



**Dr. Rhea Seddon** is a woman of many firsts. One of only six women in her medical school class of one hundred, she was the first woman ever accepted to the surgery residency program at her university. In 1978 she was one of the first six women accepted into the Astronaut Corps, and when she married fellow Astronaut Capt. Robert "Hoot" Gibson, they became the first active Astronauts to wed. Together they produced the first official "Astrotots" (children born to two Astronauts). In addition to her space career, Dr. Seddon's life experiences have led her from surgeon to licensed private pilot, to healthcare executive, entrepreneur, author, president of a large women's charity group and now, professional speaker. Entering the Astronaut Corps in 1978, she served the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for nineteen years, spending thirty days in space aboard three Space Shuttle flights.

After leaving NASA in 1997, Dr. Seddon was appointed the Assistant Chief Medical Officer of the Vanderbilt University Medical Group in Nashville, where she focused on innovative systems and methodologies for improving teamwork in healthcare. Eleven years later, she continued that work as a founding partner of LifeWings Partners, LLC, which teaches those concepts to healthcare institutions across the United States.

She is a member of both the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame and Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame, and her significant contributions to aeronautics and science were recognized in 2015 when she became the eighth woman inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame. That year, she also published her autobiography, *Go For Orbit*, and in 2016 she was awarded the Independent Book Publishers Association Ben Franklin Gold Award for Best...

## Testimonials

"The feedback we received from having Dr. Rhea Seddon speak at our Society of Professional Women event has been overwhelmingly positive. Her presentation has been compared to listening to a friend next to a campfire. It was refreshing that through all of the adversity Rhea faced, she told her story with composure and grace, instead of bitterness and anger. Even in a room of almost 150 people, you could hear a pin drop."

- Society of Professional Women.

Charged with the training for the 1978 class of astronaut, I was worried. Of the thirty five, six were women. Could they withstand the rigorous training, especially the smallest, Rhea Seddon? In her memoir, Rhea describes her struggles to become an accepted member of a once all-male bastion. I was proud to watch her eventually make three successful space flights. Her book shows how she managed not only the work, but also a home and family—all with style and grace.

- Astronaut Alan Bean, Apollo and Skylab Astronaut.

**Rhea Seddon**

## Speech Topics

- Teambuilding
- Personal Growth
- Leadership
- Healthcare
- Female Motivational
- Attitude

