

The Soaring Society of America, Inc.  
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Founded in 1932  
Division of the National Aeronautic Association  
U.S. Representative of the F.A.I. for Soaring

31 MARS 2006

March 24, 2006

Mr. Max Bishop  
Secretary General  
Fédération Aéronautique Internationale  
Avenue Mon Repos 24  
CH-1005 - Lausanne  
SWITZERLAND

RE: The Pelagia Majewska Gliding Medal

Dear Mr. Bishop:

With this letter, and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Soaring Society of America, I wish to nominate Ms. Doris F. Grove for the Pelagia Majewska Gliding Medal.

As a result of reactions to medications she was taking, Doris Grove was stricken with strokes which caused partial paralysis and confined her to bed for a year. Near death, she swore that if she survived, she would learn to fly.

The day the last of her six children was sent off to school, Doris contacted a local airport to begin flying lessons. The first two flight instructors contacted refused to teach women to fly. She persevered, and in 1972 she entered the sport of soaring by joining a soaring club where she discovered the fulfillment of the goals she sought. Doris eventually obtained her private airplane rating, as well as her commercial glider pilot rating and glider flight instructor rating.

In 1975, she helped construct a new gliderport in central Pennsylvania that opened up the phenomenal soaring conditions along the Appalachian Mountains to all glider pilots. More than 24 world records and over 100 national glider records have been established from these facilities. Many of the records were with the support and help of Doris, who often served as the F.A.I. official observer.

Doris has established numerous state and national soaring records, and three world records including the first 1,000 kilometer flight by a woman. She is very proud of the fact that she did these record flights on her own skills and knowledge. The Soaring Society of America has awarded her the Exceptional Achievement Award and the Warren Eaton Award, SSA's most prestigious recognition. Doris was the third woman to be elected and inducted into the Soaring Hall of Fame in 1988.

Doris co-authored the book, *Accident Prevention Manual For Glider Pilots*, in response to a

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SSA Divisions:

The 1-26 Association • Vintage Sailplane Association • The Sailplane Homebuilders Association • Women Soaring Pilots Association •  
The Auxiliary-powered Sailplane Association • Freedom's Wings, International • World Class Soaring Association

SSA Affiliates:

The National Soaring Museum • The Collegiate Soaring Association

Mr. Max Bishop  
March 24, 2006  
Page 2

request from the Federal Aviation Administration, the US national regulatory body for aviation. Furthermore, she has also written a popular book that compiles the federal aviation regulations for glider pilots. She was the co-editor of *Soaring Pilot* magazine, and has edited the textbooks written by Tom Knauff for use by student glider pilots.

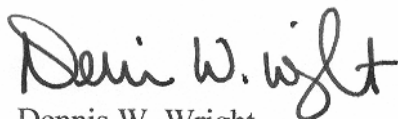
She continues to be very active in the aviation community giving speeches to soaring clubs, SSA national conventions, and the international women pilot group known as the Ninety Nines. She has been instrumental in organizing and conducting several Women Soaring Pilots Association annual meetings, and is sought after by many women who desire to learn to fly from someone with Doris' compassion, empathy, skill and knowledge.

Her principal activities involve operating Ridge Soaring Gliderport; Knauff & Grove Soaring Supplies, a national catalog sales business catering to soaring pilots; and, teaching others to fly. Doris has more than 8,000 flying hours.

We believe Doris embodies the attributes that the Aero Club of Poland was seeking to honor when they created this award in memory of Madame Pelagia MAJEWSKA. Doris has demonstrated a life long dedication and devotion to the sport of soaring as a teacher, author, record setter and successful business woman.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a nomination for this important award.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis W. Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis W. Wright  
Executive Director

Enclosure

## CITATION

Since her first flight in 1972, Doris F. Grove has had a long and distinguished record of accomplishment in the glider community.

From a gliderport in Pennsylvania that she helped build, Doris holds numerous state, national and three world soaring records including the first 1,000 kilometer flight by a woman. The Soaring Society of America has recognized her with an Exceptional Achievement Award and the Warren Eaton Award, the organization's most prestigious. Doris was elected to the US Soaring Hall of Fame in 1988.

Doris is an author, public speaker and highly sought after mentor to women student glider pilots. She is an active flight instructor with more than 8,000 flying hours.