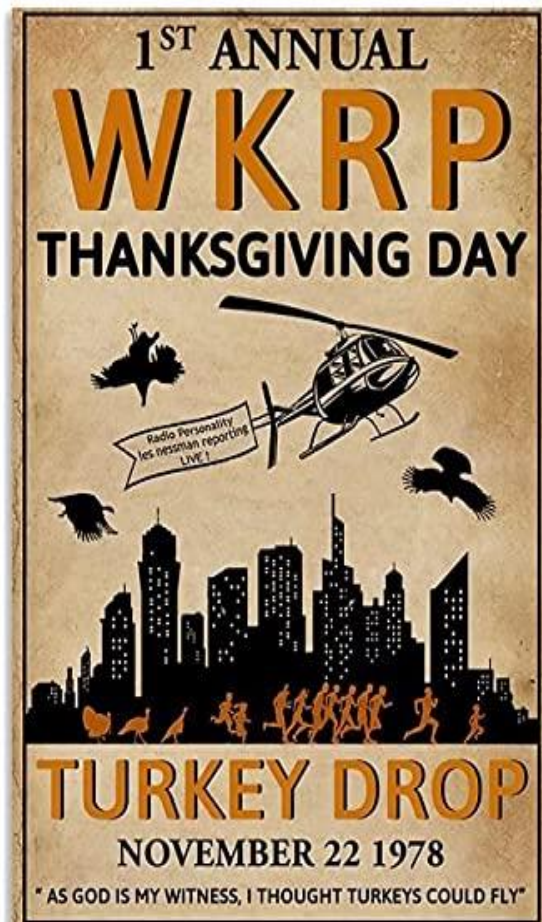
# Lift Your Spirits

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**AFTER THANKSGIVING:**



[WKRP Turkey Give Away](#)



Courtesy of [www.iflyamerica.org](http://www.iflyamerica.org)  
"Can you teach me how to fly? I'd like to take a vacation every year around Thanksgiving."



# Photos & Videos

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Perfectly on this Memorial](#)



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# A BIT OF HISTORY

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Merced's Gail Flanagan McCullough received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award — the most prestigious award the FAA issues to pilots — during a ceremony at the Merced-Yosemite Regional Airport last Saturday, Sept. 10.

The award recognizes pilots who have practiced safe flight operations continuously for 50 or more years during the course of their aviation careers. It also honors pilots for being mentors, teachers and good examples of aviation excellence.

"I'm a happy camper, and thank you all," Gail said after receiving the award from Paul Koscheka, the FAA Safety Team program manager.

About 30 friends and family members showed up to Hangar #10 at the airport to support Flanagan. They were shown a presentation on the history of the Wright Brothers and the significance of the Master Pilot Award.

Linton and Kathleen Wollen helped organize the event. Linton Wollen is also a past winner of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. Also, Margaret Bodine helped make sure that everything at the ceremony was properly set up.



## The Flying Flanagan

Gail was born into the local “Flying Flanagan” family at Red Top Ranch — named for three daughters who had red hair. The ranch had a hanger and runway where Gail’s dad kept a Curtiss Robin.

Gail made her first solo flight on May 18, 1956, in a Cessna 170B.

Gail and her father flew many fishing trips to Baja California bringing back fish that were displayed at the Red Top Restaurant & Store. She eventually earned her private pilot’s certification on Dec. 9, 1966, and her commercial aviation designation on May 3, 1969. She became a Flight Instructor on Sept. 22, 1971 — one of the few women instructors at that time in the Central Valley.

She married a pilot Jack McCullough who had a Champ 7 AC. The Flanagan family had lots of pilots including the three sisters and other relatives.

Gail’s total flying time is 3,389 hours — almost all in tail draggers.

Many local people may know also know Gail as one of the top real estate agents in town. She would often take her clients flying over their property.

Gail was a member of the Castle Air Force Base Community Counsel and was President for several years. Because of this connection, she was offered rides in the military powerhouse planes: C-130, B-52 bomber, and KC-135 tanker. She actually has about 10 minutes in the left seat of the B-52, piloting a low-level run, and accumulated 72 hours in the tankers.

Other aircraft experiences included the following aircraft: the Breezy, Ford Tri-Motor, a Glider in Hawaii, Stearman, Marquart Charger, and a B-17 — flying in it from Merced to Hayward.

Locally, Gail was active in the Merced Pilot’s Association as President and an organizer of the Merced West Coast Antique Fly-In serving as Publicity, Director, Early Bird Dinner and Public Relations Chairman. When she was Director of the event, she organized a Reno type air race. There were eight airplanes of the Formula I type competing on a course like Reno with pylons to mark the turns.



This was the only year the race was part of the West Coast Antique Fly-in. The Merced Pilots Association put on this event for 40 years and Gail was involved with many of them.

Other aircraft experiences included the following aircraft: the Breezy, Ford Tri-Motor, a Glider in Hawaii, Stearman, Marquart Charger, and a B-17 — flying in it from Merced to Hayward.

After Castle Air Force Base closed, Gail became a member and Board of Director of the Castle Air Museum supporting its events, hosting an L-20 Beaver with her husband at Open Cockpit Days and other activities.

Gail's last flight in her beloved Cessna 170-B was January 2021 before it was sold in February of that year. Gail and her airplane had extensive time flying over the valley at over 1,000 feet scouting the area.

Gail also had the honor being Queen of the Watsonville Fly-In. She is an enthusiastic supporter of Aviation attending the Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture in Oshkosh Wisconsin four times. In the local Chapter of the EAA, she has been an active member and officer for many years.



[Jonathan Whitaker 370 Posts](#)

Jonathan Whitaker serves as the Chief Editor for Mid Valley Publications and oversees the Merced County Times and the Atwater-Winton Times Newspapers. He can be contacted by calling the Merced Office at 209.580.9625 or by stopping by 2221 K Street, Merced CA, 95340 or by calling the Winton office at 209.358.5311 or by stopping by 6950 Gerard Avenue, Winton CA, 95388. Additionally, he can be contacted by email at [mercedcountytimes@gmail.com](mailto:mercedcountytimes@gmail.com).







## Experimental Aircraft Association Christmas Party

Date: December 10, 2022

Time: Social 11:30, Lunch Noon

Location: Hangar 10 Merced Airport  
(Dress warmly)

We will be having Sub sandwiches (Ham or Turkey),  
Chips, Cookie and hot drinks along with fun conversation

Cost will be \$10 per person

Reservations required by December 5, 2022  
Call Kathleen at 722-6666 and leave a message.

**BE SURE TO STATE YOUR CHOICE OF MEAT  
HAM OR TURKEY**

If you wish to participate in the toy drive, bring your toys unwrapped. We  
will be donating them to LifeLine as we have in the past.



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