



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

**GENERAL
ROBERT M. LEE**

U.S. AIR FORCE

General Robert M. Lee

General Robert Merrill Lee was born in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. He was raised in Augusta, Maine, attended the public school system and graduated from Cony High School in 1926. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York on June 11, 1931. Lieutenant Lee was immediately detailed to the U.S. Army Corps and entered the first Primary class at Randolph Field, Texas. He graduated from Kelly Field in October 1932.

He was assigned to the 55th Pursuit Squadron of the 20th Pursuit Group at Barksdale Field, Louisiana, where he performed pilot and other squadron officer duties. In early 1934, when U.S. airmail contracts were canceled by the President, Lieutenant Lee joined other officers in his group flying the airmail.

During the period 1938-1944, he was pilot/observer in the 12th Observation Squadron; Aide to General Ada R. Chaffee, the "father" of the Armored Force; attended the Air Corps Tactical School; commanded the 73rd Observation Group; served as commander of several provisional air commands participating in joint maneuvers and air fire power demonstrations for Army service schools.

In August 1944, Colonel Lee joined the Ninth Air Force in France where he served as Deputy Commander for Operations under Lieutenant General Hoyt S. Vandenberg and shared responsibility for the defeat of Germany in four major campaigns: northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe. He was promoted to Brigadier General in January, 1945. Late in 1945, General Lee was assigned to the Air Section of the Theater General Board directed by General

Eisenhower to analyze the European campaigns and report on the lessons learned.

In January 1946, General Lee returned to the United States and in April, he became the first Chief of Staff of the newly organized Tactical Air Command at Langley Field, Virginia. In August 1946 he entered the first class of the National War College. After graduation, he was assigned, in July 1947, to Tactical Air Command as Deputy commanding General and promoted to Major General.

In July 1950, General Lee assumed command of Air Task Group 3.4, the Air Force element of operation GREENHOUSE which culminated in the atomic bomb test at Eniwetok during the spring of 1951. In 1951, General Lee was named Director of Plans, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

In November 1953, General Lee was assigned to command the Fourth Allied Tactical Air Force and the Twelfth United States Air Force in Europe. The former constituted the largest tactical air force in Allied Command Europe, committed to the Supreme Allied Commander, consisting of United States, French, and Canadian air forces. During this period, General Lee was instrumental in improving community relations between occupied areas and military forces. As the first Air Force president of the Association of American Rod 7 gun Clubs in Europe he increased the number of associate clubs from sixty to over ninety and he was made an honorary member of the Deutsch Jager Bund. When he returned to the United States in 1957, he became Commander of the Ninth Air Force, with headquarters at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.

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On 15 July 1958, he was promoted to rank of lieutenant general to become Chief of Staff, United Nations Command and United States Forces, Korea. He was instrumental in build up of units and facilities of the ROK Air Force. In September 1959, he returned to the United States to become Vice Commander of the Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado, becoming Commander in March 1961. General Lee supervised the mining, construction and equipping of the NORAD underground control center and was responsible for getting the Air Defense Command into space surveillance.

He was promoted to general on July 1, 1963 and assumed the duties of Air Deputy to the Supreme Allied commander, Europe. General Lee retired at SHAPE Headquarters, Paris, France, on August 1, 1966.

A command pilot with more than 9,000 hours of flying time, General Lee includes among his

awards and decorations the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star medal, and Air Medal. His various awards and decorations from U.S. allies, include the French Legion of Honor in the grade of Grand Officer and the Croix de Guerre with Palm; Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and the Korean Order of Military Merit, Taeguk, with silver star.

General Lee married Mary Hall Van Pelt of Montgomery, Alabama on December 27, 1940. They had three sons: Richard, a 1966 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Robert Jr. and David. Mrs. Lee died following a short illness January 24, 1973. In December 1974 General Lee married Mary Frances Donnellan. General and Mrs. Lee reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Falcon Foundation:

It is our pleasure to provide a Scholarship in Perpetuity honoring a longtime, close friend, General Robert M. Lee. We served together during World War II in the Advanced Headquarters of the 9th Air Force from France through Luxembourg, Belgium, and into Germany, then later during Pentagon years. He has always been a very dedicated, unselfish, capable officer and leader. We have enjoyed his gracious and friendly manner during these past fifty years. His military accomplishments and commands are indicative of the high esteem in which he is held by his peers.

We hope the fortunate young person who receives this scholarship will be inspired by the achievements of General Lee.

Sincerely,

Gertrude Skelly Trust

Donald J. Smart
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.