



PROFILE FOR:

CONSTANCE CASTILLO

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Interviewed by: Emma Farrington

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Why or how did you begin flying?

My parents were both pilots, so I grew up flying. They took me on my first flight in their Cessna 170 from Meriden Airport when I was only 19 days old. I've been flying ever since!

What aircraft do you fly or have you flown?

I'm partial to Cessnas, having flown the C-170 from the right seat growing up. I now mostly fly a C-172 or a C-182 and occasionally, a C-150, C-152, and a C-177.

What kind of flying do you like to do?

I enjoy cross-country flying, especially over the New England coastline and out to the islands.

What are your flying goals?

Having earned my PPL back in 1985 with a woman CFI, I realized the importance of having a female instructor and mentor. Since I became a CFI later in life, I've made it my goal to train young women aviators as a volunteer CFI with the Civil Air Patrol.

What do you like about being a 99, why did you join, what made you stay a member?

To enjoy the camaraderie of other women pilots. I was fortunate to have received training scholarships through the 99's, and I believe it is important to continue to mentor, recruit and train young women as pilots.

What are your aviation accomplishments that may inspire others?

I decided to make major changes in my life at age 50 and got into aviation full time. I was not doing a lot of flying while working at a corporate job, so I took the leap and pursued my passion. I now enjoy working as the Airport Manager and flying out of the airport where I took my first flight.

How do you spend your time?

Most of my time is truly spent at Meriden Airport, either working, flying, or training. Otherwise, I am spending time with my husband building a house on my parents' property and renovating our family's horse farm with my sister.

What is something people may not know about you? I'm actually afraid of heights. However, I do love flying in open cockpits. I've flown a Davis D-1, a Skybolt, and a Stearman. Yet, I'll probably never skydive!

This member has reviewed this submission and given permission to the Ninety-Nines New England Section to publish this interview