



# THE WINGS CLUB

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*For Immediate Release*

## **THE WINGS CLUB TO PRESENT THIRD ANNUAL OUTSTANDING AVIATOR AWARD TO THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS**

**New York, NY – (March 28, 2012)** – The Wings Club, recognized as the premier aviation club in the world, will honor the *Doolittle Raiders* with the third annual Outstanding Aviator Award.

The Outstanding Aviator Award was created by the Wings Club in partnership with IAWA (the International Aviation Womens Association). The mission of the award is to recognize airmen and airwomen whose actions have made major contributions to aviation and/or security and serve as leadership role models.

The presentation of this year's Award will take place at The Wings Club's Annual Meeting, to be held on the evening of Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at The Yale Club in New York City. Ken Gazzola, past president and Chairman of the Historical and Educational Committee, and IAWA board members will present the award to Doolittle Raider, Major Thomas C. Griffin, who will be in attendance.

The Doolittle Raid, on April 18, 1942, was the first air raid by the US during World War II. The mission was led by Lt. Col. James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle who led sixteen Army B-25 medium bombers off the deck of the Navy Carrier Hornet. Although there were a number of enemy planes in the air, none of the American bombers were damaged or shot down. Each of the Doolittle's Raiders received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his epic mission.

The Wings Club, founded in 1942, is the premiere aviation club in the world. Dedicated to preserve the history and traditions of aviation, the Club provides a forum for discussion and debate on aeronautical and aviation issues. The Wings Club serves over 1,200 members including industry leaders, pilots, professionals in related service organizations and students of aviation.

Recognizing significant achievements that contribute to the advancement of aeronautical and aviation matters, The Wings Club recognizes and honors people throughout the year with the Distinguished Achievement Award, Distinguished Scholar Awards and the Outstanding Aviator Award. The Club also hosts Aviation Leader Series Luncheons that feature keynote speeches by industry leaders.

Founded in 1988, the International Aviation Womens Association (IAWA) brings together women of achievement in the aviation industry and promotes their advancement internationally through the establishment of a worldwide network of aviation professional contacts. IAWA is an international organization for women who hold senior positions in the aviation and aerospace industry including airline, airport, finance, insurance, law, manufacturing, operations, suppliers and government.

As the industry adjusts to worldwide economic and political change, women are assuming greater and more visible roles. Through annual global conferences, regional receptions, IAWA publications and newsletters, and programs, IAWA provides a forum to share views on matters of importance to the industry, as well as to women generally.

Previous recipients of this award were the Tuskegee Airmen and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). If you are interested in attending this year's presentation of the third annual Outstanding Aviator Award to the *Doolittle Raiders* and would also like to attend the Annual Meeting, please RSVP to Lea MacDougall at (212) 867-1770 or email [wingsclub@aol.com](mailto:wingsclub@aol.com). For more information on the The Wings Club visit <http://www.wingsclub.org>.