

SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

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**W. STUART SYMINGTON**

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# W. Stuart Symington

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**W**. Stuart Symington became the first Secretary of the Air Force on September 18, 1947. He had previously served from January 31, 1946, as Assistant Secretary of War for Air when the Army Air Force was a part of the War Department.

Mr. Symington had served in the government since he accepted an appointment as Chairman of the Surplus Property Board in July 1945. Previously, he had been President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Emerson Electric Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

Symington was born June 26, 1901, at Amherst, Massachusetts. His father, William Stuart Symington, was at that time a member of the faculty at Amherst College. His mother was the former Emily Haxall Harrison of Baltimore.

After graduating from Baltimore City College (a high school) in 1918, Symington enlisted in the Army as a private and was discharged in 1919 as a second lieutenant. Later in the fall of that year Symington entered Yale University, from which he received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Early in 1941, at the request of the Army, Navy, and War Production Board, Symington went to England with a group of aeronautical engineers to study the new art of power gun turrets on military planes.

Symington returned from England to the United States in June, 1941, and then built the nation's first gun turret plant as part of Emerson. The company produced power-driven turrets for Army Air Force and Navy planes.

When in early 1950 it became clear the Air Force

was to be reduced below 50 Groups, Symington resigned in protest as Air Force Secretary, but later agreed to the President's suggestion he stay on in government as Chairman of the National Security Resource Board, a position which put him, by statute, on the National Security Council. There he could make his plea for air power on an equal basis with the Secretary of Defense.

Shortly thereafter came Korea; whereupon everything Symington had requested for the Air Force was approved, and a great deal more.

In 1951, Symington expressed a desire to return to Emerson, but President Truman stated he wanted him to go over to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) where he had heard there were problems. This he did, for the year 1951.

Sometime during that year at the RFC, various people in Missouri suggested to Symington that he run for the United States Senate. This he did, was elected in 1952, and retired voluntarily in 1977.

At the present time Symington is Vice Chairman and Director First American Bankshares, Inc. of Washington, D.C.; also a Director of their New York subsidiary, First American Bank of Albany, New York, and First American of New York City.

In 1924 Symington married Evelyn Wadsworth, daughter of United States Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr. of Geneseo, New York. They had two sons, Stuart Jr. (Tim) of St. Louis, born in 1925; and James W. of Washington, D.C., born in 1927. Evelyn Symington died in 1972. In 1978 former Senator Symington married Ann Hemingway Watson of New Canaan, Connecticut. He has six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

# W. Stuart Symington

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Honors of Special Awards include the following:

- 1947 Medal of Merit, Presidential
- 1948 H. H. Arnold Award,  
Air Force Association
- 1952 Distinguished Serve Medal, Presidential
- 1956 H. H. Arnold Award,  
Air Force Association
- 1957 Wright Brother Memorial Trophy,  
National Aeronautic Association
- 1957 H. H. Arnold Award,  
Veterans of Foreign Wars
- 1976 Harry S. Truman Public Service Award,  
Independence, Missouri
  
- 1977 Exceptional Civilian Service Award,  
U.S. Air Force

Honorary Degrees:

1948, Doctor of Laws, Bryant College, Providence, R.I; 1950, Doctor of Laws, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 1953 Doctor of Laws, William Jewell College, Liberty, MO; 1957, Doctor of Laws, Park College, Parkville, MO; 1958, Doctor of Letters, College of Osteopathy and Surgery, Kirksville, MO; 1959, Doctor of Law, Rockhurst College, Kansas City, MO; 1959, Doctor of Laws, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; 1963, Doctor of Laws, Avila College, Kansas City, MO; 1963 Doctor of Human Letters, Missouri Valley College, Marshall, MO; 1965, Doctor of Laws, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO; 1966, Doctor of Laws, Washington University, St. Louis, MO; 1969, Doctor of Laws, Williams Woods College, Fulton, MO; 1972, Doctor of Laws, Drury College, Springfield, MO; 1973, Doctor of Laws, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO; 1973, Doctor of Political Science, Westminster College, Fulton, MO.

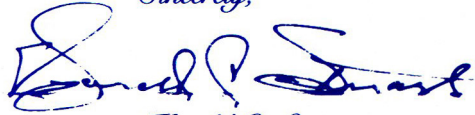
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*The Falcon Foundation*

*It is our privilege to establish a scholarship, in perpetuity, honoring W. Stuart Symington, the first Secretary of the United States Air Force (September 18, 1947-April 24, 1950). It was Secretary Symington who conceived and first formulated a plan for the United States Air Force Academy. As the first Air Force Secretary, he provided the inspiration, tenacity, diplomacy and leadership necessary to quickly place the Air Force on an equal basis with the other services.*

*It was my privilege to serve with him as one of his Assistant Secretaries and to profit from his wisdom and foresight. Our country will forever be indebted to him.*

*Sincerely,*



*Harold C. Stuart  
Trustee for  
The Gertrude Skelly Trust*



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.