



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

GERHARD NEUMANN

Gerhard Neumann

Born in 1917 and educated at Mittweida's INGENIEURSCHULE in Germany, Gerhard Neumann flew to China in 1939 to maintain German military equipment for the Chinese Nationalist Air Force. After internment by the British as an "enemy alien" at the start of World War II in Hong Kong, he was helped to slip into Free China by an American vice president of Pan American Airways in 1940. He led a Chinese truck convoy over the rugged Burma Road, started his own auto and truck repair shop in Yunnan, and joined Claire Lee Chennault's original Flying Tigers, an American volunteer Group of the Chinese Air Force, as engineering specialist on December 7, 1941.

Following disbandment of the AVG in 1942, Neumann enlisted (even though he had never been to the United States) in the Army Air Corps following special permission from the U.S. Secretary of War. That same year, he put into first-class flying condition a crashed Japanese Zero fighter plane, the first to fall into Allied hands. In recognition of this important work and his activities as agent with the OSS (military intelligence) Master Sergeant Neumann was made a citizen of the United States by a Special Act of Congress.

After discharge from the Air Force in 1945, he worked as an automobile mechanic in California, then joined Douglas Aircraft Research and Development Laboratories in December 1945. He returned to China to work for General Chennault's new civilian airline in Shanghai. The Chinese Communists' advance on the mainland of China initiated Neumann's unprecedented 10,000-mile Jeep trip across Asia in the winter of 1947/48, accompanied by his American wife and their Airedale terrier.

Neumann joined General Electric's fledgling Aircraft Gas Turbine Division in Lynn, Massachusetts in 1948 where he developed the Variable Stator Compressor system which is now standard in most jet engines around the world. In 1951, he became closely associated

with the development of America's only nuclear aircraft engine.

During 1953, Neumann led the development of the prototype of the famed J79 jet engine of which over 18,000 were built. He became General Manager of the Jet Engine Department in Cincinnati, Ohio (1955), the Small Aircraft Engine Department in Lynn, Mass (1958), and the Flight Propulsion Division (1961). Neumann was elected a Corporate Vice President in 1963 and became the Group Executive of the Aircraft Engine Business Group in 1968.

After having led and dramatically enlarged General Electric's Jet engine business for over seventeen years (military, commercial, marine and industrial) he retired at the end of 1979.

Eight patents have been awarded to Neumann, and he is the recipient of America's three top aviation awards:

The Collier Trophy (1958)

The Goddard Award (1970)

The Daniel Guggenheim Medal (1979)

Neumann is a member of the National Academy of Engineering; an Honorary Member of the Faculty of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C.; a Knight of the French Legion of Honor (1977); an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (1978); a recipient of the International Institute's Golden Door Award (1981); a recipient of a Doctor of Humane Letters Honorary Degree (1982); and a member of the Hall of Fame of General Electric's EPCOT Center of the Walt Disney World at Orlando, Florida (1983).

Gerhard Neumann passed away in 1997. However, he is still with us in spirit!

Dear General Bellis,

We at General Electric are proud that a Falcon Foundation Scholarship is being established in honor of Gerhard Neumann.

From his days as a "dirty-fingernail" mechanic in the WWII war effort in China, through his career at General Electric working in, and ultimately running our aircraft engine business for many years, Gerhard Neumann's achievements in furthering progress in aviation are indeed significant.

I know one of Gerhard's greatest interests is the technical education of youth in America. He wants to see more "dirty-fingernail" mechanics become engineers who will lead technology growth in aviation.

Thank you for your cooperation in establishing the Falcon Foundation Scholarship in Gerhard Neumann's name.

Sincerely,



*Vice Chairman
of the Board
General Electric Company*



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.