

WHEREAS; our nation’s aerospace industry is dependent upon a skilled workforce to remain a global leader in safety, efficiency, and innovation; and

WHEREAS; leaders at the local, state, and federal levels recognize the importance of the aerospace industry to the safety, security, and economic prosperity of all Wisconsinites and all Americans; and

WHEREAS; women have been involved in aviation since its invention, from E. Lillian Todd, who is remembered as the first woman to design and build an aircraft in 1906, to Bessica Raiche of Beloit, who, in 1910, was accredited by the Aeronautical Society as being the first woman to fly an airplane in a solo flight, and from Bessie Coleman, who became the first Black woman and the first Native American woman to earn her pilot’s license, to Dr. Sally Ride, who became the first American woman in space in 1983, and Eileen Collins, who became the first female Space Shuttle Pilot in 1977 and first female Space Shuttle Commander in 1999; and

WHEREAS; although the number of women involved in the aviation industry has steadily increased over the past two decades, less than nine percent of licensed pilots, and just over 30 percent of non-pilots working in the aviation industry, are women, according to the Federal Aviation Administration’s Aeronautical Center; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that 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 curriculums, and to expose young girls to positive women role models; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins Women in Aviation International and its chapters across our state 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 throughout our state and increasing women’s participation in the aviation field;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim September 26, 2021, as

## **GIRLS IN AVIATION DAY**

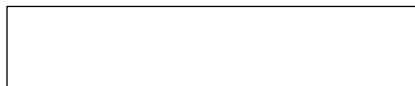
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

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 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State