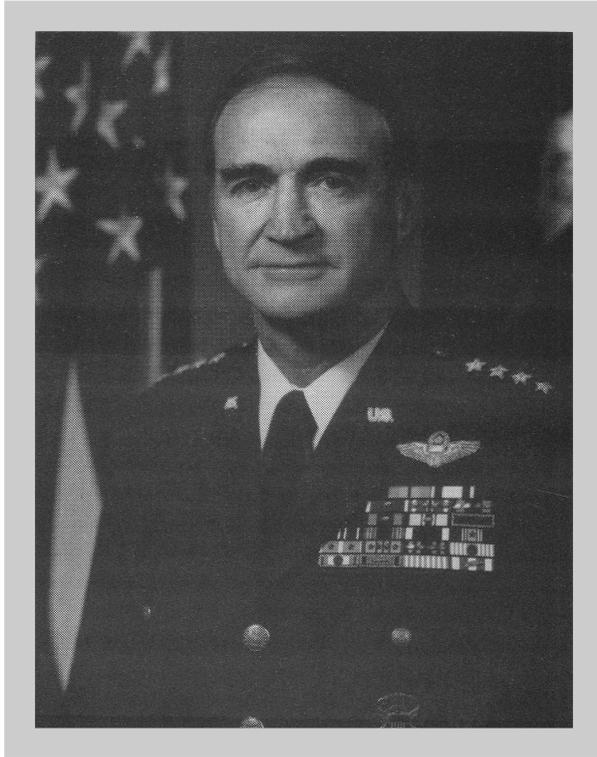




**FALCON**  
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

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**GENERAL**  
**CHARLES A. GABRIEL**

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U.S. AIR FORCE

# General Charles A. Gabriel

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A disciplined competitor, General Charles Gabriel has been an outstanding leader both in flying assignments and in staff positions. His brilliant balance of imagination and energy - uniquely belonging to a military leader and an American - earned him the appointment by the President of the United States to the Office of the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force. General Gabriel's military career has spanned the globe with assignments to the Far East, Europe, and the continental United States.

General Gabriel was born in Lincolnton, North Carolina on January 21, 1928. He spent his childhood in North Carolina where he established a solid educational foundation and became an accomplished athlete. Following high school, his reputation as an athlete with an unflagging competitive spirit won him a football scholarship to Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina. While there, his fame attracted the attention of Colonel Earl Blaik, then head football coach for the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. General Gabriel elected to attend West Point and graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission in the U.S. Air Force.

Following pilot training at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, he once again found himself in the heat of competition. But this time the stakes were higher - an assignment to Korea flying F-51s and F-86s in combat against a formidable enemy. His aerial skills prevailed, however, and he was credited with shooting down two MIG-15s.

General Gabriel's association with the U.S. Air Force Academy goes back to its earliest days. He was one of the original Air Officers Commanding (AOC's), who served both as commissioned staff officer and an upper classman for the initial class-

es. During the same period, he chaired the committee that developed the Cadet Honor Code - a code that remains essentially unchanged to this day. He was also the officer representative for the football team and assisted the new Falcon team as a scout.

He returned to the cockpit for a series of operational assignments where he gained valuable experience in all the critical positions essential to command. In July 1970, he again entered into combat - this time to command the 432nd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. Not a good spectator, General Gabriel flew 152 combat missions in F-4s, establishing himself as truly a flying leader of airmen. His firsthand combat experience in two theaters was put to work when he returned to the Directorate of Operations in the Pentagon. This was followed by an assignment to the Tactical Air Command Headquarters, Langley AFB, Virginia, as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. In this capacity, General Gabriel led the way in establishing the most realistic combat training environment ever minimizing loss of combat experience among flying units. In this program, known as Red Flag, units meet in an adversary role over terrain bristling with threats, a thoroughly realistic simulation of modern aerial combat. His next assignment was to South Korea as Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Forces Korea and United Nations Command, where he contributed significantly to our defensive posture in the region and to the strength of our alliance with the Republic of Korea.

General Gabriel returned for a third tour at the Pentagon, this time as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Readiness. The variety and extent of his operational experience made him a

# General Charles A. Gabriel

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natural for the job. Two years later he was awarded his fourth star and assigned as Commander in Chief, United States Air Forces in Europe and Commander of Allied Air Forces Central Europe at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. There he was exceptionally effective in working with our NATO allies because of his charismatic leadership style. U.S. Air Force relations with the other air forces of the Alliance remain at an all-time high to this day,

and freedom continues in Western Europe - the longest period that the continent has been free of war in centuries.

General Gabriel possesses qualities that have brought success to almost everything he touches - whether in the air or on the ground. From the gridiron of high school football to today his basic "charge" has not changed - only the size of the team.

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*Dear General Bellis,*

*It is indeed a pleasure to be able to establish a scholarship honor of General Charles A. Gabriel, Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. General Gabriel exemplifies the very highest qualities of dedication and leadership that are so necessary to maintain the greatness of our country. May the scholars of the future who receive this scholarship follow in his footsteps.*

*Sincerely,*

*Bill*

*Wm. A. Simpson  
Chairman of the Board  
Colo. Sps. Banking Corp.  
(First Bank and Citizens  
National Bank, Affiliates)*

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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.