



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

BOB HOPE

Bob Hope

The most remarkable thing about Bob Hope is that his private self is almost exactly the same as his stage presence. There are not two Hopes – one for VIPs, another for less influential people. Bob Hope addresses the elevator operator the same way he does the President of the United States.

Hope was born in Eltham, England on May 29, 1903 and in every sense has remained young at heart throughout his years of entertaining his fellow Americans. On February 19, 1934 he married the lovely Dolores Reade and they have maintained a strong dedicated team relationship throughout their life together.

As “Mr. Entertainment” he has triumphed in all media - vaudeville, stage, motion pictures, radio and television. Not only a Champ in the entertainment ratings, Hope takes top place in numerous polls. “The American I Admire Most” (B. H.# 3), Gallup Poll “Ten Most Admired Men” (top ten), Seventeen Magazine “Most Admired Male” (#1), Good Housekeeping “ Most Admired Men “ Poll (#6) and the Star’s “Greatest Entertainers” Poll (#1).

His irreverence for the high and the mighty has punctured nine Presidents from FDR through Ronald Reagan whom he has known and entertained. Yet he was dubbed “ Uncle Sam Without Whiskers. “ He was hailed by President Kennedy as “American’s most prized Ambassador of Good Will throughout the world” when JFK presented him the Congressional Gold Medal. President Reagan likewise dubbed Hope “America’s Good Will Ambassador to the World.”

Bob’s formal decorations include: Decorated Honorary Commander, Order of the British Empire, Congressional Gold Medal, Medal of Freedom,

People to People Award, Peabody Award, Jean Hersholdt Humanitarian Award, Criss Award, Distinguished Service Medals from all branches of the Armed Services, Poor Richard Award along with over 50 honorary doctorates by colleges and universities .

He has also been called “Mr. Humanitarian” and for good reason. Bob Hope as Fund Raiser Extraordinaire has helped provide more than a billion dollars for hospitals, scientific research, the Boy Scouts, the handicapped and organizations combating many of the world ‘s most debilitating diseases. He has lent his boundless energies and talent to Hanukah celebrations, Catholic and Protestant charities, the Urban League, World Hunger Fund, Heart Association, Cancer Society, Lung Association, Diabetes Foundation, Boy’s Republic, Parkinson Foundation, Blinded Veterans Association and Sugar Ray Robinson’s Youth Foundation, to name a few.

There is undoubtedly no one in the U.S. and perhaps in the world who does not associate Bob Hope ‘s name with the doing a job for us and they don’t want to be there. But he knows they need a touch of home, the girls he brings along, USO and the entertainment of millions of servicemen during three wars. A month doesn’t go by without touching letters from grateful GIs and veterans who remember precisely the moment when he stepped out on some makeshift stage and greeted them with “Hi, fellow tourists.” Hope ‘s “last” Christmas show overseas in 1972 did not end his entertaining GIs. Later he made Christmas trips to Lebanon and the Persian Gulf under USO auspices.

On a Spring Afternoon in 1941 at March Field, California, Hope, with guest star Frances Lang-

Bob Hope

ford and other entertainers, arrived to do his first radio show for the Air Corps. Before the show they took him for a plane ride, a few loop-the-loops, and some fast thrills. Afterward, Hope asked, “How come you were wearing a safety belt, but not me?” The pilot answered, “They need me!” Many years have passed since Hope did that first GI show and even in later years whenever the GIs put out a call, Hope was ready. Somewhere along the line Hope got the idea that maybe they didn’t need him, but they could use him.

But it goes deeper, Someone said recently, “it’s not the war or politics or even patriotism - although God knows Hope is a patriot. It’s the guys. Hope knows they’re out there the laughs.”

The tradition for Hope of GI touring was set in 1941 when the country was still at peace but mobilization had begun. He took his radio show to camps and air bases all over the country. Then when war broke out, he packed a bag, and with Frances Langford, Jerry Colonna, and Tony Romano, took off for the War Zones to Alaska, England, North Africa, Sicily, Iceland, and the South Pacific – wherever the GI was training or fighting.

Hope dodged a few bullets (“I have critics everywhere.”) but kept the jokes flying.

Some stories about Hope’s adventures entertaining GIs have become legend. Like how he was inadvertently landed at Wonsan during the Korean war even before the First Marines had taken the beach. Or how he and his USO troupe were met in Saigon by a bomb blast when they arrived at their hotel.

But there are other, unpublicized, stories about the long walks Hope has taken through miles of hospital wards shaking hands, cheering up drooping chins, taking addresses with the promise of calling loved ones when he got back home. His classic call of “At ease, men, don’t get up” when he walks into an orthopedic ward has done wonders for both broken bodies and morale.

If there is a simple explanation of Hope’s special affinity for GIs everywhere, it lies in his own words, “They say I do so much for the GIs, but they don’t know what it does for me.” It has been said of Hope that “If he could live his life over, he wouldn’t have time.”

The Falcon Foundation

I am pleased to establish this Scholarship in Perpetuity honoring a longtime friend, Bob Hope, a great American who is held in the highest esteem by all ranks of our military and civilians worldwide.

It was my privilege to tour and entertain with Bob in all combat theaters during World War II : Alaska, British Isles, North Africa, Sicily, Iceland, and the South Pacific.

To the millions of our fighting men and women in far-flung battle zones and forgotten areas, I witnessed how, through his buoyant, effervescent personality, his stories, his jokes and entertainment, he brought hope, love, happiness, and the desire to survive to the thousands of tragically wounded in military hospitals, as well as to the millions of homesick, lonely GI's, and the combat veterans. He instilled in them the values of Peace and of this great Country.

Sincerely,
Frances Langford
Frances Langford



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.