

# Brigadier General (Ret.) Harvey W. Schiller

Selected for honorary  
AOG membership

**T**he Association of Graduates Board of Directors bestowed honorary membership upon Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Harvey W. Schiller during a July 14 ceremony at Doolittle Hall. Family, friends and colleagues gathered to mark the occasion.

In accepting the membership, Gen. Schiller told the crowd he feels loved and supported by the AOG and the graduate community as a result of this honor.

“Some 50,000 graduates are standing right back here with me,” he says. “It’s just a genuine feeling of affection, and validity for all the things that I tried to do in life.”

Non-graduates of USAFA are selected for honorary membership based on outstanding service to the Air Force, the Academy and/or the AOG. Honorary membership is limited to 25 living individuals. Previous AOG honorary members include former USAFA hostess Gail McComas, U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater, longtime professor Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Maltham Wakin and World War II hero Gen. Jimmy Doolittle.

In a recorded message, Association of Graduates and Air Force Academy Foundation CEO Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Mike Gould ’76 thanked Gen. Schiller for all he’s done in support of USAFA.

“The impact of Gen. Schiller’s contri-

butions to this great institution, its events and its graduates is no less deserving of praise than previous honorees,” he said. “I salute you and sincerely thank you for your unwavering support of our Academy and your philanthropic heart that has enhanced the athletic, academic and military experiences for generations.”

Longtime colleague and friend Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Hans Mueh ’66 shared a few personal stories from his 50-year relationship with Gen. Schiller, including a list of the impressive roles the honoree held in the military and beyond.

“During this amazing run of powerful positions, he was always there for me



AOG board members Col. (Ret.) Randy Helms ’79 (left) and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Hans Mueh ’66 (right) present Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Harvey Schiller with his honorary membership. (Photos by David Bitton)

and the Academy ... guiding, advising and serving,” said Gen. Mueh, a member of the AOG board of directors. “He embodies the values of integrity, service and excellence, and I know his rock-solid integrity is the reason he got to the various levels. No one deserves this honorary membership in the AOG more than you.”

In accepting his membership, Gen. Schiller recalled a quote from Jesse Owens following his gold-medal victories during the Berlin Olympics in 1936, suggesting that everyone — whether in medicine, education, business or sports — wants a chance to stand on a victory podium and be acknowledged as a champion.

“You all have made me a champion today,” he said. “This is my victory stand. Thank you very much.”

## CAREER MOMENTS

A 1960 graduate of The Citadel, Gen. Schiller earned his master’s in chemistry at the University of Michigan two years later.

Gen. Schiller began active duty in pilot training at Moody Air Force Base, graduating first in his class. That was followed with operational assignments at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, and flying the C-123 at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam.

In 1967, he was assigned to the Academy as a chemistry instructor, later returning to the University of Michigan to earn his Ph.D.

After an operational assignment as a pilot and base operations officer at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, Gen. Schiller returned to USAFA as a chemistry professor, personnel officer, T-29 instructor pilot, soaring instructor and cadet squadron associate air officer commanding.

In 1975, he attended Armed Forces Staff College, followed by a tour

flying KC-135s out of Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota.

He again returned to the Academy in 1976 as a chemistry instructor. Several years later, he helped launch the directorate of faculty support in the Dean of the Faculty office and served as its first director.


In 1980, he was competitively selected and appointed permanent professor and head of the Department of Chemistry. During his tenure, he also served as the Academy’s faculty athletics representative to the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA). He worked closely with John Clune, then-USAFA athletic director, and was instrumental in finalizing the entry of the Academy into its first athletic conference — the Western Athletic Conference.

During that same time period, he helped establish a strong relationship between the Academy and the U.S. Olympic Committee. Based on that relationship, Gen. Schiller was selected to run the boxing venue at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

After his Air Force retirement in 1986, Gen. Schiller was named commissioner of the Southeastern (Athletic) Conference, launching him into a second career as a sports executive.

He was later executive director of the United States Olympic Committee for

two winter and two summer Olympics; vice president of Turner Sports; CEO of YankeeNets — the first public offering of the Yankees, basketball Nets, and hockey Devils; chairman of the board of Global Options Group and chief executive officer of Global Options Group; and president of the International Baseball Federation. In August 2014, he was appointed to the newly created post of commercial commissioner of the America’s Cup for sailing.

Gen. Schiller was an original member of the USAFA Endowment (now the Air Force Academy Foundation) and is currently the chairman of the board for the Air Force Academy Athletic Corporation, established in 2013. He has continued to support the institution through his time, talents and treasure. 

*“During this amazing run of powerful positions, he was always there for me and the Academy ... guiding, advising and serving.*

*— Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Hans Mueh ’66*



New honorary AOG member Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Harvey Schiller (right) speaks to attendees assembled at Doolittle Hall for a special July 14 celebration and reception.