

## Cdr. John Paradiso Scholarship for Women in Aviation/Aerospace

Commander John Paradiso loved to fly. It was not a job to him; he was simply thrilled to be in the air, living his dream. His teachings, joy, passion, sense of humor and unbridled love of flight were the inspiration for his two daughters, Johnnie and Nina Clay Paradiso, to give wings to future generations of aviation enthusiasts.

Johnnie and Clay have established an endowment in their father's name to benefit young women and girls who have a sincere interest in pursuing their dreams of flight. "The scholarship is an extension of the person our father was – he was encouraging of whatever our passions and dreams were," said Johnnie. "It represents the perpetuating and loving encouragement of a father to his daughters."

The love of soaring amongst the clouds runs deep in the Paradiso family. "I've always loved the idea of flight," expressed Johnnie. "In my dreams, I'd get myself up in a tree and willed myself into space as if I was flying without wings or machinery. It was my ultimate goal as a child – to learn to fly."

The two sisters understand the importance of giving wings to the future. They were inspired to do so by their father's love of flight and the connectedness of everything through his appreciation of nature. He always said that everyone touches everything, and no word or act is small or insignificant if put out there with a loving consciousness.

Although their father's naval position caused the Paradiso family to move frequently, Cdr. Paradiso gave his children both roots to come home to and wings to propel their dreams. Through their contribution Johnnie and Clay wish to help those not fortunate enough to have a significant adult role model in their lives as they did. "It's my hope that to some young woman, this could be the springboard into her dreams," said Clay.

When their father passed away at the age of 88, the two sisters wanted to find a way to keep their father's memory alive on earth, touching the lives of others forever. They wanted the love, compassion and encouragement that was so much a part of their parents' characters to go on forever, touching as many people as possible.

The Paradiso Scholarship for Women in Aviation/Aerospace will do just that. It represents not only financial assistance to a young woman or girl, but also the great adventure of flight.

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This endowed scholarship is a memorial tribute to Commander John Paradiso, a WWII Naval aviator. It was generously established by his daughters, Johnnie and Nina Clay Paradiso, and provides a \$750 award to a young female who expresses a commitment to pursuing a career in aviation or aerospace.

### **This scholarship will be awarded during this year's Women Soar You Soar event**

To apply, please answer these two questions in writing, one paragraph per question. Please limit your response to one typewritten page. Applications must be received by June 30, 2009.

1. What are you now accomplishing that evidences your interest in the world of aviation/aerospace?
2. Identify the one or two adults who have been most influential for you thus far in pursuing your dreams of flight. Describe what makes that connection special in your life and what you aspire to do to "give wings" to a future generation of females as they have done for you.

Please submit to:

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