



FALCON
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

BRIGADIER GENERAL
ROGER L. ZELLER

U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVES

Brigadier General Roger L. Zeller

Brig. Gen. Roger L. Zeller distinguished himself in many Air Force activities including active combat in World War II and various staff and command positions.

Shortly after his graduation from the University of Illinois, he joined the Illinois National Guard and was mobilized with the Horse Cavalry at Camp Livingston in 1940. He applied for Air Cadet training, was accepted, and entered flying training with the Air Force. He finished primary training at Hicks Field, basic training at Goodfellow Field, and graduated as a pilot and Second Lieutenant from Brooks Field in 1942.

He served in England and North Africa for 14 months with the 12th and 15th Air Forces, flying combat missions in B-26's out of North Africa with the 319th Bomb Group. In a bombing run over Sardinia, he was shot down and spent four months in a prison camp at Chieti, Italy. After Italy capitulated in 1943 and the Germans were moving all prisoners to Germany, he escaped and returned to Allied Forces in Southern Italy after 24 days behind the line. Shortly thereafter, he was returned to the United States and assigned to Del Rio, Texas, as a B-26 instructor. In 1944 he was reassigned to the Pentagon until he was discharged in 1946.

Roger Zeller participated in various Reserve assignments until the Korean War when he was recalled to active duty. He served two years as Deputy Group Commander and Executive Officer of Lackland Air Force Base. In 1962 he was returned to Inactive Reserve status as a Brigadier General.

The positions he has held as a Reserve Officer include: National President of the Reserve Officers Association and a member of the Advisory Policy

Board to the Secretary of the Air Force. For years, he was active with the Reserve Officers Association, the Air Force Association, American Legion, and the Daedalians.

In 1946, upon separation from the military service, he entered the life insurance business. He has served as officer and director of several different companies. In addition to his past insurance interests, he is now president and owner of Columbia Industries, Inc. of San Antonio, the world's largest producer of bowling balls.

General Zeller has been active in many civic organizations, such as: Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Manufacturers Association and National Bowling Council. He served on the Board of Governors of St. Mary's University, as a director of various banks and for five years as Honorary Consul for South Korea. He presently serves on the Advisory Board of Villa Rosa Hospital.

Shortly after graduation from college, Roger married Miss Laura Dietzel, daughter of one of the pioneer families in San Antonio.

General and Mrs. Zeller recently donated a Bronze Statue of the Minute Man which will stand in the Memorial Hall of the Reserve Officers Association in Washington, D.C. The contribution was made in memory of Mrs. Zeller's only brother, Lt. Edwin F. Dietzel, a Reserve Officer and B-29 pilot, who lost his life while flying the Super Fortress on a Tokyo bombing raid in 1945.

General Zeller's decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart.

Dear General Zeller:

In recognition of your very distinguished service career in the Air Force, which covered a wide range of achievements in combat, staff and command positions, as well as your continuing interest and support of the Air Force, the Falcon Foundation is pleased to establish this annual scholarship in your honor. This means that some deserving and motivated young man or woman who aspires to a career in the Air Force will receive preparatory school training to facilitate entrance to the Academy. Through this scholarship, you will continue to contribute to the Air Force and to the security of our country.

Sincerely,


J. B. Montgomery
President



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.