



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

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**BRIGADIER GENERAL  
WILLIAM R. LOVELACE, II**

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U.S. AIR FORCE

# Brigadier General William R. Lovelace, II

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**W**illiam Randolph Lovelace, II, was an accomplished surgeon and a leading pioneer in both aeronautical and space medicine.

He was the recognized leader in the national community of life sciences, and was respected internationally as a great specialist in medical aspects of space flight. Not only was he an architect of national policy on aeronautics and astronautics, but he held office or membership in numerous national and international medical organizations.

He was greatly responsible for the 14-day medical experiment mission of Gemini VIII and for the manned space Mercury flights. But it was the solid basis of his scientific accomplishments and his personal examples of heroism that won him international renown.

William Randolph Lovelace was born December 30, 1907 in Springfield, Missouri.

He went to Harvard Medical School, and was graduated in 1934. A fellowship to the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research in Rochester, Minn., from 1936 to 1941, was interrupted by one year in Europe where he studied surgery on a J. William White scholarship. In 1940 he earned an M.S. in surgery at the University of Minnesota. From 1940 - 46 he was head of a section on surgery at the Mayo Clinic although from 1942 on he was on military duty.

An early interest in oxygen-breathing equipment for aviators had led him to attend the Air Corps School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, Texas, from which he was graduated and rated as a flight surgeon in 1937. He had already been

commissioned a first lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Group of the Army in 1935.

Together with Dr. Walter M. Boothby and Dr. Arthur H. Bulbulian of the Mayo Clinic, he developed an oxygen mask designed to protect the pilot at high altitude. For this "BLB" mask and his other contributions to aviation medicine he was named a co-winner of the Robert J. Collier Trophy in 1940.

During the war years Lovelace participated in many missions overseas. He took part in the air evacuation of patients from Normandy to England early in the invasion and from France and Africa to the Zone of Interior, and he was awarded the Air Medal.

At the Aero Medical Laboratory, Colonel Lovelace tested numerous items of flight equipment. These included a small bailout cylinder containing about 12 minutes' supply of oxygen for use in emergency descent by parachute from high altitude. He volunteered to jump from an altitude of 40,200 feet. The record-making jump was made on June 24, 1943 from a B-17 near Euphrata, Washington. Experience from this test led to further testing and improvement of parachute equipment and techniques needed for high-altitude bailouts - and the saving of many lives. For this achievement Lovelace was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

His uncle, Dr. W.R. Lovelace, and he established the Lovelace Foundation for Medical Education and Research at Albuquerque.

The Lovelace Foundation worked closely with the U.S. Air Force during the next decade and a half

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in carrying out studies and medically testing the X-15 pilots and other Air Force personnel who were flying nearer than ever to the edge of space.

From 1945 to 1955 Lovelace was a member of the Air Force's Scientific Advisory board, and was Chairman of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council of the Department of Defense. His last military duty with the Air Force was as a Reserve Brigadier General assigned to Systems Command, Andrews AFB, Maryland.

The Air Force Association awarded him, jointly with Brig. Gen. Donald Flickinger, the Airpower Trophy in 1959 for "the most outstanding contribution to airpower and national security in the field of science," and he was president of the Air

Force Association in 1963 and 1964.

He served as a member of the NASA Advisory Committee on Flight Medicine and Biology from 1959 to 1961; as chairman, Special Advisory Committee on Life Sciences, 1959- 63; and as senior consultant to the Office of Manned Space Flight, 1963-64.

When Randy Lovelace was killed in a light plane crash in the Colorado Rockies on December 12, 1965, the President of the United States summed up the nation's reaction with these words: "His life was too short - although his legacy to space medicine will endure and will be a resource of assurance to future astronauts whose names and deeds are yet unknown."

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*Dear General Bellis:*

*The great leaders, for whom the Falcon Scholarships are named, have set outstanding examples of leadership and service and built a solid foundation for others to follow and build on.*

*We hope this scholarship will inspire and encourage the recipient to achieve his or her goals.*

*We are privileged to provide this opportunity for the development of future leaders.*

*Iron Gate Chapter*

*Air Force Association*

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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.