



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

CHARLES B. THORNTON

Charles B. Thornton

The life of Charles B. (Tex) Thornton is an unusual and unique story of many years of far-reaching contributions of both military and industrial activities of the United States. At age 28 he joined the pre-Pearl Harbor Army Air Corps as a Second Lieutenant. A series of rapid promotions elevated him to one of the youngest colonels. In industry, his record is one of rapid development of a large corporation, invention and development of new products and technical systems, and outstanding corporate management. For 28 years Tex Thornton served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Litton Industries which he founded and guided into one of the country's largest, most innovative productive corporations. Litton's annual sales reached \$5 billion with earnings in excess of \$300 million.

Tex was born in 1913 in Haskell, Texas. At age 14, with the help of his mother, he acquired 40 acres of land and his checks were honored in every store in town. He entered Texas Tech University starting in engineering and switching to business administration. He finished his college education at George Washington University and received a Bachelor of Science degree.

The Honorable Robert Lovett, Assistant Secretary of War for Air, brought Tex into the Air Force as a lieutenant and gave him the job of putting the Army's Air arm on a businesslike basis. Tex organized the Air Force's first statistical control organization which, through the years, has contributed a great deal to the operation and management of the Air Force. A part of this organization was nine men who became expert in Thornton's concept of statistical control. After WWII, he persuaded them to team-up in a package with Thornton as a leader with the objective of applying their knowledge in the business world. Knowing that the Ford Motor

Company was losing money, Thornton wrote to Henry Ford II offering the services of his team to bring the company under better fiscal control. Mr. Ford agreed and employed Tex and the team. They did a remarkably good job for Ford. Among the ten were two future presidents of the Ford Motor Company - Robert S. McNamara and Arjay Miller - plus four divisional general managers.

In 1948, after two years with Ford, Thornton signed on with Howard Hughes as general manager of Hughes Aircraft Company in Culver City, California. In five years, he built Hughes Aircraft from annual sales of \$1.5 million to \$200 million and enabled it to become a leader in missile work.

In 1953 Tex left Hughes with a plan to form his own company. He went to Lehman Brothers of New York City, a Wall Street investment house, seeking financial assistance for his business plan. With Lehman's help, he started by buying a small microwave tube company bearing the name of its owner, Charles V. Litton. "I told Lehman," he said, "that I wanted to start a company that would be strong in future science and technology and well balanced with engineering, production and sales." In three years, under Thornton's management, Litton Industries reached annual sales in excess of \$100 million with strong earnings. Tex was its Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for 28 years.

Litton Industries made numerous and valuable contributions to the Country's defense system. Two of these, the "Moon Suit" and the LN-3 inertial navigation system, are now on exhibition in the Air Force Museum. When President Johnson established the Job Corps to teach skills to high school dropouts, Litton Industries was first to respond with a Job Corps Center near Oakland,

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California. In four years, 14,000 young people from every state went through the training course.

Tex Thornton has many military and civilian awards, decorations and special honors including the Distinguished Service Medal. He held four Honorary Degrees from several universities.

In 1981, President Reagan, in presenting him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, stated: "Tex Thornton has earned the esteem of all Americans who value patriotism, enterprise and compassion as cornerstones of our nation's greatness."

This great American, a man with a distinguished history of achievement in both defense and industry passed away in 1981 at the age of 68. He is survived by his wife, Flora Laney Thornton, and two sons, Charles and William.

The Falcon Foundation is indeed pleased to participate in this annual scholarship which has been established in perpetuity. This scholarship in Mr. Thornton's honor is designed to help young people gain entrance to the Air Force Academy.

Dear General Bellis,

Litton Industries is pleased to sponsor through the Falcon Foundation, this scholarship, in perpetuity, in honor of Mr. Charles B. (Tex) Thornton, for many years our Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Through his many far-reaching contributions to industry and national defense, Mr. Thornton earned wide recognition as a distinguished patriot and great American.

Through this scholarship, we are indeed glad to provide annual assistance to young people who are motivated to enter the Air Force Academy.

Sincerely,

Clarence L. Price

*Clarence L. Price
President
Foundation of
Litton Industries*



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.