

**PRAISE FOR:**

# *The Fighter Pilot's Wife*

A Military Family's Story by Gilberta Guth

A BRIGHT LEGACY of all American wars lies enshrined in the words of women who wrote wrenchingly, eloquently, and passionately of their anguish, their fears, and their love for their men who went to war and often never returned. In that tradition of excellence, in this fine book, Gilberta Guth has given us a loving, moving memoir from her heart to ours.

—JOHN C. WAUGH, author of *Surviving the Confederacy: Rebellion, Ruin, and Recovery*—*Roger and Sara Pryor during the Civil War*

A DRAMATIC memoir of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. A must read for all veterans, members of today's military, and civilians alike!

—Dat Quoc Nguyen, former S. Vietnamese Air Force fighter pilot, POW of N. Vietnam

GILBERTA GUTH captures the extreme highs and lows of the world of the fighter pilot's wife, a unique perspective of aviation history.

—Christine Whitcomb, Capt. USAF 1972-1977, fighter pilot's wife

GILBERTA GUTH has penned a magnificent book of enormous power. *The Fighter Pilot's Wife* should be required reading for all Americans, especially for those who seek an insider's view of Air Force life.

—Tom Yarborough, Col. USAF, (Ret.), author of *Danang Diary*

RIVETING! A dedicated and loving wife who stands—not behind, but beside her fighter pilot husband as they live through a life framed by aviation.

—Darrel Whitcomb, Col. USAF, (Ret.), author of *The Rescue of Bat 21*

GUTH brilliantly details the other half of military life. She skillfully describes love, loneliness, and loss that accompany military families. Thousands of people, from WWII to Iraqi Freedom, will relate to this harrowing story. A must-read for military and non-military as well.

—Ron Knott, Lt. Cdr. USN, (Ret.), former airline captain, author of *God's Guarantees for Giving and Trophies of Heaven*

GILBERTA has written a strong portrayal of the sacrifices and support of the fighter pilot's wife. I'm glad that this story has been told.

—Leo K. Thorsness, Col, USAF, (Ret.), Medal of Honor, POW of Vietnam War

THIS well-documented account should be required reading for every fighter pilot family.

—A.G. Schneider, Lt. Col. USAF, (Ret.), WWII, Korea & Vietnam veteran



# Gilberta Guth's 2006 Engagement Calendar

(Updated 3/16/06)

**February 12 - Tucson, Arizona**  
*Bookmans Northwest - Book Signing Event*

**February 17 - Tucson, Arizona**  
*Bookmans East - Book Signing Event*

**February 19 - Tucson, Arizona**  
*Bookmans Central - Book Signing Event*

**March 26 - Corte Madera, California**  
*Book Passage - Panel Speaker: Authors talking  
about their publishing experiences*

**April 27 - Niceville, Florida**  
*Bayou Book Co., Book Signing Event*

**May 9-11 - Las Vegas, Nevada**  
*Book Signing Event (Details TBA)*

**July 18 - Menlo Park, California**  
*Kepler's Books, Book Signing Event*

**August 5 - Chino, California**  
*Planes of Fame Air Museum,  
Speaker on Korean War Theme*

**August - Laguna Beach, California**  
*Aviation Arts Bookstore  
Book Signing Event (Details TBA)*

**September 20 - San Rafael California**  
*Aldersly Retirement Community,  
Book Signing Event*

**October 4 - Dayton, Ohio**  
*Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Book Signing Event*

**November - Phoenix & Tucson, Arizona**  
*Book Signing Event (Details TBA)*

★★★★



GILBERTA, WITH HER HUSBAND HOWARD,  
AT A BOOK SIGNING EVENT DURING THE  
AIR COMMANDOS REUNION IN  
FT. WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA

★★★★



GILBERTA INTRODUCING HER BOOK AT  
AN EVENT IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

***For the most up-to-date calendar visit:  
<http://www.fighterpilotswife.com/publicity.htm>***



## *Meet Author*

GILBERTA GUTH

**A**s a child, the experience of watching the effects of war on my community and my family helped shape my character— I learned early on about patriotism and sacrifice. These values were later reinforced by my experiences as the wife of a jet fighter pilot.

Raised by grandparents in the thirties and forties in a household of aunts and uncles, I was eleven years old when World War II broke out. I watched as six of my seven uncles went off to military service, the two youngest just out of high school. One aunt went to work in an aircraft assembly plant; another remained behind to help fill the shortage of teachers as she waited for her fiancé to return from the war. A third daughter, my mother, had left the family hometown shortly after I was born, when she and my father divorced. She worked as a secretary in the Office of Price Administration and other government offices during and after the war.

In the window of my grandparents' house there was a card displaying six blue stars, one for each of the family's sons serving in the war. Gratefully, none of the blue stars were replaced with a red one, symbolizing "wounded in action," or, worst of all, a gold one, symbolizing "killed in action." My grandparents saw all six of their sons return safely; their youngest daughter return from her job in the airplane assembly plant to resume her profession as a hairdresser; their second daughter marry her fiancé upon his safe return from the war; and their eldest daughter, my mother, turn from wartime secretarial positions to working in more peacetime-oriented government offices.

During my first two years of college I discovered my love for writing and journalism. Instead I graduated with a teaching credential. After graduation, I taught for two years, then married an Air Force jet fighter pilot and lived in Japan, Europe, Central America, and throughout the continental United States while raising four children. Following my husband's Air Force retirement I earned a master's degree in education, specializing in career counseling. After the Vietnam War ended I was hired to design and implement a full employment services program for Southeast Asian refugees in San Francisco. Later on I was hired to design and direct a similar program for a community-based agency serving Novato, California.

Now pursuing my first love, writing and journalism, I hope to share with others the poignancy of the lives of those who offer themselves in the service of the armed forces.



# GILBERTA GUTH TALKING POINTS

- ◆ In light of your experience being in an Air Force family during wartime, what kind of support could best be given to families of those serving today?
- ◆ What sort of support did your family receive when your husband, Joe, was serving?
- ◆ You write about protecting your children from the possibility of Joe, their dad, being killed in his profession as a fighter pilot. How did you go about that? How did the specter of death affect your children?
- ◆ Can you speak to the children of those serving today? To those who have lost a parent in the service?
- ◆ You must have built up a wall of denial to protect yourself from the possibility of Joe's death. What were the consequences of this for you? For your marriage? Do you think this sort of daily mental protection made you less prepared in the event of the real thing?
- ◆ Did you ever see this denial backfire on family members who lost a fighter pilot husband or father? What happened?
- ◆ How did the families of pilots interact? Was there much mutual support?
- ◆ The post-World War II era of your story is commonly associated with a high level of glamour, romance, and Americana—partying and dancing in the evening, and flying high performance aircraft in the morning—would you agree? Was there a darker side to this lifestyle?
- ◆ Joe's profession took you and the family to a number of foreign countries. What's it like arriving at an airbase in a foreign country?
- ◆ Tell us about the emotional consequences of the constant moving to different countries and cities, leaving friends, and the upheaval of the family. How did this affect your children? Your relationship with Joe?
- ◆ After so many years in the Air Force, Joe's retirement must have been difficult. Can you describe his transition back into civilian life? How did this affect you and the family as a whole? Does this have a bearing on soldiers coming back from Iraq?
- ◆ You now do a lot of traveling around the US for Air Force reunions. You must see some emotional reunions among long-lost pilots and friends? What about pilots from foreign countries?
- ◆ How do you feel about the war we're in now (Iraq?)
- ◆ What prompted you to write this book after so many years after the story took place?
- ◆ What do you hope will happen as a result of people reading your book?

# **WAR'S QUIET HEROES**

## **WAIT BACK HOME**

SONOMA, CA (JANUARY 1, 2006) — Author Gilberta Guth has just released her first book, the autobiographical *Fighter Pilot's Wife*, with the goal of drawing attention to the families of those serving in the military, especially during wartime.

“There are over 150,000 American troops currently serving in Iraq,” says Gilberta. “Each one represents a family waiting back home. Each waiting loved one lives under an ever-present shadow of potential loss. These are the quiet heroes of war.”

The challenges faced by the military family are virtually unknown in the civilian world. *The Fighter Pilot's Wife* relates these unique challenges through the storyline of Gilberta's own life.

Her military family's dramatic story spans World War II and both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Gilberta recounts her speedy courtship and marriage to Air Force fighter pilot Joe Guth, their result-ant globetrotting lifestyle while raising four children, and their lives framed by military aviation and the constant specter of death.

*I knew that if I dwelled on all the dangers and all the possibilities I would fall apart. I had learned how not to imagine an airplane disaster happening to us. I had no plan for such an event, because I just didn't let myself think about it. I had almost convinced myself that Joe was as invincible as he believed himself to be.*

The loved ones waiting back home are often forgotten during wartime. Their substantial anxieties and fears of losing those in combat are easily overlooked. But with every death, a child loses a parent, a husband loses a wife, a parent loses a child, a fiancé loses her intended.

“The real price paid for any war,” the author asserts, “is the loss to the families back home.” Her mission, to support the families of those in service, extends to her 10% donation of every book sale to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, aiding families of US and British military personnel killed in action in the Middle East.

With glowing advance praise for its authenticity and heart, by both the literary world and high-rank-ing military personnel, Gilberta Guth's moving story sheds much-needed light on war's “quiet heroes.”

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**ILLUSTRATIONS:** 40 photos

**INFORMATION:** [www.fighterpilotswife.com](http://www.fighterpilotswife.com)

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