



FALCON
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

GENERAL
GEORGE S. BROWN

U.S. AIR FORCE

General George S. Brown

Born to be a military leader, General George Brown performed brilliantly in challenging senior leadership roles of the 20th Century. His experience as an air combat leader spanned 32 years, three major conflicts and the Cold War. He rose to Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force and then became the second Air Force Officer to be appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Brown was born in Montclair, NJ on 17 August, 1918 while his father, T. K. Brown, class of 1913 USMA, was stationed as an instructor at West Point. Growing up as a “Cavalry Brat,” he well understood the old military maxim about Marching Toward the Sound of the Guns-later George Brown flew! When he walked through the sallyport at West Point on 1 July 1937, he had what would later be called a “Game Plan.” He was a stand-out from the start--both as a cadet leader and as an athlete. Three years later he wore the gold braid of Regimental Adjutant, the second highest cadet position in the Corps of Cadets. He was also Captain of the West Point Polo team that became runner-up for the Eastern Intercollegiate Championship.

On December 1941 (Pearl Harbor Day), Lt. Brown was at Randolph AFB, at the halfway point in Pilot training. Only six months later he flew to war for the first time as an Aircraft Commander in the first B-24 Group to deploy to England. On 1 August 1943, as the formations assembled for the famous low level attack on the oil fields of Ploesti, Major Brown was the Deputy group leader. Despite adverse weather and inadequate maps the group reached its objective, but as the bomb run began, a direct hit sent the commander’s ship down in flames. Major Brown rallied the shattered force and led it through the flaming inferno to inflict devastating damage on Hitler’s primary

source of oil. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Back in England he continued to excel as a combat leader and as a staff officer at Air Division level. Attesting to his excellence was his promotion to Colonel at age 26. The meager three years and four months of commissioned service were completely overshadowed by the reality that he was an exceptional combat leader.

Following the war, it could be correctly stated that General Brown never received what were termed “Routine Assignments.” His superiors could see his remarkable potential, and each assignment was carefully calculated to prepare him for the more challenging jobs yet to come. He correctly saw that in this generation of turmoil, goals would be reached only if talents were matched by self-sacrifice. This meant repeated direct participation in combat operations together with long, long hours in an almost equally formidable arena - the E Ring of the Pentagon.

Long before “having all the right tickets” became a popular expression, General Brown had collected most of them. Overlaid on his brilliant combat record in WWII was a series of assignments in key positions of all of the Air Force’s Major Commands: Operations at Hq. Air Training Command; Commander of a Troup Carrier Group; and Commander of a Fighter Interceptor Wing, before the Korean War. In May 1952 he again flew to war as Director of Operations of the Fifth Air Force which also meant an additional assignment as a key staff officer in a United Nations action. After Korea, he became Commander, 3525th Pilot Training Wing, Williams AFB, AZ. The National War College (Class of ‘57) was next and this led to his first experience in the Pentagon. For the

General George S. Brown

next six years he was at the elbow of key military decision-makers and for more than half of that period his judgements went directly to the Secretary of Defense. On 1 August 1959, the anniversary of his Ploesti attack, he pinned on his first star.

Four years later he won his second star and the assignment as Commander, Eastern Transport Air Force, MATS. The next year he was selected to organize Joint Task Force II, a joint unit formed at Sandia Base, NM to test weapons systems for all of the services. Two years later he returned to the Pentagon where he received his third star and the key job of Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1968, General Brown flew to war for the third time as the Commander, Seventh Air Force and Deputy Commander for Air Operations, U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam, a position he held for 2 years. As he took command of the Air Force Systems Command in September 1970, he had more direct combat and combat command experience than any American in our history.

When time came to pick a Chief of Staff for the Air Force, the choice was obvious. Less than a year later General Brown became Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at a most trying time in our history.

The formalities as he was sworn in as Chairman were brightened by the presence of the new first lady of the Armed Forces, and his loyal companion through his service career, Mrs. Alice "Skip" Brown, whose sparkle and grace had played such an important part in reinforcing his success.

As Chairman, he continued his former practice of concerning himself with more than his designated responsibilities. The image of the military profession was still suffering from the organized diatribe which began during the war in Vietnam. General Brown characteristically put himself at the focal point of problems.

His tour as Chairman was almost concluded when he was struck by a devastating illness thus causing him to retire early. The illness did not respond to the treatment and General George Brown died on 5 December 1978.

General Ross Milton wrote a most fitting column entitled "General George Brown Was a Most Uncommon Leader." His final paragraph said words that should be remembered by every American: "Nonetheless, George Brown had a full and splendid career--one that was distinguished in every way a military man could hope for."

Dear General Bellis

We are pleased to establish a Falcon Foundation Scholarship in honor of General George P. Brown. He was an honored air combat commander with more direct combat and combat command experience than any American in our history.

General Brown led the U.S. Air Force as Chief of Staff and served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for two terms during very critical times. His dedicated service is an ideal path for others to follow.

Sincerely,



*O. C. Boileau
President
General Dynamics Corporation*



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.