

# NEWSLETTER

## The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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### COLONEL HENRY KORTEMEYER PASSES AWAY

Colonel Henry "Kort" A. Kortemeyer, a long-time member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of The Friends died at his home on Sunday, May 10, 2009. Kort was born on December 1, 1918 on the family homestead near Davis, South Dakota. His family moved to Salem, Oregon after he graduated from high school and Kort attended both Willamette University and Oregon State University. He also joined the Oregon National Guard and was called to active duty with the 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in September 1940. But Kort wanted to fly and was accepted into the Army Aviation Cadet program in December 1941. He was awarded his wings and commissioned in the Army Air Forces in September 1942 at Williams Army Airfield, Arizona. He was immediately sent to Columbia, South Carolina where he checked out in the B-25, an aircraft in which he flew fifty-one combat missions in the South Pacific. For his service under fire he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart. He returned to the United States in September 1944 and married Mary Anne Owen who passed away in 1984. Kort remained in the Army and then the US Air Force and served in Germany, Norway, and many assignments in the US. He was deputy base commander and base commander at several Air Force bases including McChord AFB, Washington; Kadena AB, Okinawa; Duluth ARB, Minnesota; Naha AB, Okinawa; and Ent AFB, Colorado. He retired from the Air Force on December 31, 1970.

Colonel Kortemeyer was very active in community affairs as well as at the Air Force Academy. He served as

president of the Colorado Springs chapter of the Air Force Association, was a member of the Order of Daedalians, the East Side Rotary Club, the Military Officers Association of America, and the American Legion. His service to the Air Force Academy was legendary. He sponsored cadets for nearly forty years, was a Life Member of both the Association of Graduates and the Athletic Association, and was active in both the Academy Blue and Silver Club and the Quarterback Club. But The Friends of the Library held a special place for Kort. He served on the Executive Committee for nearly twenty years and his impact was felt in every facet of The Friends' mission. Not only did he share his wise counsel and advice as our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, but he was always ready to do whatever needed to be done. He was the organization's primary liaison with the Colorado Springs business community, made two trips to the Academy each week for years to pick up the mail, and spent many hours working with the finances of the organization as Assistant Treasurer. Kort was deeply involved in the publication of The Friends' first book, *The Genesis of Flight* and was always ready to help set up oral history interviews or work actively raising funds. If The Friends was doing it, Kort was involved.

Kort was a gentleman in every sense of the word, a patriot who loved his country, and was deeply committed to its future and that of the Air Force. He served The Friends with dedication and conviction. Our sympathy goes out to his wife of twenty years, Donna, and to all his family. Certainly the Academy, the Air Force, and the United States are the better for his life. He will be missed.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me begin by acknowledging with sadness the passing of Colonel Henry A. Kortemeyer. Kort was a distinguished airman, civic leader, and devoted husband. He was a strong supporter of The Friends since its inception and served with distinction for many years as a member of its Executive Committee. His service and wise counsel to The Friends will be badly missed. On behalf of his wife Donna, and his friends and associates, we have established an Honor Certificate to commemorate his many contributions.

I am extremely proud that The Friends continues to provide services and pursue projects for the Academy Library that meet real needs. The publication of Phillip Meilinger's biography, *Hubert R. Harmon: Airman, Officer and Father of the Air Force Academy*, is an outstanding example. Sponsored by The Friends and developed from the extensive collection of materials in the Academy Library, the book was released to the public and made available for purchase at our annual luncheon. As our luncheon speaker, Dr. Meilinger gave an inspiring talk on General Harmon's life and military career that underscored the importance and significance of his contributions to the founding and early operation of the Academy.

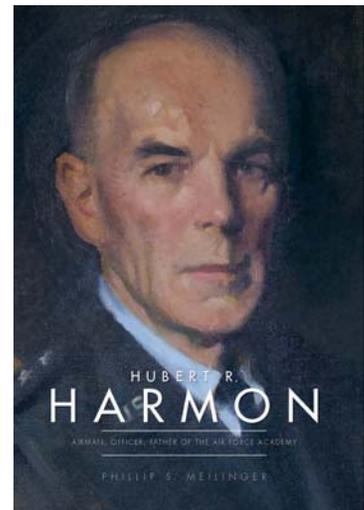
May I close by pointing out that never have The Friends been in greater need of your support in meeting our mission to enhance the Academy Library's stature and prestige. Please contribute to our work if you can.

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## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: THE BIOGRAPHY OF LT. GEN. HUBERT R. HARMON

Phillip Meilinger's biography, *Hubert R. Harmon: Airman, Officer, Father of the Air Force Academy*, commissioned by The Friends in 2007, has been published and was released to the public at The Friends' annual luncheon on April 16, 2009. In writing the biography, Dr. Meilinger researched the rich collection of official archives, oral histories, and the Harmon family papers housed within the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Academy Library. Using these materials he skillfully integrated General Harmon's

life and career not only into the story of the founding of the Academy but also into the history of the evolution of the Air Force and air power in the first half of the twentieth century. This important biography, sponsored by The Friends and the Class of 1959, is a benchmark publication that augments the institutional history of the Academy significantly. It is available for purchase from Fulcrum Publishing, 4690 Table Mountain Drive, Suite 100, Golden, CO 80403; (303) 277-1623; [www.fulcrumbooks.com](http://www.fulcrumbooks.com).



## FRIENDS' 2009 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The Board of Directors of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library held its annual meeting on April 16, 2009. The meeting and the luncheon that followed took place about a month earlier than usual in order to correspond with the 50th reunion of the Class of 1959, the first to graduate from the Air Force Academy. Our objective was to release the biography of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the Academy's first Superintendent, which was sponsored by The Friends and the Class of 1959, at the luncheon.

General Clark, our President, opened the meeting and welcomed the directors. Secretary Phil Caine then briefly reviewed the activities of The Friends during the past year. He first discussed the continuing role played by The Friends in the area of Academy heritage by emphasizing the ongoing oral history program, the coming on line of the Memorial Wall project headed by Col. Jock Schwank, and the publication of the Harmon biography. With respect to oral history, General Caine noted that the transcription of the interviews with members of the Eagle Squadrons of World War II has been completed and transcription of the interviews with commanders of the Air Force Academy Prep School has begun. He also described the activities of our new independent contractor, Karen Millis, who is presently working in the Academy Library on the organization, filing, and preservation of materials acquired through the auspices of The Friends. Secretary Caine concluded by commenting on the

financial challenges facing The Friends as a result of the national economic crisis.

The activity summary was followed by the reelection of the members of the Board whose term expires in 2009, the election of officers, and the reelection of the members of Executive Committee (with the exception of Mr. Willis Ketterson who declined to serve another term). Next, Treasurer Schwank gave a comprehensive financial report. It was considerably more detailed than in past years because of the current financial challenges faced by The Friends. After Colonel Schwank's report, the Board unanimously approved the 2009 budget. President Clark then appointed a committee chaired by Brig. Gen. Erlind Royer, with members Mr. Hal Littrell and Ms. Sue Woodward, to make recommendations for possible Friends' actions in response to difficulties created by the economic downturn. New business followed with General Caine outlining the projects planned by The Friends for the remainder of 2009. Finally, Lt. Col. Gary Howe, Vice President of the Association of Graduates, briefed on that organization's current programs; Col. John Andrew, the Vice Dean, talked briefly about key faculty issues; and Dr. Ed Scott, Director of Academy Libraries, summarized some of the problems confronting the Library that impact The Friends. General Clark then adjourned the meeting for the luncheon.

This year's luncheon was the largest in the history of The Friends with nearly

100 attendees including the Superintendent, Dean of Faculty, Commandant of Cadets, and Director of Athletics. Because the gathering marked the official release of the biography of General Harmon, we were particularly pleased to welcome his children, Mrs. Eula Harmon Hoff and Mr. Kendrick Harmon, as well as members of their families. Also in attendance were several members of the Class of 1959 and some of the original staff of the Academy. Our speaker was Dr. Phil Meilinger, the author of the Harmon biography. He gave a delightful talk focusing on General Harmon's well-deserved appointment as first Superintendent and later designation as "the Father of the Air Force Academy." Following his remarks, General Clark presented Dr. Meilinger with a specially bound copy of *Harmon*. Special copies were also presented to the Superintendent and the Harmon children. Following the luncheon, Dr. Meilinger signed copies of his book. The publication of the Harmon biography was a fitting climax to The Friends' work in commemorating the Academy's 50th anniversary, which began in 2004 with the production of *Expect Great Things*, a DVD portraying the first half-century of the Academy's history.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors and annual luncheon will be in May 2010. Look for the specific date and program in the Spring 2010 issue of the newsletter.

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## LT. GEN. MICHAEL C. GOULD NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Lt. Gen. Michael C. Gould assumed command as the eighteenth Superintendent of the US Air Force Academy on June 9, 2009. General Gould previously served as the Director of Operations and Plans for US Transportation Command at Scott AFB, Illinois, a post in which he was responsible for directing the deployment of forces, and the distribution of supplies and equipment, for the humanitarian, peace time, and war time operations of the Department of Defense.

A 1972 graduate of the Air Force Academy Prep School, General Gould earned his commission and a bachelor's degree in behavioral science from the Air Force Academy in 1976. Before entering pilot training, he served from June 1976 to January 1977 as a graduate assistant football coach at the Prep School. A command pilot with over 3,000 hours in a variety of aircraft, General Gould has commanded an air operations group, an air refueling wing, an air mobility wing, and the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center. He has also commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Force, RAF Mildenhall, England; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Force, Keesler AFB, Mississippi.

His other operational and staff assignments include three tours at Headquarters US Air Force, along with duty as an Air Force aide to the President and military assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force. In addition, he served as the Director of Mobility Forces for Operation Joint Endeavor and as US European Command's Air Expeditionary Task Force commander for the deployment of African Union Troops into the Darfur region of Sudan.

General Gould is a graduate of the Squadron Officer School, the Air Command and Staff College, and the National War College. He holds a master's degree from Webster University and has completed the Advanced Executive Program of the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University as well as the National and International Security Management Course, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

General Gould's major awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the

Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster. In 2002 he was singled out for special recognition as one of the original inductees into the Air Force Academy Prep School Hall of Fame.

General Gould's wife, Paula, retired from the US Air Force Reserve in the grade of colonel. While a member of the USAFR, Colonel Gould served as an Air Force Academy admissions liaison officer. Since her retirement from the Reserves, she has continued to serve the Academy as a volunteer liaison officer.

The Goulds have two sons, both Academy graduates. Captain Bart Gould is a member of the Class of 2004 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Brandon Gould is a member of the Class of 2007.

For our outgoing Superintendent, Lt. Gen. John F. Regni (USAFA '73), the change of command ceremony had added significance since it occurred on the eve of his retirement from thirty-six years of active duty. From the outset of his appointment as Superintendent in October 2005, General Regni provided splendid leadership to all facets of the Academy mission.

### FRIENDS' PROJECTS: A GRAND START TO 2009

2009 got off to an exciting start for The Friends as we completed several multi-year projects, a number of which were made possible with the generous bequest of Maj. Gen. Richard A. Yudkin.

The Friends' sponsored biography of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the Father of the Air Force Academy, was published and released in the spring, just in time to coincide with the unveiling of the Harmon statue at the Academy. Concurrent with the release of this important book, the author, Dr. Phillip S. Meilinger, was the keynote speaker at The Friends' annual luncheon. With over 100 guests, it was the largest in The Friends' twenty-year history.

Early 2009 also saw the completion of the transcription of more than fifty interviews with heroic American

aircrew members of the three RAF Eagle Squadrons of World War II. The interview transcriptions have been bound and deposited in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Library.

More recently, the transcription of interviews with seven former Air Force Academy Preparatory School commanders was completed. These interviews span the first forty years of the Prep School, 1961-2001. Once they are bound later in 2009, these interview transcriptions will also be placed in the Clark Special Collections Branch.

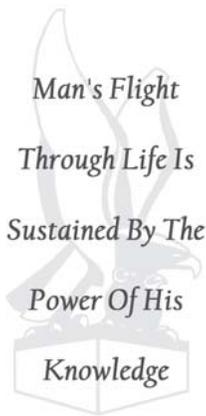
The Friends' website, [www.friends.usafalibrary.com](http://www.friends.usafalibrary.com), continues to evolve and improve as a vehicle for providing information to a diverse group of readers. Most recently the 2009 edition of *Icarus, The Cadet*

*Journal of the Arts*, was added to the web site. In addition, on the web site, The Friends continues to update the 20,000 pages of information on those graduates listed on the Academy's War Memorial Wall.

The Friends' on-going projects for the remainder of the year include emphasizing its oral history program. One interview with a former superintendent has already been completed and two more interviews are scheduled for completion in the near future.

In mid-2008, The Friends hired Karen Millis, an independent contractor archivist to organize, catalog and preserve significant fragile historic documents. Her work will benefit cadets and researchers as the Library makes greater use of electronic resources.

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## UPDATE FROM THE McDERMOTT LIBRARY

The Friends employment of Karen Millis as an independent contractor has allowed the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Academy Library a rate of progress exceeding that of most previous years. Her cataloging is a significant benefit to cadets, faculty, and public researchers as the Library moves to greater use of electronic resources and wider access to its materials. The inquiries that Special Collections is getting from researchers everywhere have increased with almost every entry.

The Library is also delighted with the generous donations received recently, especially for the exciting additional contributions to the Harmon collections and to the Eagle Squadron records.

The third floor of the Library is closed for installation of fire suppression equipment (sprinklers). It will be inaccessible from May 15 through August 6, 2009, although some construction will continue through mid-October. In the interim, all except three of the Library's forty-six person staff have been relocated to the fifth floor, east end where The Friends had an office for years.

The Library has requested new high-density "compact" shelving for the north side of the fourth floor. At a projected cost of almost \$800,000, the shelving will allow us to increase our shelving space by about 60 percent in the same amount of floor space. Installation is projected for early September through late December 2009.

The Dean of Faculty has created a special committee, headed by Dr. Aaron Byerley from the Department of Aeronautics, to evaluate the future of the Library. Currently USAFA is planning to hire an architect to present alternatives for Library upgrading, with construction starting in several years.

The Air Force Academy has been accredited for ten more years. Although the evaluation of the Library was not as extensive as in some previous years, we are pleased with our contributions to the Academy's overall accreditation assessment.

As always, we are delighted to help with public access to the Library, but please call Dr. Ed Scott (719-333-2590) or Dr Mary Elizabeth Ruwell (719-333-4674) to make an appointment.

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## MR. DONALD BARRETT PASSES AWAY



*Mr. Don Barrett (left) with Mr. Richard Gimbel at the dedication of the Gimbel Collection, December 2, 1971.*

Donald J. Barrett, Assistant Director of the Academy Library for many years, passed away April 23, 2009. He was born September 30, 1927 in St. Paul, Minnesota. After graduating from high school, he served in the Army Transportation Corps. Returning to Minnesota he received a B.S. in chemistry from the College of St. Thomas and a MA majoring in library science from the University of Minnesota. His employment at the Academy began six days before the Class of 1959 entered on July 11, 1955 at Lowry AFB in Denver and he worked in the Library over forty-one years. During that time he was instrumental in establishing the Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection along with acquiring many other materials for the Special Collections Branch. In 1978 he was selected to oversee the 46,000 square-foot addition to the Library, and in 1986 was requested to rewrite the academic library space planning guidelines for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Don attended nearly every Academy home football game beginning in 1958, missing only four games through the 2008 season. He was also a certified Master Official for track, officiating for forty-one years, primarily as the Head Finish Judge. An annual track meet hosted by the Academy is named in his honor. Don is survived by his wife June, a daughter Barbara, and two granddaughters, Megan and Kristin Nelson. He is buried in the Air Force Academy cemetery.