

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **Astronaut Returns Amelia Earhart's Scarf to Aviation Museum in Oklahoma after Around-the-World Space Flight Museum of Women Pilots Invites the Public to Celebrate**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Amelia Earhart may not have completed her infamous flight around the world, but nearly 75 years after her disappearance, one of her belongings finally did.

NASA Astronaut Randy Bresnik borrowed Amelia Earhart's scarf from the 99s Museum of Women Pilots in Oklahoma City for his November 2009 shuttle Atlantis mission #STS-129 that circled the earth repeatedly.

On June 26, Bresnik will return the scarf that made its way around the world to the Museum of Women Pilots which houses one of the largest collections of personal belongings from Earhart including her lucky bracelet that she wore on every flight except for her last.

The presentation will be part of the 99s Museum of Woman Pilot's grand reopening event that will take place June 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a special presentation and visit from Bresnik from 1 to 3 p.m. The Museum is opening its doors after being closed for a construction project and exhibit updates.

"We were thrilled when we received the call from Randy (Bresnik) to take part in such a historic event," said Carolyn Smith, chairman of the board of trustees for the 99s Museum of Women Pilots. "Amelia's finally come full-circle. I think she would be proud."

Bresnik's grandfather, Albert, was hired by Earhart to serve as her only authorized photographer.

"Because of my grandfather's connection to Amelia and our shared love of flight, I always dreamed of honoring her memory in a spectacular way," said Bresnik. "My grandfather went nearly everywhere with Earhart. Fortunately he wasn't with her on her last flight, or I might not be here today."

This historic event falls on the centennial year for the first licensed female pilot. On March 8, 1910, Raymonde de Laroche became the first woman in the world to receive a pilot's license.

"Women pilots have come a long way, but today only about six percent of all pilots are women. One of our goals at the Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots is to educate girls about the field of aviation," said Smith.

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**“Astronaut Returns Amelia Earhart’s Scarf...” Museum of Women Pilots – ADD ONE**

The grand re-opening event will include the scarf presentation at 1 p.m., family activities including a scavenger hunt for children and the opportunity to talk to women pilots. In addition, the Museum will unveil its newest exhibits.

- **DreamFlyer Flight Simulator** – A new addition to the museum, visitors can experience piloting this flight simulator customized to depart from Will Rogers World Airport. Guests can climb in, take the controls and feel the sensation of flight.
- **Around the World...At Last** – This exhibit will feature Earhart's scarf that Randy Bresnik took into space last November. The returned scarf, photos of Albert and Randy Bresnik, as well as pictures that Albert Bresnik took of Earhart will be featured in this exhibit.
- **Pilots en Vogue** – The challenge for early women pilots was to balance a socially acceptable outfit with the need to be practical and safe for flight. The Pilots en Vogue exhibit will feature “flying costumes” from the 1910’s to present day.

For more information about the grand reopening, call (405) 685-9990 or visit [www.MuseumOfWomenPilots.com](http://www.MuseumOfWomenPilots.com).

**The Ninety-Nines, Inc.**, named for the 99 women pilots who signed the original membership charter, is an international organization of licensed women pilots from 35 countries with more than 5,500 members throughout the world. Established in 1929, The Ninety-Nines is a 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable membership corporation. The International Headquarters and 99s Museum of Women Pilots are located at 4300 Amelia Earhart Drive in Oklahoma City. The 99s Museum of Women Pilots displays a unique collection of the papers, personal items and other historic artifacts of some of the most significant achievements and adventures of the international community of women pilots. For more information, visit [www.museumofwomenpilots.com](http://www.museumofwomenpilots.com)

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**EDITOR’S NOTE: For more information, photos or interviews, contact Kinsey Crocker at Anglin Public Relations at (405) 840-4222. Randy Bresnik is available for advanced phone interviews on June 21. Contact Anglin Public Relations to schedule.**