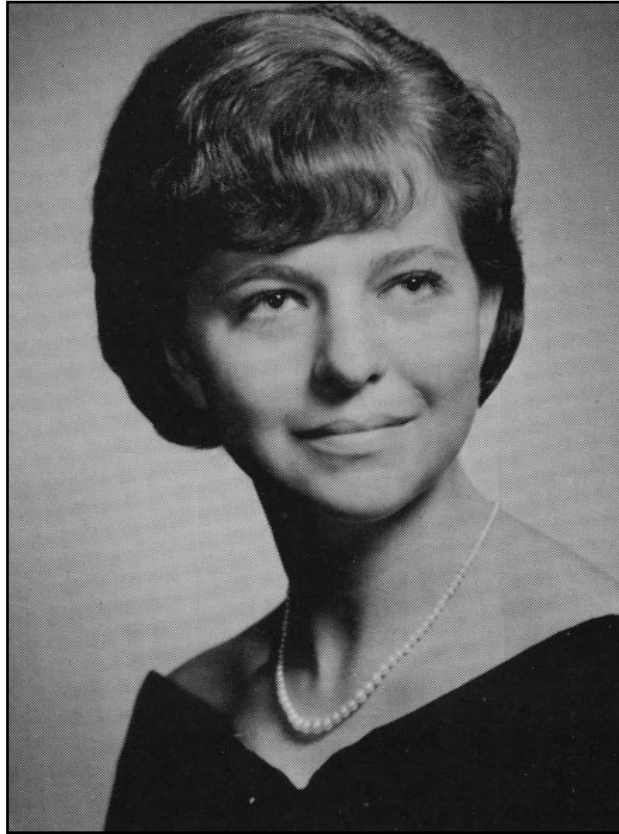


Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame



Virginia Procino Hartmann
Lt. Col., USAF, Retired
Class of 1968

Virginia Hartmann was born and raised in Watchung, NJ. She attended Watchung schools and graduated from Watchung Hills Regional High School. She then graduated from the women's college, Hood College, Frederick, MD.

She started her years of service to her country when she was commissioned a second lieutenant at Officer Training School. During her 24 years in the Air Force, she was a Base Fuels Officer; a logistics officer at McClellan Air Logistics Center, Sacramento, CA, and the Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C., and a supply officer for Headquarters Air Force in the Pentagon. She retired as a lieutenant colonel.

The Air Force assignment that remains the most memorable and important to her was her duty as an Air Training Officer (ATO) at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. She was one of 12 women Air Force lieutenants who were chosen to help train the first women cadets to attend the Academy in 1976. After six months of grueling training, where the Air Force determined the extent of women's abilities physically and mentally, the ATOs were able to act as role models for the new women cadets as they struggled with being in the vast minority of 157 women and approximately 4,000 men.

Virginia's local community service is focused on the Watchung Library where she was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Library Advisory Board. She has spearheaded several important projects that have improved and sustained the library.

She also worked with the Air Force Academy Library to digitize and label thousands of historic pictures of the ATOs and the first woman cadets. These photos are now available to scholars writing military history. The first time a selection of these images was shown to the public was for a Women's History Month display and commentary for the Watchung Library in 2024. The American Association of University Women also invited Ms. Hartmann to present these curated photos at Long Hill Library for Women's History Month in March, 2025.