



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

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**DONALD A. QUARLES**

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# Donald A. Quarles

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Donald A. Quarles was given an interim appointment as Secretary of the Air Force by President Eisenhower, August 11, 1955, and sworn into office August 15, 1955 - confirmed by the Senate on February 16, 1956.

Mr. Quarles was born in Van Buren, Arkansas, July 30, 1894. After completing high school there, he enrolled in the University of Missouri Summer School at Columbia in 1910, 1911, and 1912, teaching mathematics in the Van Buren High School during the intervening seasons. Entering Yale University in 1912, he was graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1916. He enlisted in the Army in May 1917, served two years in France and Germany, and was discharged with the rank of Captain in the Field Artillery.

Employed as an engineer by the Western Electric company during 1920 and 1921, Mr. Quarles studied theoretical physics as a part-time student at Columbia. Joining the Inspection Engineering Department of Western Electric in 1924 (which became the Bell Telephone Laboratories the following year), four years later he was in the Outside Plan Development Department, being placed in charge of this department the following year.

From 1940 to 1944, Mr. Quarles was Director of the Transmission Development Department which concentrated on military electronic systems, particularly radar, of Bell Telephone Laboratories. He was then appointed Director of Apparatus Development, and in 1946 also became a member of the newly established Committee on Electronics of the Joint Research and Development Board, Department of Defense, and in 1949 he was named Chairman of that committee.

Meanwhile, in 1948 Mr. Quarles was designated Vice President of Bell Telephone Laboratories. On March 1, 1952, he was made Vice President of Western Electric and President of Sandia Corporation, a Western Electric subsidiary which operated the Sandia Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the Atomic Energy Commission.

On September 1, 1953, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development). Selected jointly by the Secretaries of Defense and Commerce to be the first Chairman of the reorganized Air Navigation Development Board in January 1954, two months later the President appointed Mr. Quarles a member of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Mr. and Mrs. Quarles considered Englewood, New Jersey, as their home community although they lived many years in Washington, D.C. By a former marriage Mr. Quarles had two daughters and a son; Carolyn Anne, Mrs. Stanley C. Lewis, and Donald Aubrey, Jr. Mrs. Quarles has a daughter, Mrs. E. F. Dressner, by a former marriage.

Active in civic affairs in Englewood, Mr. Quarles served as a member and then President of the Common Council from 1940 to 1946 and as Mayor from 1946 to 1948.

In recognition of his achievement in the engineering field, Mr. Quarles has been awarded the following honorary degrees: Doctor of Engineering, University of Arkansas, June 6, 1953; Doctor of Engineering, New York University, May 7, 1955; Doctor of Science, Grinnell College, June 3, 1956; Doctor of Science, Stevens Institute, June 9, 1956.

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Mr. Quarles was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Yale Engineering Association and the Telephone Pioneers of America, and is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the Institute of Radio Engineers and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. He served a number of years as a Director of the latter institute and as its President from August 1952 until August 1953.

Among Mr. Quarles' published papers are: "A New Type of Underground Telephone Wire," Bell System Technical Journal, July 1936; "Motion of Telephone Wire in Wind," Bell System Technical Journal, April 1930; and "Radar Systems Considerations," Electrical Engineering, April 1946.

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*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 daughter 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 Donald A. Quarles, Secretary of the United States Air Force (15 August 1955 to 30 April 1957).*

*Sincerely,  
Gertrude Skelly Trust*

*Edward P. Stewart*  
Trustee

*John R. March Jr.*  
Trustee

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