



Integrity First  
Service Before Self  
Excellence in All We Do

## Cassiday, Edwards & Wilson Named Honorary Members of the AOG

BRIG. GEN. BENJAMIN CASSIDAY JR., USAF, (RET.), MS. JANET A. EDWARDS, AND DR. DEAN H. WILSON, LT. COL., USAF, (RET.), HAVE ALL BEEN AWARDED HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR LONGSTANDING, CONTINUOUS AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY. TO BE RECOGNIZED AS HONORARY MEMBERS THESE OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOMMENDED BY A MEMBER OF THE AOG BOARD AND RECEIVED UNANIMOUS ACCEPTANCE BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT AT A QUORUM OF THE BOARD. THIS HONOR IS RESTRICTED TO 25 LIVING PERSONS.

### **Brig. Gen. Benjamin B. Cassiday Jr., USAF, (Ret.)**

Benjamin B. Cassiday Jr., the man generally recognized as the “Father of the USAFA Honor Code,” is a graduate of West Point Class of 1943. Then Colonel Cassiday was appointed deputy commandant of cadets and commander of the Cadet Wing in 1955. He remained assigned to Lowry AFB and the United States Air Force Academy through the graduation of the first class in June 1959. General Cassiday was responsible for the development and implementation of all military training programs. Leaning on both his West Point and combat experience, General Cassiday presided over the initial summer training of the first four classes in fatigues and spit shined flight boots. He was a daily presence throughout each phase of training, frequently serving as the instructor.

General Cassiday implemented *Contrails*, developed the duties of the ATOs and AOCs, institutionalized the concept of a cadet-led wing, established Security Flight, and installed Doolie Recognition as basic elements within the Cadet Wing. General Cassiday also essentially established the first criteria for selecting Academy cadets and his guidance led to the falcon as our mascot and our traditions and ceremonials around the Class Ring.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1972, General Cassiday remained active in Academy affairs through membership in the Falcon Foundation and still today provides both financial and personal support to the foundation's efforts. General Cassiday is the last living member of the original senior Air Force leaders assigned to the Academy and continues to be a “living legend” to the first four graduate classes. He was,



and is, the role model for what an officer, a pilot and a gentleman should be.

#### **Ms. Janet Edwards**

As the 10th Force Support Squadron Mortuary Affairs Officer, Ms. Janet Edwards has been responsible for the execution of all Mortuary and Base Honor Guard programs supporting more than 4,000 future Air Force leaders and over 25,000 military, civilian and dependent personnel. Edwards manages the only remaining active cemetery in the United States Air Force overseeing facilities, infrastructure, and equipment improvements to the USAFA Cemetery. Ms. Edwards is charged with executing funeral ceremonies, memorial support, and special events for USAFA and the entire Front Range.

Ms. Edwards is also instrumental in supporting the Wreaths Across America program, and is officially recognized as an Air Force level subject matter expert, where she is called upon frequently by higher headquarters personnel for consultation or travel to Washington D.C. to assist in national-level mortuary related issues. Ms. Edwards began her career in 1985 as a Clerk-Typist, and later a Staffing Specialist and Employee Relations Technician at Elmendorf AFB AK. In 1992, she accepted the newly created civilian Mortuary Technician position at the Air Force Academy. Since that time, she has progressed to the position of Mortuary Affairs Officer. Since arriving at the Academy, Edwards has positively impacted the lives of thousands of people and it is commonplace for her to be singled out for her professionalism, compassion and care.

#### **Dr. Dean H. Wilson, Lt. Col., USAF, (Ret.)**

Over the last 37 years, Dr. Dean H. Wilson has evolved into one of USAFA's "institutional treasures." As an associate professor in the Department of Behavioral Science, Wilson touched the lives of hundreds of cadets. In 1995 he transitioned to the Office of the Registrar where he would continue his career as the first Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs and Academy Registrar.

Dr. Wilson has ensured the success of every graduation ceremony for the past 27 years. He was one of the voices to read the cadets' names as they crossed the stage. Each year he was also responsible for the vital task of briefing every distinguished visitor, presidents and vice presidents included, on ceremony logistics. Dr. Wilson forged a legacy of innovation and progress during his time at the Academy. He pioneered USAFA's registrar functions into the online domain long before the practice was commonplace at universities. He implemented the Academy's first dedicated Student Services Center. He chairs the Integrated Curriculum Review Committee, which reviews and administers the entire Academy curriculum and he led the Academy's NCAA Eligibility Certification. These are just a handful of the ways Wilson has positively impacted every cadet and faculty member at the Academy for the past 18 years. ✓



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