



FALCON
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL
BENJAMIN N. BELLIS**

U.S. AIR FORCE

Lieutenant General Benjamin N. Bellis

General Bellis was born on February 4, 1924, in Wheatland, Wyoming, and graduated from Lingle High School, Wyoming. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Military Engineering, a commission as a second lieutenant and his pilot wings. He earned a Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1952 and a Master of Science degree in Business Administration from The George Washington University in 1965. He also completed the Executive Program of the Graduate School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley.

His first assignment after graduation from the academy was with the Strategic Air Command at Fort Worth, Texas. From 1947 to 1950 he served on an Armed Forces Special Weapons Project at Sandia Base, New Mexico assigned as one of the first Weaponers for operationally handling atomic bombs. He wrote the first "Weaponer's Manual" on how to handle atomic weapons in flight.

Following graduate studies at the University of Michigan, he served until 1957 as project officer on the TM-61B Matador and as program director of the TM-76 MACE missiles at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. (The first guided missiles to enter the U.S. Air Force operational inventory.)

Upon graduation from the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in 1958, he served in various executive positions in the Thor ballistic missile development and deployment program with the Ballistic Missiles Division of Air Research and Development Command. In January 1960 he was appointed Chairman of the Configuration Control Board for the Atlas ballistic missile program.

In August 1961 he was assigned to Headquarters Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland where he was involved in systems management policy. In August 1964 he entered the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. graduating the following year.

In August 1965 General Bellis was assigned to the Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he served as Director of the F-12/SR-71 Systems Program Office. In July 1968 he became Deputy Commander for reconnaissance and electronic warfare, and in July 1969 was appointed Director for the F-15 system development program. He directed the F-15 from a paper competition through initial operational production and participated in the first operational overseas deployment to Bitburg Air Base, Germany.

General Bellis became Commander of the Electronic Systems Division of the Air Force Systems Command at L. G. Hanscom Air Force Base, MA in March 1974. He was transferred in November 1974 as Commander, Seventeenth Air Force with headquarters at Sembach Air Base, Germany. He spent the next seven years in Europe.

General Bellis became the Commander of Sixth Allied Tactical Air Force with headquarters at Izmir, Turkey in June 1977 and in July 1978 became Vice Commander in Chief of U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

He holds the aeronautical rating of Command Pilot and has been awarded the Master Missileman Badge. His military decorations and awards include the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Legion of

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Merit with one oak leaf cluster Distinguished Service Medal (Turkey) and Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster. Also, while he served as Program Director, his units were awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (F-12/SR-71) and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award (F-15). General Bellis was recognized with the Air Force Association Wright Memorial Chapter Aerospace Power Award (1973) and the Air Force Association Distinguished Award for Management (1974). In 1981, Air Force Secretary Verne Orr presented him the prestigious Eugene Zuckert Award.

General Bellis was President of the Transatlantic Council of the Boy Scouts of America responsible for over 20,000 scouts in Europe and North Africa from 1978 to 1981. In 1981 the Boy Scouts

of America honored him with the designation of "Distinguished Eagle." He was also President of the American Rod and Gun Clubs of Europe for five years. This organization supported over 23,000 American hunters and fishermen in Europe.

Since retiring in 1981, General Bellis has become President of the Falcon Foundation, a founding director of the American Strategic Metals Company, Director of First Bank (Colorado Springs), and a consultant with a number of aerospace companies.

He is married to the former Rosemary Nissley. They have four children: Barbara, Rebecca, Rosalyn and Ben Jr.

The Falcon Foundation,

It is a privilege to sponsor a Falcon Foundation Scholarship in honor of Lt. Gen. Ben Bellis. As a pilot, aeronautical engineer, staff officer and senior commander, General Bellis has distinguished himself as an outstanding American and patriot.

This scholarship will give young people an opportunity to enter the Air Force Academy, become an officer in the U.S. Air Force and follow in the footsteps of such leaders as General Bellis.

Sincerely,



*Mr. John F. Olive
Chairman and President
The Olive Company*



The Falcon Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit foundation. Its purpose is to provide scholarships to College or Preparatory Schools for motivated young people seeking admission to USAFA and a career in the Air Force.

Although it is a separate organization, the Falcon Foundation works closely with USAFA.