

# EILEEN COLLINS



Illustration: Kristin DiVona

When Eileen Collins (b.1956) joined the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC), women were not allowed to be pilots. Fortuitously, that changed in 1976 while Collins was working on her undergraduate degree in math and economics. After spending over a decade at the Air Force, Collins was selected to the astronaut corps in 1990. She became the first female pilot of NASA's Space Shuttle in 1993 and the first female commander of a NASA space mission in 1997.