

Flying High at 78

Pat Rector Fry (San Diego State) was bitten by the flying bug as a child, but didn't start flying until she was 43. "My son and I were having a picnic near Otay Lake and we saw what looked like a glider circling to the east," she recalls. "We took a drive and discovered a glider port and sky diving school."

With her 6-year-old son on her lap, Pat bought a ride in a glider and was hooked on becoming a pilot. She took glider lessons at the Otay flying school and got her pilot's license in 1977. Now 78, Pat received her license for powered aircraft after encouragement from a Gamma Phi Beta sister.

Pat worked for many years at the San Diego Aerospace Museum, remaining steadfast to the goals of "The 99s," which are air safety, educating the public about women in aviation, supporting the advancement and opportunities for women pilots. The 99s are a group formed in 1929 by Amelia Earhart, who invited all 117 of the then-licensed women pilots in the U.S. to participate in an international organization for women pilots. Ninety-nine responded, hence the conception of the organization's name, "the 99s."

Pat is a member of the San Diego Alumnae Chapter and active member of the San Diego community.

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Seizing Her Dreams

Kathryn Clark Childers (Colorado-Boulder) was one of the first five women hired by the United States Secret Service in 1970. As an agent, her assignments included protection of the Queen of Spain, Indira Gandhi, Imelda Marcos and the Kennedy Protective Detail of John F. Kennedy Jr. and Caroline Kennedy. In addition to protective duty, Kathryn worked several Presidential campaign details, was assigned to a special counterfeit task force in New York and worked numerous undercover assignments in New York, Washington, and Miami. She often says the experience gave her the distinct privilege of being "a mouse in the pocket of history."

In 1973, Kathryn left the Secret Service to marry Dr. Cecil A. Childers, a psychiatrist, and moved to Corpus Christi, Texas. Shortly before the birth of her son Clark in 1978, Kathryn began 18 years in broadcasting as a television producer, local morning talk show host, and host of ABC's *Take Two*, where her celebrity interviews with such notables as Lucille Ball, Dolly Parton and James Earl Jones. In 1991, Kathryn was elected to the ABC Network Marketing Board and served multiple terms.

Throughout her career, Kathryn has remained dedicated to public service. She hosted the Children's Miracle Network Telethon for Driscoll Children's Hospital for a decade and is a founding member of "Clowns Who Care," a charitable clown troupe. On any given week, you can find her alter ego, "Sassy the Sheriff," bringing smiles to the faces of young patients. In 1998, Kathryn and husband Cecil were honored as Volunteers of the Year by the Volunteer Center of the Coastal Bend, and Kathryn was also awarded the coveted American Institute for Public Service's Jefferson Award for founding a breast cancer screening program, "First Friday," which has provided free mammograms to more than 10,000 women in need.

Today, Kathryn speaks to organizations of all sizes throughout the country, sharing her personal mantra ("do it scared, but just do it!"), which she developed after years of embracing—and, more importantly, seizing—unique and unexpected opportunities.

