



Dear Shutsy

I hope these pictures, etc. are what you want. Sorry I didn't have the smaller ones, but having packed so much of my stuff - I couldn't find them.

Thanks for making me one of your selected six. I hope my life story isn't too dull - but to me it was a blessing in many ways. I learned from the hard part and hope it made me a better person.

Take care + God bless!

Betty

P.S. Last minute found the smaller ones and more to choose from what you need. Hurray!



Dear Em -

You sound like you too, are living a wonderful, exciting life.

I know how you feel about flying. I loved it when flying solo. I felt the Lord was there with me, as a sort of Co-pilot.

Now I am getting a bit of flying in with my young friends help. They seem so happy when I agree to go flying with them and they insist I do the flying. Of course I wouldn't dream of saying "No". I love it!

May you always be able to fly and may God bless you always.

Blue skies -

Betty J. Turner



Women Airforce Service Pilots, WWII

## **MY LIFE**

By Betty S. Turner

I was born on September 12, 1922, in Columbus, Ohio. In the early 1930's, our family would drive out to the airport on Sunday afternoons, to watch the planes take off and land. It was then I decided I wanted to fly!

My father died in 1930, I was seven years old. In 1933, my younger brother and I were sent to St. Vincent Orphanage for a year and a half. I then lived with an aunt, with my grandmother, then with my mother. I boarded and graduated from St. Aloysius Academy in New Lexington, Ohio in 1940. I attended 7 different schools, changing 9 times in 12 years.

I worked as bookkeeper, then took a job at Port Columbus, on the P-40, on Final Assemble Line. In my desire to fly, I saved my money in every way I could. In 1942, I went to Sullivan Avenue Airport, and was assigned to an instructor, who took me for my first ride. He did everything he could with the plane to make me sick, trying to discourage me (because he didn't think girls should be flying). When he saw he couldn't discourage me, he decided to take me as his student. He soloed me in 8 hours, and continued to fly with me when I had dual time.

One day at the airport, I heard about the WASP Program. I applied and after much writing and waiting, I was accepted in Class 44-9. After graduation I was assigned to Courtland Army Air Base, Courtland, Alabama, a B-24 Base, where I was test pilot on repaired BT-13s. I flew C-pilot in the AT-10, AT-11, UC-64, UC-78 and 25 hours as Co-pilot, and 2 hours as First Pilot in the B-24.

After deactivation, I got a job as Aircraft Dispatcher at Guntar Field, Montgomery, Alabama. I checked and signed clearances for the pilots before they could take off. There I met Lt. William Turner, a Maintenance Officer. Three weeks later on April 12, 1945, we married. Bill was transferred to Camp Blanding, Green Cove Springs, Florida, January of 1946, where he received his discharge. We moved to his hometown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where we had two daughters: Ann born June 30, 1946 and Pat on October 29, 1947.

We moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 1949, and bought our first home. Bill Jr. was born on January 10, 1950, and Richard on May 31, 1951. We moved to Upper Arlington, Ohio, to a larger house. When Richard was ready for school, I took a job with the Animal Disease Eradication Department for Veterinarians. Robin was born on August 3, 1957, Susan on August 28, 1958 and Judy on November 16, 1959.

We moved to Finneytown, Cincinnati, Ohio from 1960 to 1966. When all the children were in school, I worked part-time as a receptionist for three doctors, so I could be home with the children arrived home from school.

In 1968, I renewed my Ground School and Commercial Pilot License, so I could take Helicopter training. When I couldn't find anyone who would rent their helicopter to me to build up my time, (as was suggested before I started training,)

“because I was a women” they said, and not very nicely at times, I have up that dream, much to my regret.

We moved to Hamilton, Ohio in 1972. I worked as Secretary and Bookkeeper at Seven Dolors Catholic Church (now Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Church) in Monroe, Ohio. I bought a Honda 200 motorcycle and enjoyed riding out on the country roads (next best thing to flying, I thought). In 1979, we moved to Powell, Ohio, just north of Columbus. I sold the motorcycle, much to my family’s relief. Worked as Bookkeeper for a Home Health Agency, Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor, until 1984.

Meantime, I studied Clowning under the training of Father Paul Robichaud CSP, at Ohio State University. After completing the three courses, we did clowning for schools, prisons for young teens and hospitals. I became Bookkeeper for St. Joan of Arch Church in Powell, Ohio, from 1985 to 1991.

I had Open Heart triple by-pass surgery in 1990. Bill retired from Myers Wine Cellars as Controller, so he could relax and do more fishing, a sport he loved. In 1991, we moved to West Chester, Ohio, and had a six room ranch house built. December 1994, Bill was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.

We have seven children: Ann and Allen Tetreault, in Florida; Pat and Mark Flemming, in Virginia; Bill and Anne Turner, in Columbus, Ohio; Dick Turning in Mt. Washington, Ohio; Robin and Katrina Turner, in North Carolina; Susan and Tim VanGorden and Judy and Greg Martin, north of Cincinnati, Ohio, near me. Eleven wonderful grandchildren, four boys and seven girls and three great-grandchildren, one girl and two boys.

I have been Class 44-9’s Secretary since 1964, and was WASP National Treasurer from 1992-1994. I am a Charter Member of WMA (Women Military Aviators, Inc. Inc.); International Women’s Air and Space Museum; a regular member of Friends of the U.S. Air Force Museum, (where my wings and artifacts are on display); a member of WI MSA (The Women In Military Service For America); also a member of Women In Aviation, and an active member of St. Susanna Parish Church in Mason, Ohio, where I am a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and Mass Presider.

I love to travel. Have been on a Caribbean Cruise, three trips to Rome, one with my eldest granddaughter, Traci VanGorden, when she was sixteen. Trips to Medugorje; Cairo, Egypt; The Holy Lands; Poland; Hungary; Austria and Holland. A wonderful trip with the best of friends to Alaska. I love to read and play golf when I can. I went skydiving tandem (first jump at age 75, and second at age 76). I go flying with Laila Menker, a pilot friend and a member of the 99s, and with Tim Epperhart and Jean Lial in their P-26. It is great handling the controls again.

I did a class book on the lives of my WASP Classmates of 44-W-9, and on the lives of 670 WASPs (in their own words), and the history of how the WAP was formed, called “Out of the Blue and Into History”.

Bill passed away peacefully, in the year 2000, after suffering eight years of Alzheimer's.

I have enjoyed the friendship of the ladies of the WASP these many years and have been to most of the reunions. I feel God has blessed me in so many ways; in my family, in the wonderful friends I have made throughout the years, and in a good and blessed lifetime.

Best wishes and God bless,

Betty S. Turner



**Advanced training in the <sup>1944</sup>  
AT-6 Texan**

**Betty used this print on the  
dust cover of her book  
"Out of the Blue & Into History"**



**The Barracks  
"Women only"  
Avenger Field, Tx**

1944



1944

**General's**



1944

**WASP Betty Stagg**  
**44-W-9**

**Graduation November 1944**



**Betty Stagg**  
**Advanced phase**  
**Avenger Field, TX**

1944



**WASP Betty Stagg** 1944  
**Post graduate leave time.**  
**Avenger Field, Tx.**



**Betty Stagg**  
**Primary phase**  
**Avenger Field, Tx.**

**1944**



1944

**Betty Stagg**  
**Advanced training**  
**Avenger Field, Tx.**



2002

**Betty Stagg Turner**  
**Author**