



Redwood Educational Technologies  
425 Jefferson Ave, Suite 900  
Toledo, OH 43604  
419-720-6341

Contact:  
Judith S. Miller  
jmiller@redwoodlearn.com

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### **New Documentary Engages Students to Look Back – and Look Up to the Skies**

Oct. 20, 2023, TOLEDO, Ohio – Redwood Educational Technologies (RET), an educational technology company that has been producing original content for K-12 students, teachers and parents for more than 20 years, announces the public release of its new documentary, *Courage in the Clouds: Cornelia Fort and the First Female Pilots of World War II*.

With its core mission to motivate K-12 students to learn and its proven track record of increasing student achievement, RET is deeply committed to reversing the precipitous and decades-long decline in Reading, US History and Civics national scores by producing relevant content, supporting successful literacy strategies, and codifying the meaningful use of technology.

### **Courage in the Clouds**

Screened in Peachtree City (Atlanta), Georgia on March 24, 2023 at Airbase Georgia, a Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Unit, and in Lebanon, Tennessee (Nashville) at the CAF Music City Wing Unit on May 20, 2023, *Courage in the Clouds* is a 46-minute documentary. Its target audience is middle school/high school students, teachers, parents, aviation enthusiasts and history buffs.

At the Music City Wing screening, one of Cornelia’s nieces and other Fort Family members were present and honored when the CAF unit named and dedicated their 1942 PT-19 airplane - “Miss Cornelia.” Sue McPherson, Director of the Sattler Aerospace Camp and member of the Board of Directors, EAA Chapter 863 in Lebanon, Tennessee, attended the screening and decided to include the documentary in her camp curriculum for middle school and high school students.

“I am so excited about being able to show this historically accurate documentary to our aviation camps,” Sue said.

Following two sessions of the camp in June, students responded enthusiastically.

From camp attendees, student comments included:

1. “The documentary opened my eyes to the vast history of aviation. I learned a lot of things during this documentary. This inspired me further to join the Air Force.”
2. “This documentary was very good. It was full of things I didn’t know. It was interesting and it kept me entertained. I hadn’t been taught this in history class, so most of this knowledge was new to me.”
3. “I enjoyed the documentary, not in our history books. Interesting information.”

To anchor students in time and place, the documentary begins with a review of events leading to World War II and how the dawn of aviation, beginning in 1903 with the Wright brothers’ first flight, coincided with the birth of many women who would eventually serve their country during WWII as members of the Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

The new 46-minute film features original RET interviews with Leontine LaPointe and Chloe Fort, two of Cornelia’s nieces; Mae Krier, an original Rosie; Irene Hasenberg Butter, Ph.D., author and Holocaust survivor; Rich Stepler, Chief Pilot for the Wright “B” Flyer Organization in Miamisburg, Ohio; Kimberly Johnson, Director of Special Collections and University Archives at Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas; and other aviation history experts.

### **Judith Miller, M.Ed., M.A., RET co-founder**

Judith Miller, RET co-founder, editor-in-chief, and documentary writer and director, guides RET’s comprehensive content development strategy leveraging her experience in the classroom and her graduate degree in Digital Media and Education from the University of Michigan to ensure content delivery is aligned to proven principles of learning.

### **Streaming**

*Courage in the Clouds* is available to individuals to stream for \$6.99 at [Courage in the Clouds](#), which also includes an Annotated Bibliography of related recommended reading to support literacy and history. Judy is available to conduct webinars or in-person screenings, seminars and teacher workshops, which includes some artifacts featured in the film. In November, RET will publish its *Courage in the Clouds Study Guide* for middle school and high school students. Written by Judith, the Study Guide further supports literacy and multidisciplinary learning in History, Civics and Science.

For additional information, contact Judith at [jmiller@redwoodlearn.com](mailto:jmiller@redwoodlearn.com).

### **About RET**

Through its Redwood Learn digital learning platform, Redwood Educational Technologies offers K-12 students, in all environments, an engaging learning experience with an emphasis on authenticity and relevance. Engaging and motivating students to learn is essential for their intellectual growth. Following proven principles of learning and research in student engagement, Redwood Learn fosters literacy across disciplines by deeply engaging students in its original multimedia content, which subsequently supports positive learning outcomes and student achievement.

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