

## 'As a child, I used to envision myself being Superwoman' says Cox



Jessica Cox, the world's first licensed armless pilot, spoke to the Ercoupe Owners Club during their national convention dinner held at the Green Hills Country Club.

ROSIE GITHINJI/REGISTER-NEWS

# Ercoupe hosts guest speaker on last night

By **ROSIE GITHINJI**

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MT. VERNON — Jessica Cox may have been born without arms, but she has not let that stop her from accomplishing whatever she sets her mind to do.

Cox was the guest speaker during the last night of the Ercoupe Owners' Club National Convention, after a dinner held at the Green Hills County Club.

She is the world's first licensed pilot without arms, having earned her license Oct. 10, 2008, after training for three years.

"I feel like I am connected to just about everyone in this room," she said to the audience. "I just feel like I'm part of a family coming here."

Cox spoke about her experiences growing up and why she decided she wanted to earn her pilot's license.

"As a child, I used to envision myself being Superwoman," she said, while telling a story about her first time sitting at the controls of a Cessna plane. "Being in the Cessna and getting to feel what it is like behind the controls, I remembered my vision of being Superwoman when I was a kid."

Cox said she used prosthetic arms until she was in the eighth grade. She said it felt more natural to use her feet to do the everyday tasks most people use their hands for.

"My feet became my hands," she said. "It was very natural to grow up... and do everything with my feet."

It took Cox years before she was ready to

fly solo. She had to find the right plane, which, for her, is a 1946 415C Ercoupe airplane.

Since earning her pilot's license, Cox has not only flown in the United States, but also in the Philippines, El Salvador, Greece and other countries. When she met President Barack Obama, she even tried to convince him to let her fly Air Force One — a request he denied.

Cox also received the Guinness World Record for being the first certified pilot to fly an airplane with only her feet.

She ended the night by telling the audience "If you really want to do something, you can do anything."

To learn more about Cox, visit her website, [www.rightfooted.com](http://www.rightfooted.com).

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