



## **Mildred Axton**

*Women Airforce Service Pilots  
(WASP)*

## **Mildred Axton**

**Jan 9, 1919 - Feb 6, 2010**

**BIRTHPLACE: Coffeyville, KS**

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### **SOLDIER DETAILS**

**DIVISION: Women Airforce Service  
Pilots (WASP)**

**THEATER OF OPERATION: American**

**SERVED: 1943 - 1944**

**HONORED BY: The Eisenhower  
Foundation**

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### **BIOGRAPHY**

Mildred "Mickey" Axton was born Mildred Tuttle in Coffeyville, KS. 1/09/1919. Mickey was a test pilot during World War II and "one of the first three Woman Airforce Service Pilots to be trained as a test pilot and the first woman to fly a B-29. Micky Axton's first airplane ride was in a WWI-era Curtiss Jenny biplane when she was ten years old in 1929. Micky graduated from Coffeyville Kansas Senior High School in 1936 and continued her education at Coffeyville Community College, where she took many classes in science, math and physics. After she graduated from Kansas State University, Micky was selected into the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPT) at Coffeyville Community College. She was the only woman accepted into her CPT class. She earned her pilot's license through the CPT program in 1940. Micky received a letter from Jacqueline Cochran, inviting her to join the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs). In 1943, Micky began flight training with the WASPs at Sweetwater, Tex. She graduated from flight training in November 1943 and was assigned to Pecos, Tex. as an engineering test pilot. Micky was responsible for conducting flight tests on repaired aircraft to ensure they were flight worthy. In March 1944, Micky left the WASPs and returned to Wichita, Kan. to work as a Flight Test Engineer for Boeing Aircraft. On May 4, 1944, Micky became the first female pilot to fly a B-29. When the war ended, Micky returned to teaching. During the war, 38 WASPs died in service to their country. The Commemorative Air Force Jayhawk Wing in Wichita, Kan. restored a PT-19 primary trainer and named it "Miss Micky" to honor her service. She is the only WASP to have a restored WW II aircraft named after her. "Courtesy of edenprairie.org" On May 4, 1944, according to Boeing Aircraft archives, she was one of the crew of nine aboard "Sweet Sixteen" the 16th of 1644 B-29s rolled out from the Wichita plant. Mickey's account of that day. "I was back in the aft flight blister when Elton Rowley "chief of engineering flight test) called back over the intercom and said. "Micky, how'd you like to come and fly this thing?" I was absolutely in 'hog heaven"! she recalled. "So I put my parachute on my back and crawled through the tunnel which was over the bomb bay to the front. He gave me the left seat and I flew the plane? Axton said. "The problem was, it was so top secret, I could only tell my

husband." Rowley did write a letter, however, verifying her feat. Micky Axton had just made history as the first woman to pilot a B-29" (Courtesy of Boeing Frontiers May 2006 Volume 5, Issue 1 Micky married David Axton June 1, 1941 and taught at East High School in Wichita from 1958-1969. Micky's brother Ralph "Tut" Tuttle was a World War II fighter pilot who flew an estimated 250 missions and earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses and a Silver Star.