WHEREAS; the aerospace industry is critical to the safety, security, and economic prosperity of individuals across the United States, and a skilled workforce is needed to remain a global leader in aerospace safety, efficiency, and innovation; and

WHEREAS; women have long been involved in aviation, with early leaders in the field including E. Lilian Todd, who is remembered as the first woman to design and build an aircraft in 1906, Bessica “Bessie” Raiche of Beloit, who is accredited as being the first woman to fly an airplane in a solo flight in 1910, and Bessie Coleman, who became the first Black woman and the first Native American woman to earn her pilot’s license; and

WHEREAS; women have also been pioneers in aviation beyond the Earth’s atmosphere, including Dr. Sally Ride, who became the first American woman in space in 1983, Eileen Collins, who became the first woman Space Shuttle Pilot in 1995 and first woman Space Shuttle Commander in 1999, and University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate, Laurel Clark, who conducted health and safety research aboard the Columbia space shuttle; and

WHEREAS; although the number of women involved in the aviation industry has increased in recent decades, only a fraction of pilots and non-pilots working in the aviation industry are women; and

WHEREAS; the path to increasing women’s participation in aviation is through a collaborative effort on the part of government, industry, and dedicated organizations and individuals to inspire women and girls to pursue aerospace-based goals, to prepare students through quality aerospace STEM curricula, and to educate girls about positive women role models in aviation; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins Wisconsinites and the greater aviation community in celebrating the numerous contributions women have made and continue to make to the aviation industry and reaffirms its commitment to expanding opportunity for young people across the state and to increasing women’s participation in the aviation field;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 19 2026 as

GIRLS IN AVIATION DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 16th day of September 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State