

EAA Chapter 50 April 2021 Newsletter

Presidents Corner

What a pleasure to begin Ohio's warm season. Got all the inspection covers and cowling off the Champ so as you all know, the inspection begins!

Your chapter has had some really great things happen in March 2021 and I suspect April 2021 will even be better!

Our March speaker at our educational meeting was simply outstanding Tommy Taylor has a history that blew us all away his qualifications and knowledge in aircraft and world navigation were way beyond this "Ole Fly Boys" knowledge. It was great that his mother Melody Griffing Taylor was able to attend, as a matter of fact I think she was impressed with her son Toms knowledge and accomplishments. What else is great Tom and his family are now members of the Nifty Fifty!

Now our speaker for April 10th2021 (notice second Sat. not first) is Gary Baker I have some information about this Top Gun you can read later but a little hint, RV builder, Commercial pilot, EAA member, lots of work at Oshkosh. Simply Outstanding!

Our EAA 50 scholarship letters have been sent to area schools and airports as well as 50 members and Friends of Aviation.

SANDUSKY

Woman inducted into military hall of fame

Career of service positively impacted veteran Marine Keri May's life

By **ANDY OURIEL**
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SANDUSKY

The military truly uplifted Keri (Berman) May's life.

And, in return for her 11 years of active-duty Marine Corps service, a nonprofit recognizing females who soared in flight-related careers paid tribute to her with its highest honor.

Women in Aviation International recently enshrined May into its hall of fame.

May received a joint induction with nine other trailblazing women, collectively known as the "U.S. Marine Corps' First Class of Women Aviators."

These 10 American veterans "represent the first women to go through pilot and naval flight officer training in the U.S. Marine Corps," according to an organizational statement.

It continued: "Marine women were allowed to fly in 1993 after the repeal of the combat exclusion law. These 10 women served their country with pride and determination during multiple deployments in both active and reserve assignments."

May — a Sandusky resident who's married to a fellow Marine, John, a 1980 St. Mary's Central Catholic High School graduate — expressed her sincere gratitude for the recognition.



Provided photo

Keri (Berman) May pictured here, in a two-seater fighter plane, where she carried out navigational and communication tasks for the U.S. Marine Corps.

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MILITARY

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"I never thought of myself as a pioneer, and I still don't," May said. "But it's a wonderful opportunity to share a story of someone who was very unlikely to succeed in a particular field, making it and then being successful."

Sandusky assistant city manager John Orzech, another Marine, couldn't be prouder of his fellow veteran and friend.

"Your accomplishments in being in the first female Marine Corps aviation class definitely became the foundation for so many other females to serve in this great branch of the military and in the chosen field," Orzech said. "This can really inspire other women and girls to follow in your footsteps."

Overcoming adversity

Originally from Philadelphia, as a youth, May never considered signing up for the military.

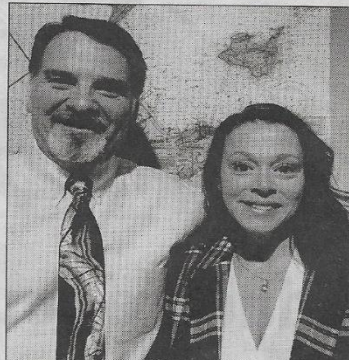
Though, during her senior year in high school, the opportunity to receive a scholarship, through a Reserve Officers' Training Corps — often shortened to ROTC — program greatly enticed her.

"I came from a family that didn't have the means to pay for college," said May, adding how nobody else she's related to previously served in the military. "But I met a recruiter from the Marine Corps, who thought I might be a good candidate. He said I should do this."

Upon graduating high school, and after securing a scholarship, May moved out West, where she enrolled at the University of Colorado.

"When I got to the university, I was the only woman in my ROTC unit of the Marines, which was about 40 people," May said.

"Before I got there, they told me basically



Provided photo

Keri (Berman) May poses for a photo with her husband, John. Both are Marine veterans, live in Sandusky and have two children: Katy and Carolyn.

of different agencies on the airwaves."

The timing coincidentally worked out in May's favor.

She started her military career immediately after Congress lifted a longtime combat exclusion law. Up until April 28, 1993, the law restricted females from participating in all combat-related missions. They could, however, work in administrative capacities.

After this law's repeal, each service gradually started to open up more roles, previously off-limits, for women.

Shortly thereafter, May became "the first female Marine to get a spot in a jet aircraft."

"The Marine Corps was the last to let women into these roles," May said. "When I started, there were only three aviation

Congratulations Keri May one simply outstanding lady!

Airplane of the Month Canadair CL-415

This airplane is specially constructed she was built specifically as a water bomber to carry large amounts of water for forest fire fighting. Originally built by Canadair but currently built by Bombardier and Viking! She can “Scoop” up 1640 gallons of water she is amphibious and can land in the water or land! She lands on the water at 70 knots or 81 miles per hour and fills her water tanks in 12 seconds traveling 1300 Ft. She can perform 6.9 water drops for every hour over target! The airplane is powered by 2 turbo prop engines with 1775kw of thrust. Due to the airfoil, she has a much larger tail surfaces She has inverted leading edge flaps and winglets! And is manufactured out of corrosion protected aluminum and can be used in salt water!



This aircraft's nick name is “Super Scooper”

Next Page pictures of Tommy Taylors education program 03/06 2021.



Great meeting! Attending people had to learn a lot!

Thank You Ed Beer!

Because of the recommendation by Ed to the Community Foundation located at 135 Washington Row Suite A Sandusky Ohio 44870 we received a \$1000.00 donation to our IRS registered 5013c nonprofit organization!

Here is a little information about our speaker April 10th @ 01:00PM @ Chapter Offices. I will attach his resume when I send out your Newsletter. He has fantastic credentials. Gary says, bring your I-pad for some interesting learning!



“Gary’s Beautiful RV” looks like the “Nifty Fifty” has another special builder speaking, like our David Ross! EAA 50 is very fortunate to have such talent available and in our chapter.