

# Five Chosen for AOG Honorary Membership

The Board of Directors of the Association of Graduates recently approved five honorary memberships in the association, bringing the number of living AOG honorary members to 12. Association bylaws limit living honorary memberships to 20. The five new honorary members are:

— Mr. Donald J. Barrett, the Academy libraries assistant director for Public Services, who began service at the Academy as its first reference librarian on July 5, 1955 at the temporary Academy site of Lowry Air Force Base.

— Lt. Gen. (USAF, Ret) Benjamin N. Bellis, president of the Falcon Foundation since 1981 and a staunch supporter of and major donor to the Association of Graduates.

— Mr. James N. Bowman, the Academy's assistant director of Athletics for Candidate Counseling, who came to the Academy in 1958 initially as head coach for Junior Varsity Football.

— The Honorable Harold C. Stuart, who served as assistant secretary of the Air Force under President Truman, served as president and chairman of the board of the Air Force Association, and served under President Johnson on the Academy Board of Visitors.

— Brig. Gen. (USAF, Ret) Malham M. Wakin, who came to the Academy in 1959 as a philosophy instructor and rose to professor and head of the Academy's Department of Philosophy and Fine Arts from Nov. 1988 to March 1995, and associate dean of the faculty from Nov. 1988 to Jan. 1992.

Barrett, Bowman and Wakin were presented their honorary memberships and feted at a luncheon attended by some 110 guests on March 23 at Doolittle Hall. Bellis and Stewart were presented their honorary memberships at the spring meeting of the Falcon Foundation on April 7, also in Doolittle Hall.



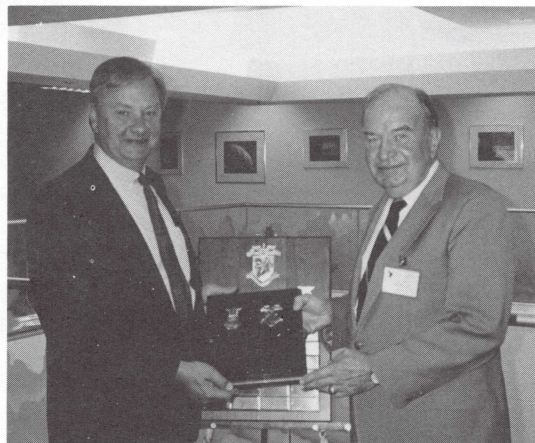
*Three of the five recently-chosen honorary AOG members pose on one of the staircases in Doolittle Hall. From left are Don Barrett, who began service with the Academy Library in 1955; Brig. Gen. Malham Wakin, recently retired, who began teaching philosophy at the Academy in 1959; and James Bowman, the Academy's assistant director of Athletics for Candidate Counseling, who came to the Academy in 1958.*

Barrett, throughout some 40 years of service, has led the development of the Academy library and is largely responsible for its national reputation. He has been a central figure in every major event at the library since its establishment in 1955. He was also instrumental in establishing the association's *Register of Graduates* and has been an avid supporter of Academy athletics. Barrett has been recognized with several Air Force awards and the Colorado Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

General Bellis, a 1946 graduate of West Point, pursued a distinguished military career that spanned 35 years, during which

time he held executive positions in the Thor and Atlas missile programs, and served as director of the F-12/SR-71 Systems Program Office and the F-15 System Development Program. He also served as commander of Electronic Systems Division, 17th Air Force in Germany, 6th ATAF in Turkey, and vice commander in chief of U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

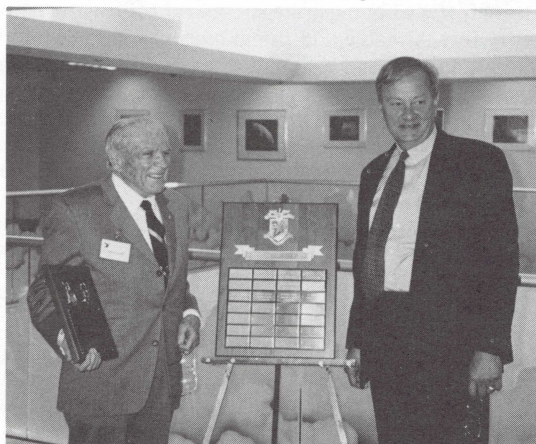
The recipient of the DoD, Air Force and Turkish Distinguished Service Medals and the Legion of Merit, General Bellis was presented the Eugene Zuckert Award by secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr in 1981. From 1978 to 1981 he served as president of the Transatlantic Council of the Boy Scouts (20,000 Scouts in Europe and North Africa) and was awarded the "Distinguished Eagle" in 1981.



*Lt. Gen. (USAF, Ret) Benjamin Bellis, at right, president of the Falcon Foundation, accepts his honorary membership plaque from AOG Board Chairman Brig. Gen. (USAF, Ret) Jim Ulm.*

Bowman's role in his 37 years of service to the Academy extends far beyond some 1,000 football players he personally coached. Approximately 9,000 athletes owe their appointments in some measure to his admissions-support efforts. Also, the Academy owes its sterling record in recruiting integrity and adherence to tough NCAA standards to the diligence, care and unquestionable ethics of Bowman. Bowman has always been committed first and foremost to ensuring Academy athletes will be good Academy cadets and excellent officers following graduation.

Mr. Stuart began his law career in 1936, served as a state judge and attempted to attend flight training in 1942 but was too old. He instead attended OTS and intelligence training, serving with 9th Air Force near London, and also in assignments in France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. After V-E day, he was assigned to Norway until he was discharged in 1946. He returned



*The Honorable Harold C. Stuart, at left, accepts his honorary membership plaque from AOG Board Chairman Jim Ulm during a recent meeting of the Falcon Foundation in Doolittle Hall.*



to Norway on a highly-secret mission with the Office of Strategic Services in 1949.

Since 1958, Stuart has been co-trustee of the Gertrude Skelly Scholarship Trust to award scholarships to prep schools. Through 1987, some 700 scholarships were awarded with 23 new scholarships given annually. In 1960 he was elected president of the Air Force Academy Foundation which helped raise money for the Eisenhower Golf Course, Falcon Stadium, and other Academy projects. He remains active on the Falcon Foundation Board, has established a lecture series in honor of President Truman, and is a major donor to Doolittle Hall.

General Wakin retired on April 1 of this year after 41 years of Air Force service. During his 36 years at the Academy, he has served Academy cadets and graduates as an instructor, permanent professor, and department head in philosophy and fine arts; and as assistant dean for both social sciences/humanities and graduate studies. He has also chaired the humanities division and served on the Academy Board.

A nationally-renowned scholar, General Wakin has written

three books, has included chapters in 16 books and has authored 25 articles in philosophy and military journals. He has been honored with several military and civilian awards and has received national recognition in *People Magazine* and *Newsweek*, the latter referring to him as the "conscience of the Air Force."

The five new honorary members join these other distinguished current honorary members: Barry M. Goldwater, Freida B. Weber, James I. Conboy, William Lyon, Robert F. McDermott, Harold U. Littrell, and Norma C. Nottingham. Previous honorary members, now deceased, include Gail McComas, Robert J. Smith, Joseph A. Reich, William Thayer Tutt, Russell T. Tutt, James H. (Jimmie) Doolittle, and Joseph Moller.

An honorary membership is the highest honor the graduate community bestows upon supporters of the Academy. They are awarded only to those individuals who "...have rendered outstanding and conspicuous service to the Air Force and/or the Air Force Academy." Each requires a nomination by a board member and a unanimous vote by the sitting board. Honorary membership is awarded for life.

## AOG Accepting Contributions of Books and POW Memorabilia

The AOG is seeking contributions of hard-bound books and POW memorabilia to display in the new headquarters/alumni house, Doolittle Hall.

While any POW-related items are welcome, POW memorabilia relating directly to USAFA graduates and other Air Force prisoners of war are most directly sought. The items must be of relatively small size, as they will be displayed in a case 3 1/4" deep, 26" wide and 56" long.

Hard-bound books for the library lounge area of the building are also needed. The association is seeking books primarily on military and POW/MIA-related themes. Books may be either fact or fiction and series are welcome.

Donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgements will be provided for all contributions. If an item has a higher than normal value (e.g., historical POW mementos or rare books), the donor should have in his/her possession an appraisal and provide same to the AOG. This will give the donor the necessary documentation for IRS purposes and will help the AOG in providing special care for the item as well as securing appropriate insurance coverage.

All gifts should be sent to: Association of Graduates, Doolittle Hall, 3116 Academy Drive, Suite 100, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo. 80840-4475.

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