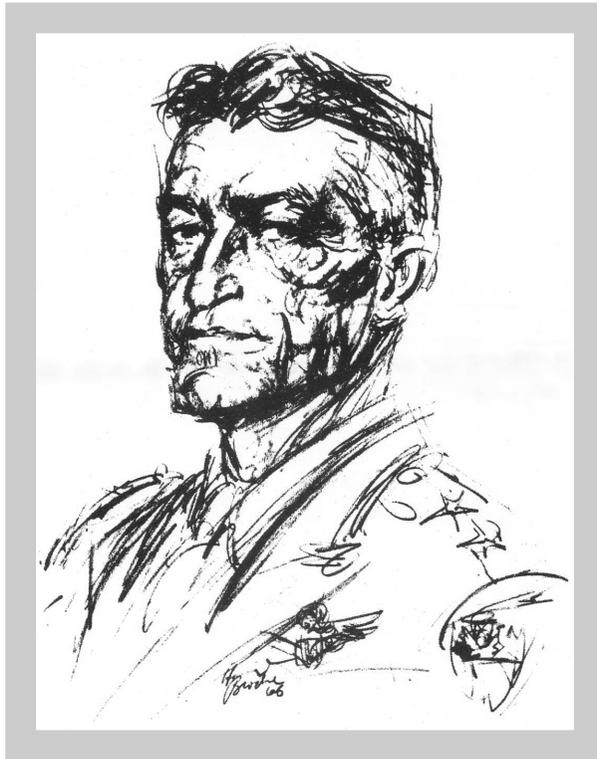




FALCON
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL
CLAIRE L. CHENNAULT**

U.S. AIR FORCE

Lieutenant General Claire L. Chennault

Claire Lee Chennault was born in Commerce, Texas in 1890 and it is not surprising that from his very earliest days he wanted to be a soldier. Through his father, John Stonewall Chennault, he was related to General Sam Houston, and through his mother Jessie Lee, he was related to General Robert E. Lee.

His mother died when he was five years of age and he was raised by his father who had a fine understanding of the love of a boy for the woods. He was ambitious for scholastic excellence, and his love of nature and competitive sports developed him mentally and physically for the role of great fighter pilot which he was to play many years later.

When the United States entered World War I in April of 1917, he immediately applied for flight training, but was rejected because he was then 26 years of age and considered too old. He was accepted, however, for officers training, and won his Commission as a 1st Lieutenant of Infantry. He was transferred to the Signal Corps at Kelly Field and although again rejected for flight training, was taught to fly by sympathetic instructors who gave him unofficial flight instruction and allowed him to solo. At the end of the war his persistence was rewarded and he was ordered to flight training and officially graduated with rating of "Fighter Pilot."

He served for 17 years as a fighter pilot and instructor in fighter tactics in the Army Air Corps. He was a keen student and an articulate proponent of the thesis that an Air Force could never get along without fighters. He opposed the Douhet theory that an Air Force composed of bombers alone could be effective. He argued for more air power and fought for more funds for fighters in the heated pre-World War II dialogue and argument concerning air power tactics for the future.

It is understandable that a strong articulate partisan of fighter aviation would become controversial in a service where philosophy and theory were being debated and tested by men of strength and spirit who were eventually to form the magnificent flying organization which domi-

nated the skies above the earth in World War II. In 1937, after almost 20 years of service, Captain Chennault, in failing health, was taken off of flying status and on April 30, 1937, was officially retired from the United States Army for physical disability.

The next morning he was en route to China. Letters from friends stationed there and an interest in the dynamics of the Pacific situation caused him to accept an offer from Madame Chiang Kai Shek to make a three months survey of the Chinese Air Force.

His personal conviction that the interest of the United States was served by helping the Nationalist Chinese maintain control of China caused him to advocate the formation of the American Volunteer Group. Organized and trained by Chennault, the "Flying Tigers," as they came to be known, won significant and dramatic air victories over the Japanese in initial phases of the United States entry into World War II. Vastly outnumbered, his flyers over China achieved victory ratios of ten to one over a Japanese Air Force which was seriously hurting the United States in every other corner of the Pacific.

Almost six months after Pearl Harbor, the United States Army Air Corps was ready to enter the war in China and Captain Claire Chennault, U.S. Army Retired, was recalled to active duty, given command of the 14th Air Force, and promoted to the rank of Major General. He retired the second time in October of 1945. He was promoted to Lt. General by an Act of Congress shortly before he died on July 27, 1958.

General Chennault will go down in history as one of the air power's finest tacticians. Without exception he was beloved and supported by all of those who served with him. To the Chinese, who so desperately needed the service of a skilled airman, he has become a national hero. To the U.S. Air Force he will always be a symbol of the spirit and determination which has made this Air Force America's most powerful instrument of National Defense.

Dear General Bellis,

The Millard Foundation is proud to sponsor the General Claire Lee Chennault Memorial Scholarship for deserving young men and women preparing for admission to the United States Air Force Academy.

General Chennault's career and example will surely be an inspiration to those who study under this scholarship and go on to serve their country.

Sincerely,

Esther L. Millard

*Esther L. Millard
President
Millard Foundation*



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.