



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

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**MAJOR GENERAL  
WILLIAM LYON**

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U.S. AIR FORCE

# Major General William Lyon

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General Lyon was the third Chief of the Air Force Reserve under Public Law 90-168, as selected by the USAF Chief of Staff, General David C. Jones. Before being appointed to that prestigious position, he served as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander of the 15th Air Force, SAC.

A native Californian, General Lyon attended the University of Southern California and the Dallas Air College in Texas. He is married to Willa Dean Harwell of Haskell, Texas. They have five children - Bill, Byron, Christine, Marcia, Susan and four grandchildren.

At age 16, General Lyon began his flying career. He qualified for his commercial and instructor rating and in 1943 began instructing in Phoenix, Arizona. While in civilian status he served as an instructor on both Army Air Corps and Naval aviation programs. General Lyon enlisted in the Army Air Corps Reserve on October 9, 1943. In 1944 he joined the Army Air Corps, first as a civilian and later was appointed as a flight officer. He ferried airplanes in Africa, England and the Pacific before being assigned to fly transports in North Africa.

After being commissioned in 1947, General Lyon participated in the Air Force Reserve's flying unit program. During that period he was an airline pilot. General Lyon volunteered for and was recalled to active duty in March 1951. During the Korean War he flew 75 combat missions in a Special Operations unit. Returning to civilian life 1954, he was assigned to the Air Force Reserve's flying unit program in California. During the ensuing years he continued many Air Force Reserve assignments including Operations Officer, Squadron Commander, Group Commander, and Wing Vice Commander. His first General Officer position was as Mobilization Assis-

tant to the Commander of ALFC in Sacramento.

General Lyon's significant business career began in 1954 and continues today. He actively heads a large group of real estate companies which include home building and apartment construction and management. During this time he has built over 75,000 homes and more than 15,000 apartments. Additionally, General Lyon was Chairman and CEO of AirCal, a regional airline serving many western states and Canada. American Airlines purchased the company in 1987 and General Lyon was named to their Board of Directors.

General Lyon and his wife, Willa Dean, have been affiliated with many philanthropic organizations in Orange County, California where they make their home. Since his Air Force retirement in 1979, General Lyon's military affiliates include:

*Chairman, Falcon Foundation, USAF Academy*

*Chairman, Academy Research and Development Institute, USAF Academy*

*Director, Air Force Academy Foundation, Inc. USAF Academy*

*Member, Advisory Committee, Association of Graduates, USAF Academy*

*Life Member, Reserve Officers Association*

*Director, The American Air Museum, Duxford, England*

The Academy Research and Development Institute established the first endowed chair at the Air Force Academy. This was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on October 13, 1989 under the Department of Philosophy. It is known as the "William Lyon Chair in Professional Ethics" and gives permanent recognition to his national service leadership.

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*Dear General Bellis:*

*It is with great pride that the family of Major General William Lyon gives this Falcon Foundation scholarship in tribute to our father, grandfather, husband and friend whom we all are very proud of and admire.*

*To honor General Lyon's many accomplishments in the Air Force, his leadership in the community and business world, and to recognize his devotion to his family, we give this scholarship in his name.*

*Knowing this gift will assist many young individuals in their great desire to enter the Air Force Academy gives the Lyon family the opportunity to express our sincere love and affection.*

*Willa Dean Lyon*

Willa Dean Lyon

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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.