



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

**MAJOR GENERAL
GWYNN ROBINSON**

U.S. AIR FORCE

Major General Gwynn Robinson

General Robinson's military career began in June 1940 when he enlisted in a New York State National Guard regiment. This unit was federalized in January 1941, and he spent most of that year as a Private First Class in a horse cavalry squadron, 101st Cavalry, at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. Six days after Pearl Harbor, General Robinson entered pre-flight training at Maxwell Field in Alabama. He won his wings at Turner Field, Albany, Georgia in August 1942 and spent the next twelve months as a Martin B-26 Bomber Pilot.

In June 1943, he joined the 319th Bomb Group in North Africa and began flying combat missions over Sicily and Italy. On his last mission, one of his two engines was shot out by an attacking German Messerschmitt. He managed to keep flying on one engine, evading enemy fire so that his crew could shoot down five of the ME-109s before he successfully crash-landed in the Mediterranean, all of his crew surviving. For this achievement, General Robinson was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After a six-month stay in military hospitals, he returned to flying duty with a B-26 squadron in Barksdale Field, Louisiana. This was followed by Command and General Staff School in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas in 1945, and assignment as Chief Foreign Training Branch, HQAAF, in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

After the war, he was separated from the service as a Major, accepted a Reserve commission and began his "double life" as a civilian pursuing a business career and as a Reservist, active in USAFR flying programs, ready to serve when needed. The Korean War meant a return to active duty for

General Robinson who was recalled in 1951 as Operations Officer for the 514th Troop Carrier Wing (Reserve) when it was activated.

Six months were spent in HQ, USAFE, Wiesbaden, Germany, and then an assignment in Paris, France as Deputy Director of the USAF Paris wing. At the same time, as a member of the U.S. Military Facilities Negotiating Group, he participated in negotiations in the establishment of USAF bases in many NATO countries. After release from active duty in 1953, and until 1970, General Robinson had numerous reserve assignments in ADC, including Mobilization Assistant to Commanders, 28th Air Division, 4th Air Force and 14th Aerospace Force.

Promotion to Brigadier General took place in 1966 and to Major General in 1969. Until 1972, he was Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, 22nd Air Force, Travis Air Force Base, California. Succeeding assignments included positions as Mobilization Assistant to the Chief, Air Force Reserve, and in his last position as Mobilization Assistant for Reserve Affairs, he served four Secretaries of the Air Force.

In his parallel civilian business career, General Robinson worked for the Northrop Corporation for nine years in international marketing and was a member of the team that successfully sold the F-5 Fighter Planes to many countries. He was Vice President and Manager of European operations for Northrop, living in Paris, France, when he was selected as President and Chief Executive Officer of Diners Club International in 1967. He directed Diners Club operations in 141 countries and introduced the credit card concept, perhaps the epitome of capitalism, to all of the Eastern

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European countries, including the U.S.S.R.

After leaving Diners Club, he worked as an Executive Recruiter for two national firms until 1979, when he became Senior Vice President and Director Western Region for the THinc. Consulting Group International Inc., a national Out-placement firm.

Education included the Choate School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Air War College. He has been very active in The Air Force Association, The Reserve Officers Association and

in various community affairs. He is a Director of the Falcon Foundation and the Air Academy Foundation.

General Robinson's decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart. He retired from the United States Air Force in September 1980. His military service of 40 years, 2 months and 21 days had seen him move from Private on a horse to General in a jet, and active service during three wars.

Dear General Bellis:

It is a privilege to be able to sponsor this scholarship in honor of Gwynn Robinson. Gwynn's career of dedicated service to his country both in uniform and as a civilian is an ideal guide for future Air Force leaders.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Frousdale", written in a cursive style.

Paul Frousdale



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.