



Falcon Footnote Alumni Special Edition

USAFA DFH Alumni Association

December 2025



Charlie Brown's Christmas Tree... Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer... Frosty the Snowman... *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*... *Elf*... The Island of Misfit Toys... *The Grinch That Stole Christmas*... If you read that list and didn't remember any of them, then you are too young to read this letter.

Thanks again to Brenda Roth, Don Bishop, Mark and Donna Clodfelter, Larry Skogen, John Terino, and Dik Daso for this Holiday Edition of the Falcon Footnote. This one is especially important because it captures in words and pictures the 2nd DFH Alumni Reunion held in October. There were high points and firsts during those three days.

First, we sponsored the reception for the Harmon Memorial Lecture. This was our first serious give back

to the department, and we followed that up with our gift support for the annual Historical Weapons Shoot. Donna spearheaded the entire reunion, and it was first class. The one comment I can make about the Harmon (Mark covers this in more detail in the summary article) is this... it will be hard to beat in the future. F1 filled with standing and applauding cadets for a history presentation is hard to recreate.

Second, we stand among only a few to have seen the Chapel in the Box on the inside. The restoration effort is a work of engineering and love. Seeing the effort as it comes closer to completion up close is awe inspiring.

Third, taking a few moments to remember our friends that have passed was and always is sobering and moving. We lost several of our comrades, and you will find a complete list in this *Footnote*.

Fourth, we recognized our 2024 and 2025 Distinguished Alumni. Ted Hitchcock led this effort and we heard from Al Hurley, Colette Reddel and Emilee Reynolds who received the memorial plaques remembering Brig Gens Al Hurley, Carl Reddel, and Jon Reynolds. It is our intent, with the Department's support to honor all the recipients in an area near DFH in Fairchild Hall.

More details to follow on that one.

Finally, we had a rare moment of history. Major General Rohr, an outstanding example of what we should all aspire to be, was the senior first generation DFHer present (he arrived in the department in 1960). On the other end, we had three cadets from the class of 2026 who will attend graduate school after graduation and return to the department after an operational tour. In one room, for one time, we had every generation of DFH represented. It was simply awe inspiring and a humbling moment.

So here is the important point. **The next DFH reunion will be 12-14 October 2027**. So, for all of you who are big planners, this is the moment to pull out your calendars and mark those dates. The first two have been amazing and the third one will shatter your expectations.

Finally, on one sad note, as this edition was going to final, we learned of the loss of department member Roger Fosdick and Friend of the Department Mark Berent. In the next issue we will have more information. On behalf of everyone on the *Footnote* staff let me wish you Happy Holidays and may 2026 be the year that everyone gets their hearts' desire.

—Larry Weaver

Start planning now for the DFHAA 2027 Reunion. Save the Date for 12-14 October 2027! Stay tuned!

SECOND DFH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION A SUCCESS

Mark "Clod" Clodfelter, (USAFA Class of 1977; DFH 1983-1984; 1987-1990

Former DFHers and their friends gathered in Colorado Springs for the organization's second reunion October 14-16 in an event highlighted by a superb Harmon Memorial Lecture and tributes to three leading members of USAFA's history department.

Special features of the gathering also included tours of the "Chapel in a Box," the moniker given to the Academy's Chapel that is undergoing extensive restoration; a tour of the new southside glassed-in seating area of Falcon Stadium; and a memorial service for DFHers who have passed away.

Katherine "Kate" Sharp Landdeck, professor of history at Texas Woman's University, kicked off the festivities with a rousing Harmon Lecture examining the role of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) in World War II, illustrating how their contribution provided the foundation for the later admission of women to the nation's service academies.



The Academy Superintendent, Lt Gen Tony Bauernfeind, and the Acting Dean, Col Steven Hasstedt, both attended, but by far the most spirited members of the audience were freshman cadets in the Class of 2029 taking the history department's core course in military history. Every time that Professor Landdeck mentioned the number "29," as in the "B-29 bomber," the cadets

roared in approval. Her lecture ended with an enthusiastic standing ovation—likely the first ever received by a Harmon Lecturer.

On the morning of October 15th, History Department Permanent Professor Col Meg Martin gave an outstanding presentation assessing the Academy's current challenges and future objectives, along with specific departmental requirements and goals. She paused frequently during a detailed briefing to answer questions from attendees.



Col Martin briefing us on DF and DFH.

Colonel Martin noted that DFH currently has 26 instructors, consisting of 14 military officers and 12 civilian professors. Required courses for history majors include: History 100, "Introduction to Military History"; History 200, "Introduction to Historical Methodology"; History 210, "Early American History Through the Civil War"; History 220, "American History Since Reconstruction"; and History 300, "Introduction to World His-

tory." As for elective history courses, the department offered 17 in Spring 2025, to include many regional history offerings; courses on World War II, the Vietnam War, the American Civil War, and Air Power; and "Modern Colonial Empires and Decolonization," "Oceanic Systems," and "Film in History."

Determining whether "World History" or "American History"—or both—will become required courses in USAFA's core academic curriculum remains an on-going dilemma. This academic year, World and Military History are the two required core courses, though indications have been received that American History could replace World History in the core. DFH is currently testing how much American History background entering cadets possess to help resolve the quandary.

History majors complete two "capstone" courses: History 400, "Advanced Historiography," in the spring semester of their junior year, and History 401, a follow-on course in the Firstie year's fall semester. Foreign Area Specialists complete a Capstone historiography course in the spring of their Firstie Year.

Colonel Martin added that the department now offers an academic minor in air power studies. She further remarked that the Class of 2026 has 17 history majors, with another 10 cadets majoring as Foreign Area Specialists. The Class of 2027 has 26 majors and 14 Foreign Area Specialists; the Class of 2028, 36 majors and 10 Area Specialists; and the freshman Class of 2029, which is not yet required to declare a major, has seven history majors and one Area Specialist.

In the recently graduated

Class of 2025, 23 cadets were history majors, and four were Foreign Area Studies specialists. The department typically receives two graduate school slots each year for its top majors, though it has three selectees for the Class of 2026. DFH also presents 10 cadet awards to top members of the senior class each May.

After lunch and a memorial service in Doolittle Hall, former DFHers and their friends toured department faculty offices on the sixth floor of Fairchild Hall. For those who remembered the wooden cubicles that served as offices during the 1960s, 70s, 80s, and 90s, the transformation in DFH was breathtaking. Individual offices—complete with doors! Many overlook the parade field.

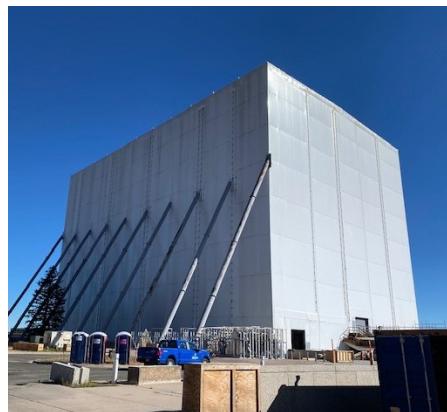


The painting of an F-86 pilot now hanging in DFH's art gallery in the department

In addition, a magnificent collection of art work, much of it secured on loan from the official Air Force Art Collection by former Permanent Professor Brig Gen Mark Wells, lined the hallways, creating a museum-like atmosphere. That art included a Norman Rockwell painting of an F-86 pilot, and the painting of the famous August 17, 1943 raid against the Messerschmitt factories at Regensburg led by Gen Curtis LeMay that hung in his

London office during World War II, and contained a gash caused by a German V-1 “buzz bomb.”

Thursday, October 16th, offered an incredible look inside the “box” enclosing the USAFA Chapel as it undergoes an exten-



The “Chapel in a Box” hides the construction going on inside.

sive restoration to remove asbestos and provide an irrigation system to prevent leaks. That system, which was part of the Chapel’s original plan of construction, was omitted at the last minute in 1963 to save money, and the failure to install it has since produced significant amounts of water damage.

The “box” around the Chapel, and the massive amount of scaffolding inside it, were remarkable, and took almost two years to build. Yet the incredibly detailed work inside the Chapel, including all-new stained glass windows, was equally impressive. The projected completion date is the end of 2028. To anyone witnessing the on-going reconstruction effort and the amount of work remaining, that completion date makes sense.

After lunch at the gleaming new Polaris Hotel, just outside the North Gate and across from where the new Visitors Center is being constructed, DFHers and their friends toured the recently built portion on the southside of Falcon Stadium. Designed for well-heeled Acade-

my donors, the glass-enclosed box seating area is a magnificent addition to a venerable stadium that needed substantial overhauls. Those include new food stands for all fans in southside seats, as well as upgraded bathroom facilities and a well-equipped team store.

The highlight of the three-day event was the Thursday night banquet at the Antlers Hotel honoring three distinguished DFH alumni: Brig Gens Jon Reynolds, Carl Reddel, and Al Hurley.

But before acknowledging those individuals, former DFHer Larry Weaver, Alumni Association President and “Master of Ceremonies” for the reunion, mentioned retired USAF Maj Gen Davis Rohr, who attended the reunion with his daughters Ellen and Jean. General Rohr, who turned 96 on October 29th (he reminded us that he was born on the day of the Big Crash in 1929). He first taught in DFH in the early 1960s, and he attended the first reunion in 2023. He had a laudatory and colorful Air Force career. He regaled us with his stories throughout the gathering. Larry presented him with an Air Force scarf after the dinner, and he wore it for the rest of the evening.

General Reynolds was honored as the first distinguished DFH alumnus of the reunion. He was shot down flying an F-105 over North Vietnam in 1965 and spent almost eight years in the Hanoi Hilton. ADM James Stockdale, the highest-ranking Navy POW in the prison, called General Reynolds “the bravest man I have ever known,” and the general’s calm demeanor was testimony to Admiral Stockdale’s assessment.

After receiving a master’s and PhD from Duke, General Reynolds directed both World and Military History for DFH.

He also became the Air Attaché and Defense Attaché to the People's Republic of China from 1984-1988, and then served as Chief Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force. General Reynolds' wife, Emilee, received a plaque acknowledging



Emilee Reynolds, Gen Reynolds widow accepting the award

his achievements as a distinguished alumnus.

Brig Gen Carl Reddel served as Permanent Professor and Head of the history department from 1982-1999. Before, he directed DFH's World History program that garnered international recognition. With a PhD from Indiana University, General Reddel continued to promote World History while department head, and he expanded the prominence of USAFA's biennial mili-



Colette Reddel, Gen Reddel's widow accepting the award, accompanied by her son, Damian

tary history symposium and the annual Harmon Lecture. His proficiency in Russian history and language enabled him to become an exchange officer at Moscow University in 1975, and then led to his selection as the American Director of the On-Site Inspection Agency with the USSR from 1988-1991. After leaving DFH, he served for 20 years as Executive Director of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, resulting in the Memorial's dedication in 2020. General Reddel's wife Colette accepted a plaque in his honor, and his son, Damian Reddel, and Damian's wife, Dawn, were present as well.

Brig Gen Al Hurley served as DFH Permanent Professor and Head from 1966-1980. He had a master's and PhD from Princeton University, and was a C-97 navigator who flew 70 reconnaissance



Al Hurley, Jr. accepting the award.

missions over Germany during the height of the Cold War. His 1964 book, *Billy Mitchell: Crusader for Air Power*, received worldwide acclaim, and he was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 1971 and a Fellow at the Eisenhower Institute of the Smithsonian Institution from 1976-1977. Yet his enduring legacy at DFH was making it a powerhouse department that sponsored a biennial international military history symposium and the superb Harmon Memorial Lecture series.

After retiring from the Air Force, he became President of the University of North Texas from 1982 to 2002—as well as the University of North Texas System's Chancellor. General Hurley's son, Al Jr., accepted a plaque in his father's honor.

Duplicate plaques for Generals Reynolds, Reddel, and Hurley will hang in the DFH faculty section of Fairchild Hall. Additionally, the names of those recipients will adorn the "Distinguished DFHers" bronze eagle statue in the department, along with the name of the first Academy grad to become Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen Ron Fogleman, who in 2023 became the first member of the DFH Alumni Association to receive the award.



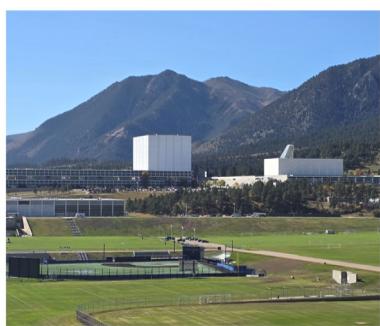
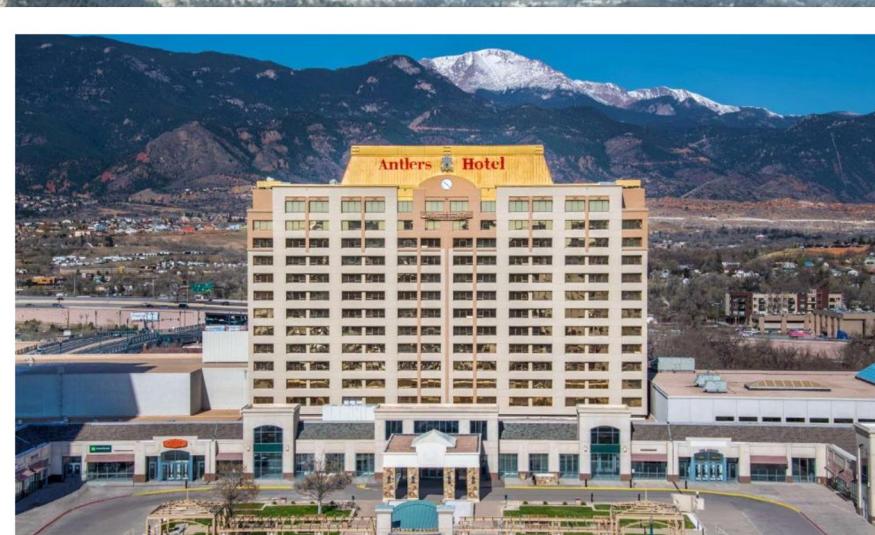
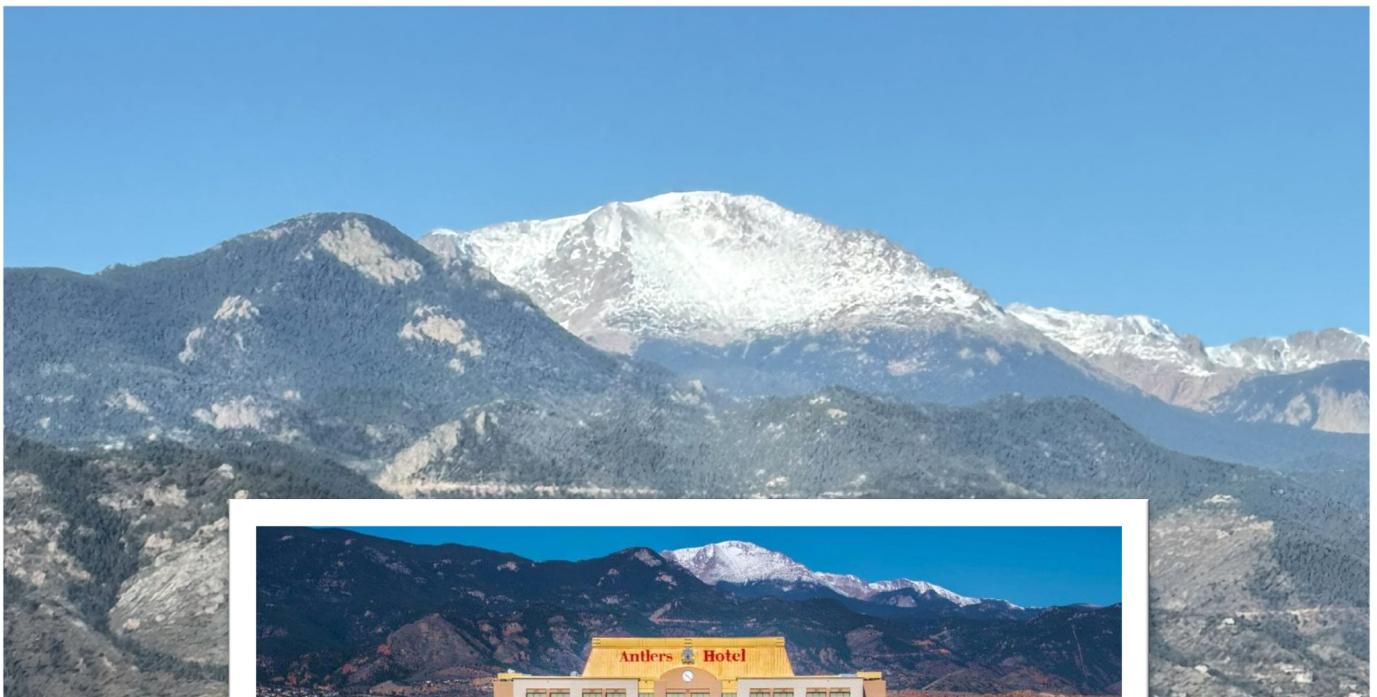
The group poses for a final picture.

Distinguished Alumni Awards appear on the Association's YouTube Channel at the following link: [USAFA Department of History Alumni Association - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@USAFAHistoryAlumniAssociation).

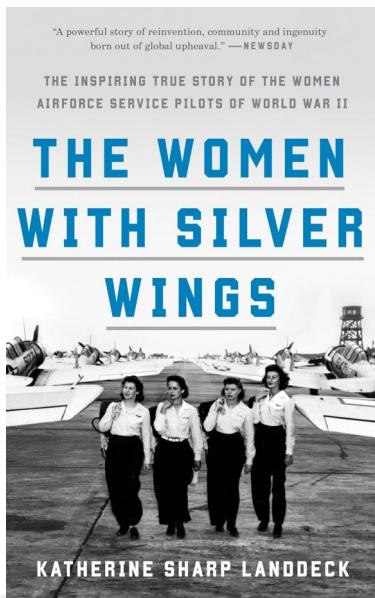
Plans for the next reunion are already underway, with it tentatively scheduled for the week of the Columbus Day holiday in 2027. Mark your long-range calendars now to join in the celebration!



DFHAA REUNION 2025 IN PICTURES



The 67th HARMON MEMORIAL LECTURE



67TH HARMON MEMORIAL LECTURE



Dr. Katherine Sharp Landdeck
Professor of History, Texas Woman's University
Author of *The Women With Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II*

"Experiment in the Cockpit"

The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) of World War II and the integration of women into the service academies

Tuesday
October 14, 2025
7 p.m.

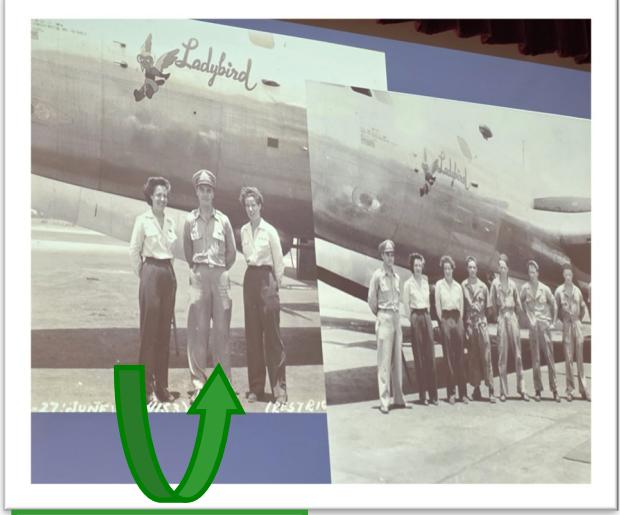
Arnold Hall Theater
2308 Cadet Drive,
Air Force Academy,
CO 80840

Military:
Service Dress
Civilian:
Business Attire

EVENT LEADS

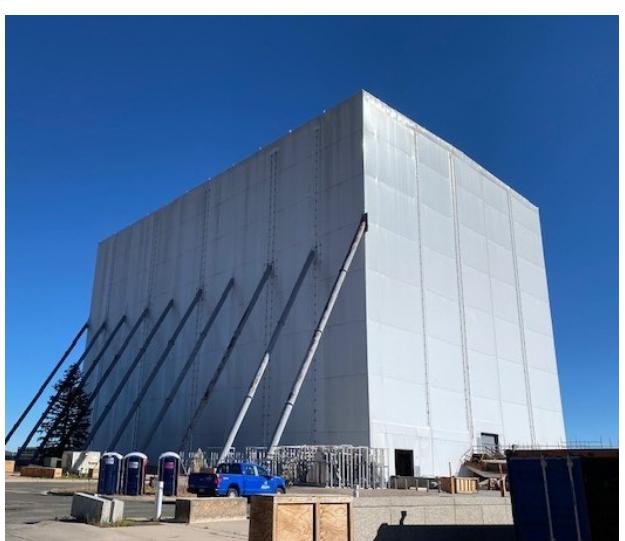
Lt Col Winston Jean-Pierre
Duty: (719) 333-8536

Maj Nicholas Eckenrode
Duty: (719) 333-8611



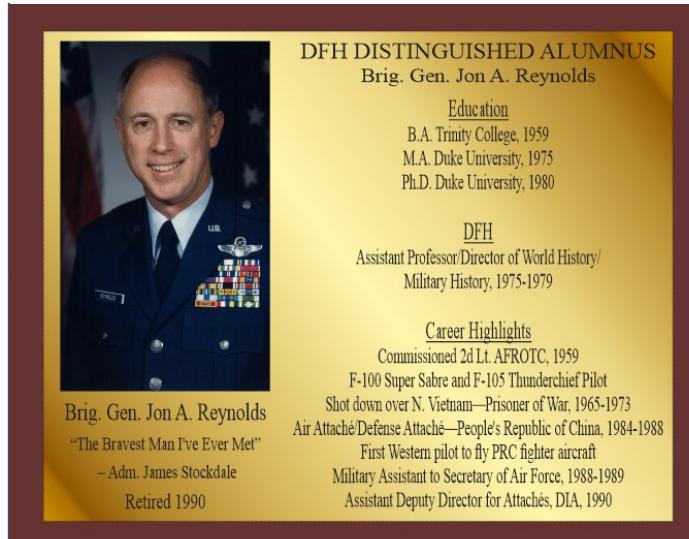
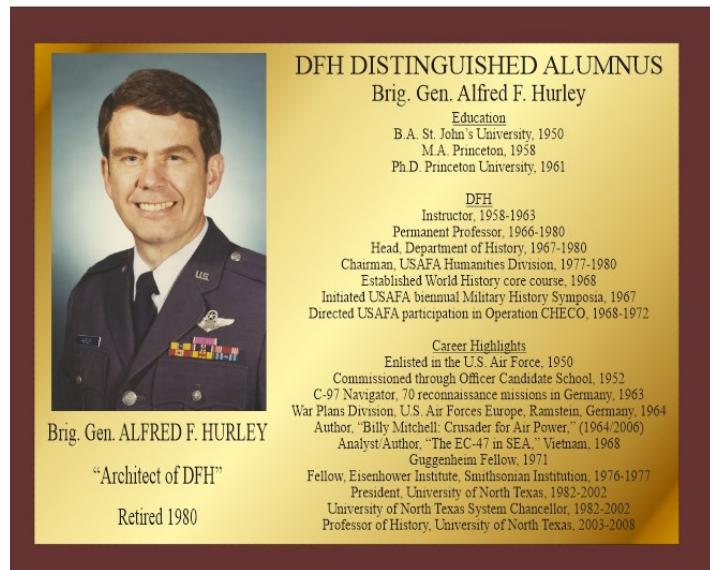
Paul W. Tibbets, Jr.

WE CAME, WE SAW, WE CONNECTED



Department of History Distinguished Alumnus Awards

This award was created in 2023 and the first one was presented to Gen Ronald Fogleman at the 2023 DFHAA reunion. The award goes to the alum who made significant contributions in service to DFH, the Air Force, and the nation. Duplicate plaques will be displayed in the department.



WE GATHERED IN MEMORY

Mark Wells (USAFA Class of 1975, DFH 1983-1986, 1993-2016)

We've come together this afternoon to remember and memorialize our former friends and colleagues from the Department of History (DFH). Before we share a reading of their names, I would like to take a moment to recall what we all have in common. DFH, although not different in the sense of other Academy faculty departments, is, by Air Force standards, almost unique. A precious few organizations are all volunteer, and only a few have the combination of academic, military, professional, and character requirements for service as does this unit. The members of DFH whose names we're about to recall shared a special mission...one we all know and celebrate. Like us, they committed themselves as scholars, teachers, role models, citizens, and servants of the nation. They knew that what they were doing would have an impact on thousands of others. They labored in the classroom, in their offices, and around the Academy tirelessly and for countless hours, in the service of others. Despite the constant intensity, occasional frustration, and knowledge that there was always more work to be done, their sense of satisfaction—even joy—about what they and DFH were accomplishing was genuine and sustaining. Over nearly 41 years of service, I was privileged to serve in scores of Air Force units and joint organizations. DFH stood out—I absolutely never met anybody who served in DFH that said anything but, “This was the very best assignment I ever had.” I dare say the folks we're memorializing would agree. As we read the names, think about how they had an intellectual and life-altering impact on literally thousands of cadets—not to mention generations of future Air Force officers and civilian leadership. Think also about their informal, but no less significant, commitment to their students by way of sponsorship, hosting, mentoring, counseling, inspiring, and even acting as surrogate parents. It brings a chuckle to mind to think about their grocery and commissary bills! Finally, as we read their names, let's take a moment to celebrate them as our brothers and sisters in arms; as those who prepared themselves in mind, body, and soul in the defense of the nation and safety and security of the American people. They served something more important than themselves and we're blessed to have known them. God bless them and the Department of History.

Robert B. Adair	George V. Fagan	Russell W. Mank, Jr.	John G. Schlogl
John S. Albright	John F. Farrell	Richard A. (Tony) Mason	Walter J. Schweiger
Daniel C. Allen	Theodore J. Finnegan	Craig A. McElroy	John H. Scrivner, Jr.
John Allman	Phillip Flammer	Roger L. McElroy	John F. Shiner
Thomas E. Angle	David I. Folkman, Jr.	Thomas F. McGann	Dennis E. Showalter
Sidney F. Baker, Jr.	Roger P. Fox	Harold G. McKinney	William E. Simons
Henry L. Baulch	Charles Frazee	Chauncey W. Meacham	Laun C. Smith
Harry R. Borowski	John L. Frisbee	David R. Mets	Scott Smith
Josephus Bowman	William Geffen	David A. Miles	Wilfred J. Smith
Donald D. Braden	Donald M. Goldstein	Edwin B. Mixon, Jr.	David H. Stables
John Brett	John F. Guilmartin, Jr.	Silas R. Molyneaux	William G. Studebaker
Daniel Bryant	Dennis G. Hall	Nile B. Norton	Victor D. Sutch
Alan Chew	Bernard E. Harvey	Stephen L. Orrison	John L. Sutton
Stephen D. Chiabotti	Robert E. Hays	Alan Osur	Michael R. Terry
Donald M. Clelland	Harold L. Hitchens	Warren G. Peck	Albert H. Thelander
Edward M. Coffman	Henry G. Hofstetter	Thomas A. Phillips	John M. Thompson
James L. “Jack” Cole	Alfred F. Hurley	John L. Poole	W. J. Thorpe
George W. Collins	John W. Huston	David H. Pryce	Douglas M. Tocado
Charles M. Cooke	Elliott L. Johnson	William J. Prout	Jill R. Trout
William M. Crabbe, Jr.	Oakah L. Jones	Carl W. Reddel	Duane C. Tway
Lorenzo M. Crowell	John A. Kerig	George A. Reed	Thomas D. Wade
E. Richard Downes	Timothy E. Kline	Jon A. Reynolds	Glenn E. Wasson
Eldon W. Downs	Theodore Kracht	William L. Richardson	Bynum Weathers, Jr.
Arthur A. Durand	Peter B. Lane	Roger M. Rickey	James E. Weland
Norman E. Eaton	Vernon K. Lane	Ted Roberts	John G. Williams, Jr.
Tyler W. Eldred	Robert C. Leonard	Wilbert H. Ruenheck	Robert E. Wolff
James M. Erdmann	David MacIsaac	John Schlight	Gerald A. W. Worsell
Thomas A. Fabyanic	Donald K. Mangels	Arnold Schrier	Monte D. Wright
		Malcolm Shaw	David H. Zook



Don't miss the current AFHF Podcast

We have a podcast that you don't want to miss. Join Matt Jolley for a wonderful episode of *Know the Past...Shape the Future*.

Our latest episode goes behind the scenes of the new Netflix documentary, *Air Force Elite: Thunderbirds* with director Matt Wilcox and former Thunderbird Commander Colonel Justin Elliott. The film reveals the human side of the Thunderbirds—the pursuit of excellence, the progression, and the very real hardships behind the precision you see in the sky. The team's message is resonating everywhere, from two sisters in Colorado to professional sports organizations. The Thunderbirds' story is making an impact far beyond the flight line. Listen now and hear how it all came together.

Enjoy the podcast and then have a family night to watch the movie. IT IS TERRIFIC!

<https://afhistory.org/podcast/>



Save the Date—13 May 2026

Plan to attend the AFHF Annual Symposium. Next year, the event will take place in the new Air and Space Forces Association Headquarters conference center. The theme for the event is: Unmanned Air and Space Flight—1915-2025. Panels of experts will share their experiences and stories throughout the day. There will also be a working lunch session.

<https://afhistory.org/events/>

Save the Date—14 May 2026

Plan to attend the AFHF Annual Awards Banquet. While the location is still a little secret, the event will take place in the greater DC area from 1800-2200 on Thursday evening.

<https://afhistory.org/events/>



Become A Member: afhistory.org/

AFHF Website: afhistory.org/

The Journal of the AFHF: afhistory.org/journal-of-the-air-force-historical-foundation/



Guests gathered at the tail of the Shuttle at the Udvar Hazy Center during the 2025 AFHF Banquet.. (left to right) Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, Robert B. Arnold with Holley Award recipient, Roger Launius.

The AFHF was founded in 1953 by General Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz and other Air Power pioneers. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving the history and traditions of American aviation and space capabilities, emphasizing the US Air and Space Forces, predecessor organizations, and the individuals whose lives and dreams have been and continue to be devoted to flight and space operations.



DFH CADET WEAPONS SHOOT

A Giving Opportunity



In July 2025 (Volume 34) we published a short article about the DFH Weapons Shoot (original article submitted by Dr. Justin Simundson). The Shoot is conducted at Fort Carson and cadets fire dozens of historical weapons, ranging from muskets and Colt revolvers to Tommy guns, M1 Garands, M16s, and more. The Weapons Shoot started when the Class of 1988 gave a gift-in-kind to make it happen. We can also thank DFH alum, retired Army LTC Nathan Watanabe for his continuing efforts to give cadets a hands-on history lesson.

Because cadet activities and research is no longer being funded, we reached out to all

DFH Alumni Association members and friends of DFH to ask for donations to help fund the Cadet Weapons Shoot (it costs about \$2500). Although LTC Watanabe brings all the weapons to USAFA, the ammunition for firing the weapons is not funded. If you have already given, thank you so much. See the box below for specific instructions on how to give.

LTC Watanabe comes to USAFA before the shoot and briefs cadets on their historical significance as well as safety procedures. During the activity, a cadet serves as Cadet in Charge, giving him or her experience leading a cadre and is trained with weapons from a specific era. Adding more au-

thenticity to the event, the cadre wears full period uniforms. For many cadets who participated, the weapons shoot is the highlight of their time at the Academy and as a history major. Directly experiencing the evolution of US military weapons, equipment, and tactics is a valuable learning opportunity that gives cadets a much greater appreciation of their heritage as members of America's armed forces. Cadets who are able to serve as cadre for the shoot also receive a valuable opportunity to practice leadership in a practical way. The Department of History's mission is "to teach history for the profession of arms," and the weapons shoot is a perfect embodiment of what achieving that mission looks like.

1. Go to this link : [Donation · United States Air Force Academy · Give Campus](#)
2. At the top of the page, choose "One Time" or "Recurring" and either choose an amount or type in an amount you want to give
3. Click on the "View Other Giving Opportunities"
4. Scroll down and click on "Academics"
5. Scroll down to "History Department Fund"
6. Finally, click on your method of payment





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We Are On The Web

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usafadfhalmniassocation.com/

Or

USAFA History Department:
<https://www.usafa.edu/department/history>

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The Air Force Academy Foundation (AFAF) accepts gifts for DFH. The AFAF is the organization “singularly charged with this abiding stewardship of donated funds” in support of the Academy’s mission, providing margins of excellence beyond what federal funding can achieve. If you’re interested in giving to DFH through the AFAF, visit their home page at this [link](#). Then click on the “Give Now” button in the upper right-hand portion of the homepage. Scroll down to “Other Giving Opportunities” In the drop-down menu, click on “Academics” and scroll down to “History Department Fund” Or write to them at:

Air Force Academy Foundation
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USAF Academy, CO 80840-4475
(719) 472-0300

Cadet Wing Halloween (Noon Meal Formation)

