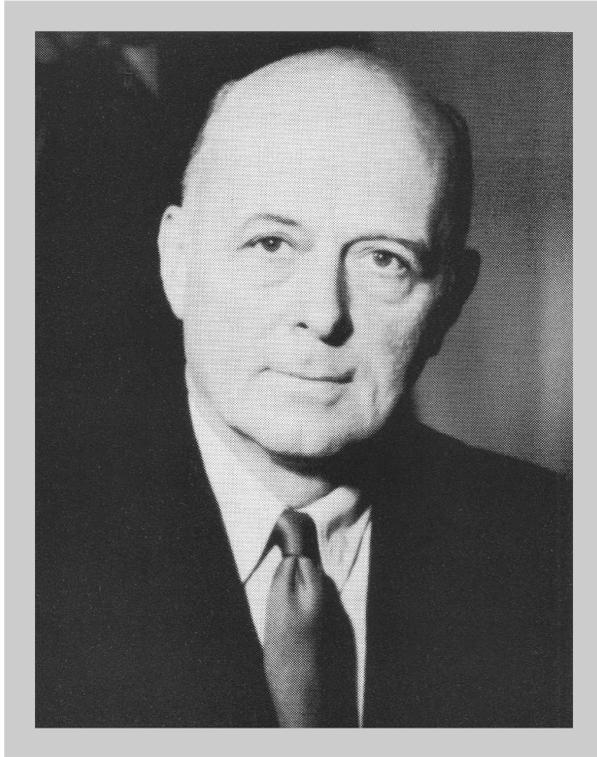




**FALCON**  
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

---

**THOMAS K. FINLETTER**

---

# Thomas K. Finletter

---

**T**homas Knight Finletter was sworn in as second Secretary of the Air Force on April 24, 1950.

Prior to his appointment as Air Force Secretary, Mr. Finletter was Chief of the Economic Cooperation Administration's mission to the United Kingdom with headquarters in London, to which he had been appointed early in 1949.

Mr. Finletter served as chairman of the President's Air Policy Commission which on January 1, 1948, sent to the President the report entitled "Survival in the Air Age." This commission had been established in July, 1947, to draft a national air policy.

Mr. Finletter, attorney, student of economic and foreign affairs and author, began his government service in 1941 as a special assistant to the Secretary of State on international economic affairs. In 1943, Mr. Finletter was appointed executive director and later deputy director of the Office of Foreign Economic Coordinator. In this post, he was in charge of planning economic activities related to liberated areas and was in control of matters of foreign exchange and matters relating to the operations of the Alien Property Custodian. Mr. Finletter resigned this post in 1944 when the functions of OFEC were absorbed by the newly created Foreign Economic Administration.

In 1945, Mr. Finletter acted as consultant to the United States delegation at the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco. He returned to public service on July 18, 1947, when President Truman established the temporary, five-man commission which inquired into all phases of aviation and drafted the national air policy report.

Mr. Finletter was born on November 11, 1893, in Philadelphia. His father, the late Judge Thomas Dickson Finletter, was presiding judge of a common pleas court for twenty years; his paternal grandfather was presiding judge of a common pleas court in Philadelphia for thirty six years. He attended the Episcopal Academy (Philadelphia), studied in Paris for a year, received his BA degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1915 and his LL.B degree in 1920.

In World War I, Mr. Finletter served with the 312th Field Artillery, advancing to the rank of Captain. He was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1920 and the New York bar in 1921.

From 1920 to 1926 he was a lawyer in the New York law firm Gravath and Henderson. In 1926 he became a member of the New York law firm of Coudert Brothers, a connection he retained until his appointment to the State Department in 1941. He returned to that firm in 1944.

Mr. Finletter served as lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania Law School from 1931 to 1941.

He was a member of the bar association of the City of New York and of the American Bar Association; the International Law Society; Delta Phi fraternity; the Knickerbocker and Century clubs (New York), and the Metropolitan Club (Washington, D.C.).

Mr. Finletter was the author of the following: "Can Representative Government Do the Job?" (1945); "The Law of Bankruptcy Reorganization" (1939); "Principles of Corporate Reorganization" (1937); and miscellaneous law review and magazine articles.

# Thomas K. Finletter

---

Mr. Finletter was married to Margaret Damrosch, daughter of the conductor, Walter Damrosch, on July 17, 1920, after World War I, during which Miss Damrosch had been a Y.W.C.A. worker. Since their marriage, Mrs. Finletter, under the name of Gretchen Finletter, has been a frequent contributor to American periodicals. She is also the author of "Passing Present," a three-act play

published in 1932, and an autobiographical story of her girlhood, "From the Top of the Stairs" (1946).

The Finletters had two children, Margot (Mrs. John F. B. Mitchell) and Lili (Mrs. Cass Canfield, Jr.). Mr. Finletter died 24 April 1980 in New York City.

---

*The Falcon Foundation*

*It is a pleasure for the Gertrude Skelly Trust to establish scholarships in honor of Secretaries of the United States Air Force. Their outstanding civilian leadership through the years has been a key to the strength of our Nation's military posture. It is only fitting that these leaders be recognized and honored by the award, each year, of scholarships to deserving sons or daughters of career military personnel who will become the future leaders in our Air Force.*

*It is our privilege to establish this scholarship, in perpetuity, honoring Thomas K. Finletter, Secretary of the United States Air Force (24 April 1950 to 20 January 1953).*

*Sincerely,  
Gertrude Skelly Trust*

*Edward P. Stewart*  
Trustee

*John R. March Jr.*  
Trustee

---



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.