



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

**GENERAL
NATHAN F. TWINING**

U.S. AIR FORCE

General Nathan F. Twining

General Nathan F. Twining was the third Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force and the first Air Force officer to be appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

His military career covered almost a half century from the World War I period when he served on the Mexican border in 1916 as a corporal in a National Guard infantry unit until he retired in September 1960 from the highest military position in the Nation.

General Twining was born in Monroe, Wisconsin on October 11, 1897. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1918 and studied and trained in the Infantry until 1923 when he went through flying schools at Brooks Field and Kelly Field, Texas. Three years later he was transferred to the Air Service.

For the next 16 years Twining served in a wide range of jobs - flyer, instructor, advanced student, staff officer and commander. In December 1941 he joined the Operations Division of the War Department General Staff, and in February 1942 he became assistant executive in the Office of the Chief of the Air Corps.

Throughout World War II and until he became Chief of Staff of the Air Force in June 1953, General Twining commanded large air forces in the Pacific, in Europe, and Alaska. He commanded the 13th Air Force in the Pacific; then headed one of the first joint air commands in U.S. history when he was Commander, Aircraft, Solomon Islands. He commanded the 15th Air Force in Italy, as well as the Mediterranean Allied Strategic Air Forces. He then was assigned to command the 20th Air Force in the Pacific, the force that dropped the first

atom bomb. After World War II, General Twining commanded the Air Materiel Command for two years and the unified Alaskan Command for three. He served as the Air Force's number-two military man for nearly three years before being named the Chief.

A decade ago Twining predicted that if the Communists became convinced they could not achieve their aggressive global aims by general war they would foment small local wars, fighting free nations by proxy. This now had begun to occur, the Communists calling such aggression "wars of liberation."

Twice in his career General Twining made un-common news of international interest. The first time was when he was commander of the 13th Air Force in 1943. He was in a B-17 flying from Guadalcanal to the New Hebrides when weather closed in on the final destination and the pilot headed for another field. The plane ran out of gas and had to be ditched in the Pacific. Twining and 13 others boarded rubber rafts. For six days they drifted with virtually no food and only two canteens of water. Once General Twining shot a water fowl with his .45 and they all ate it raw. Finally, an Air Force plane spotted and reported them and Navy seaplanes were dispatched to pick them up.

In 1956 General Twining accepted an invitation from the Soviet Air Force to visit the U.S.S.R. He took six generals and three colonels with him and spent eight days visiting selected industrial plants and technical schools and saw an air show demonstrating a variety of military aircraft.

On August 15, 1957, in the Cabinet Room of the White House, General Twining was formally

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sworn in as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Eisenhower.

During his 10 years in the highest Air Force positions, General Twining reiterated his conviction that if the U.S. ever should be attacked it would be by an aggressor who believed he could get away with it. Under his leadership the Air Force and the Armed Forces were strengthened to prevent such an enemy miscalculation.

Following his retirement in 1960, General Twining was a consultant to a publishing company and to several manufacturers, and was called upon from time to time for advice by Air Force and other Government officials. He continued until his death to contribute to the distinction, the dedication and the state of preparedness of the Air Force and of the United States of America, a truly great airman and a great American.

Dear General Smith:

It is a privilege for The Boeing Company to sponsor the General Nathan F. Twining Memorial Scholarship. The name of General Twining is synonymous with devotion to country, a leadership that inspired all who came in contact with him, and accomplishments that will be long remembered by a grateful nation.

We are hopeful that the young individual who is awarded this scholarship will display the same determination, the same professional goals, and the same love of country and idealism as General Twining.

William M. Allen

*William M. Allen
Chairman of the Board
The Boeing 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.