



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

RUTH APPERSON EAKER

Ruth Apperson Eaker

Ruth Apperson Eaker was born in Washington, D.C. in 1908, the daughter of John Henry Apperson and Mattie Blanche Huff Apperson. She spent her youth in Washington and attended George Washington University where she was affiliated with Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She was an instructor in Business English and typing at the Washington School for Secretaries.

In 1930 she met Capt. Ira C. Eaker, a young Air Corps officer who had just achieved international fame for his Pan-American flights and as the pilot of the "Question Mark" - a military airplane that had remained aloft over the Southern California area for some seven days through rudimentary air refueling. In his biography, immediately following his meeting with Ruth Apperson, he is reported to have said, "That's the girl I am going to marry."

The Eakers were married in New York City on November 23, 1931. In the following years, she moved with her husband to Los Angeles, then to March Field in Riverside, California; to Maxwell Field in Alabama; to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas; and to Hamilton Field in the San Francisco area. They returned to Washington in 1941 when General Eaker was first sent to Europe. He remained in England for two years as commander of Eighth Air Force before being named as Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Air Forces in the entire Mediterranean area.

During these war years Ruth remained in Washington where she kept busy with bond rallies, cer-

emonial trips to war production plants, official hosting parties for senior military officers visiting the Nation's Capital, and an occasional visit with her husband on his trips back to Washington.

The Eakers retired in 1947, just before the United States Air Force was created. General Eaker was the Deputy Commander of the Army Air Forces and Chief of the Air Staff. Ruth, a Washington native, reluctantly left Quarters 6 at Ft. Myer for Medford, Oregon, and then to Los Angeles, before returning to Washington in 1957. During their 55 years of marriage they lived in some 20 different houses across the United States.

Ruth Eaker's life was marked by active participation in civic and charitable affairs throughout the region and the nation. A classic beauty throughout the years, she was considered by the entire Air Force community as the quintessential military wife. She was a member of the Sulgrave Club, active in the Chevy Chase Country Club and the Army-Navy club affairs, and was a participating member of the Board of Trustees of the Falcon Foundation of the United States Air Force Academy. In later years she served as a charter member of the Board of The Retired Officers' Community (AFROC). She was instrumental in developing the retirement concepts that produced the facility in the Cascades area of Loudoun County, Virginia - "Falcons Landing."

During most of her adult life, Ruth Aperson Eaker gave strong and dedicated support to the Army Air Corps and later the U.S. Air Force. She expanded her support to the Air Force Academy from its very beginning. During her later years she was an active-participating member of the Board of Trustees of the Falcon Foundation. This scholarship was created to continue Ruth's dedicated service in perpetuity.



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.