

Shaesta Waiz: The Pioneering Aviator Who Soared Around the World



Shaesta Waiz is an Afghan-American pilot who made history in 2017 by becoming the first woman to fly solo around the world in a single-engine aircraft. Her journey, which spanned over 28,000 miles and took her across five continents, was a testament to her courage, determination, and passion for aviation.

Background and Early Life

Shaesta Waiz was born in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 1987. Her family fled the country during the civil war and settled in California, USA. As a young girl, Waiz was always fascinated by airplanes and dreamed of becoming a

pilot. However, societal norms and cultural stereotypes often discouraged her from pursuing her aspirations.



Fly, Girl, Fly!: Shaesta Waiz Soars around the World

by Nancy Roe Pimm

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Despite the challenges, Waiz persevered. She studied engineering at San Jose State University and earned her pilot's license in 2010. She went on to fly for several commercial airlines before deciding to embark on her historic solo flight around the world.

The Solo Flight Around the World

In May 2017, Waiz set off from Massachusetts on her solo circumnavigation of the globe. She flew a single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza A36 aircraft, named "Dreamweaver," which she lovingly adorned with the names of young girls who inspired her along the way.

Her journey took her across 23 countries, including Japan, China, India, Egypt, and Morocco. She faced numerous challenges along the route, including weather delays, technical difficulties, and cultural barriers. However, she remained undeterred, relying on her unwavering determination and the support of her friends and family.

In July 2017, after nearly three months of flying, Waiz triumphantly returned to Massachusetts, completing her historic flight. She was greeted by a crowd of well-wishers and celebrated as a pioneer in aviation.

The Impact of Waiz's Flight

Waiz's solo flight around the world had a profound impact on both the aviation community and the broader society. She shattered stereotypes about what women and Muslims can achieve and inspired countless young people to pursue their dreams.

Her journey also highlighted the importance of education and opportunity for all, regardless of gender or background. Waiz's story became a beacon of hope and a symbol of perseverance and possibility.

Achievements and Recognition

In recognition of her historic achievement, Waiz has received numerous awards and accolades. She was named one of Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People" in 2017 and was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2020.

Waiz is also an accomplished author and public speaker. Her memoir, "Soaring the Silk Road: The Adventures of a Female Pilot," chronicles her solo flight around the world and her journey to inspire others.

Continued Work and Advocacy

Beyond her historic flight, Waiz continues to be an active advocate for aviation and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. She is currently the president of Dreams Soar, Inc., a non-profit

organization that supports and mentors aspiring aviators, particularly young women and underrepresented groups.

Waiz's unwavering passion for aviation and her commitment to breaking barriers continue to inspire and motivate individuals worldwide. She is a role model for generations to come and a testament to the limitless power of human determination.

Shaesta Waiz's historic solo flight around the world was a groundbreaking achievement that shattered stereotypes and inspired countless young people. Her journey is a story of courage, determination, and the pursuit of one's dreams.

Through her writing, public speaking, and advocacy work, Waiz continues to promote aviation and STEM education, empowering others to soar to new heights. She is a true aviation pioneer and an inspirational figure who reminds us all that the sky is not the limit but rather the beginning of boundless possibilities.



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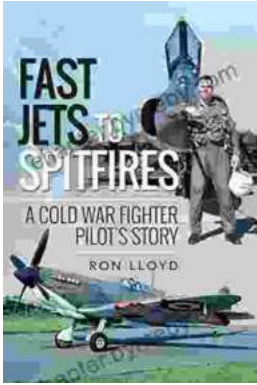
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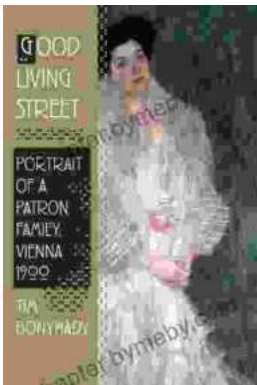
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