

CADET HERITAGE

Priceless documents from aerospace pioneers who support CAP cadets



INTRODUCTION

Since 1942, young people have been serving their communities and developing into responsible citizens through Civil Air Patrol.

In 1963, CAP leaders decided it was time to reorganize the Cadet Program and begin a new curriculum. To add credibility to their important work and help inspire America's next generation of pilots, engineers, mechanics, and aviation enthusiasts, CAP asked aerospace pioneers for permission to name cadet awards in their honor. The "modern" Cadet Program launched in 1964.

The cherished documents reproduced here are proudly displayed at CAP National Headquarters, Gill Robb Wilson Hall, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

The CADET CANON of AEROSPACE PIONEERS

Original, WWII-era Cadet Program is established without the use of named Achievements

Original 11 Pioneers

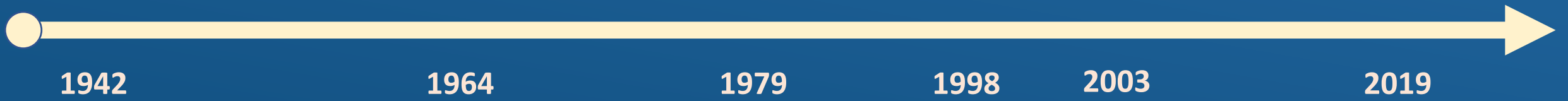
Curry	Doolittle
Arnold	Goddard
Wright	Mitchell
Brothers	Earhart
Rickenbacker	Spaatz
Lindbergh	Borman

Borman Falcon Award
phased-out

Armstrong
Eaker

Feik

Brown
Boyd
Ride



CAP's canon of aerospace pioneers was born in 1964 when CAP converted from its original WWII-era Cadet Program to its "modern" configuration. Originally, eleven pioneers were to inspire the cadets, but CAP has amended the canon over the years. The first alteration came in 1979

when the Frank Borman Falcon Award, perched above the Spaatz, was phased- out. In 1998, Neil Armstrong and Ira Eaker were added. In 2003, Mary Feik joined the ranks. The Willa Brown, George Boyd, and Sally Ride Achievements commenced in 2019.

JOHN CURRY

Major General, USAF

First CAP national commander

“I was always very proud that I was with CAP in the beginning.”

In his letter authorizing CAP to use his name in the new Cadet Program, Maj Gen Curry gives a glimpse of CAP's early days and the fight to allow volunteer aviators to support the war effort by performing missions that only they could accomplish.



MAJOR GENERAL U.S.A.F. RETIRED

520 ELM STREET
DENVER 20, COLORADO
March 23, 1963.

Mr Charles W. Webb,
Deputy Chief of Staff,
Aero Space Education,
Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force.

Dear Mr. Webb,

I was certainly pleased to get your letter of March 21st asking me for my permission to establish the John F. Curry Achievement in Phase 1 of the Civil Air Patrol Program. Not only was I pleased but I was honored that the Civil Air Patrol should desire to put my name on Phase 1. The statement of permission is enclosed herewith.

As I look back over the period of the "birth" of the C.A.P. I wonder how we ever survived. All private plane flying was banned on the West Coast and there was a very strong movement to do the same in the rest of the country. Part of this was understandable due to the extreme work load at headquarters of the War Department and the Army Air Force and the ignorance of all branches of the government on what we could do.

I was fortunate in that I knew personally and well many of the heads of sections of the Army Air Force in Washington—also General Arnold—so I could go to all concerned directly, get their interest and enlist their support. However each day we lived in suspense. Finally we proved our worth—spotting German submarines off our East Coast—and from then on continued to prove our value to the national defense.

When I was ordered away from it, I knew the Civil Air Patrol was going to live, and although it had many struggles ahead of it, it continued to be an essential part of our war effort.

I was always very proud that I was with it in the beginning and my thoughts and good wishes have been with it ever since. Occasionally at critical times during the war I was still able to be of help.

Again I wish to express my appreciation of the honor the Civil Air Patrol has bestowed on me.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely,



John F. Curry

HAP ARNOLD

General of the Air Force, USAF

WWII commander of Army Air Forces

“The boys and I . . . feel it is a great honor.”

Here, the widow of airpower legend Hap Arnold expresses her support for the CAP Cadet Program.

Gen. Arnold, as Chief of the U.S. Army Air Forces during WWII, provided vital support to Maj Gen Curry in his efforts to establish a Civil Air Patrol.

El Rancho Feliz
Valley of the Moon
Sonoma, California

Sept. 16th. 1963

Dear Mr. Sorenson:

Thank you for sending the information concerning the Civil Air Patrol. I have been intensely interested in reading about the broad program and objectives.

It is with pleasure that the boys and ^I give permission to have General Arnold's name used in the Achievement in Phase II in the Civil Air Patrol Program.

We feel it is a great honor to have him identified with this wonderful program.

Sincerely

Sharon F. Arnold

(Mrs. H. H. Arnold)



MARY FEIK

Colonel, CAP

Mechanic, engineer, & aviator

America's first female aviation engineer taught mechanics for the US Army Air Corps and logged thousands of hours as a pilot and engineering observer in fighter, attack, bomber, cargo, and training aircraft. Twelve years from the award's inception until her passing, Col Feik traveled the nation, speaking to thousands of cadets and inspiring female cadets in particular to become the leaders America needs.



Civil Air Patrol
United States Air Force Auxiliary

THE MARY FEIK ACHIEVEMENT RIBBON



The border bands of orange and blue represent the colors of the United States Army Air Corps, where Mary Feik pioneered aircraft mechanics, engineering, and flight training. The center red band recalls the epaulets worn by Civil Air Patrol members during World War II, and Mary Feik's lifelong volunteer service as a member of the United States Air Force Auxiliary. No colors intervene between the orange, blue, and red as aviation itself is unbounded. In final review, the Mary Feik Achievement Ribbon commemorates the leadership and pioneering contributions Mary Feik has made to the world of aviation.

*I authorize Civil Air Patrol to use my name to inspire its cadets,
America's next generation of aviation pioneers.*

Mary Feik
MARY FEIK

14 February 2004
DATE



WRIGHT BROTHERS

*Orville & Wilbur Wright
Inventors of the airplane*

This letter shows that leaders of The Smithsonian knew well that CAP planned to modernize its Cadet Program.

CAP's Charles Webb may have written to The Smithsonian because the Wright Brothers died bachelors. Without any widows or children to turn to, whose permission should CAP seek to name a cadet award in the Wrights' honor?

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
NATIONAL AIR MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 22, 1963

Mr. Charles W. Webb
Deputy Chief of Staff
Aerospace Education
Civil Air Patrol
Ellington Air Force Base
Texas

Dear Charlie:

Thank you for your letter of March 21, 1963.

The revised Cadet program looks great!
Congratulations.

I know of no one to whom you should write for permission to establish a Civil Air Patrol award for achievement for your Cadets in the name of the Wright Brothers.

A number of schools have been named for them. The NAA annually awards a Wright Trophy at the December 17th Banquet. The National Aviation Hall of Fame awarded them a plaque (posthumously) last year.

If the achievement award is based on merit and is awarded with dignity, I cannot imagine anyone objecting to it.

You should, of course, get permission of the living persons for whom you wish to name awards--as a matter of courtesy.

Good luck on the new program.

Sincerely yours,

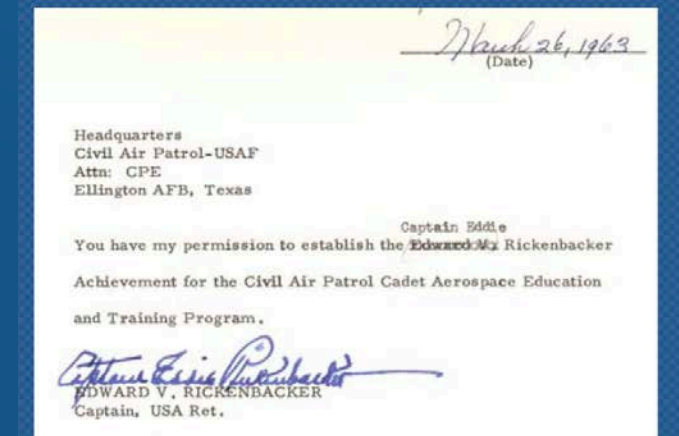
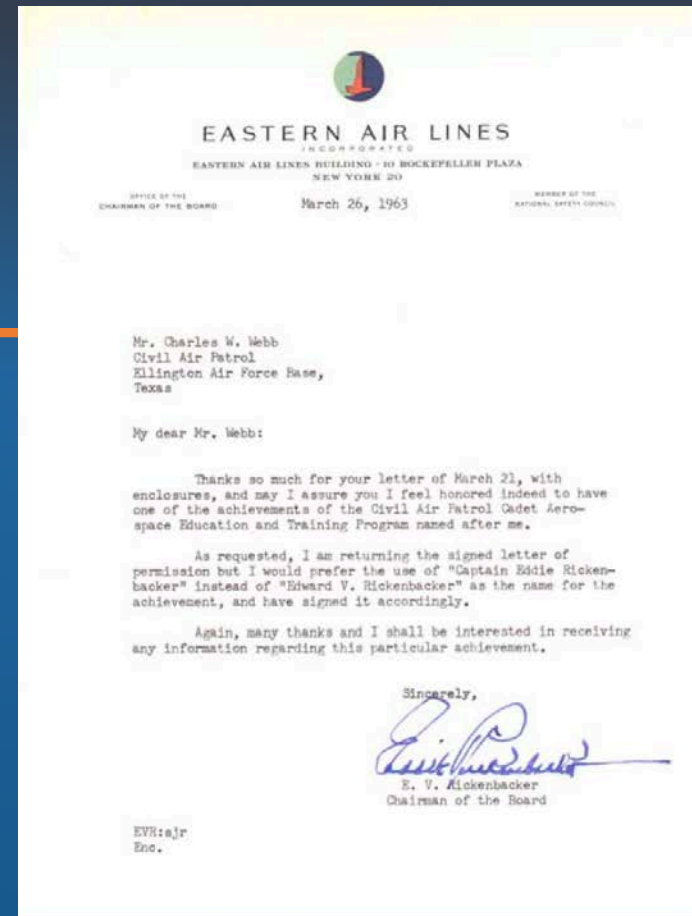


Philip S. Hopkins
Director

EDDIE RICKENBACKER

WWI Ace of Aces
Captain, USA

Here, the famous WWI Ace of Aces, now chairman of one of America's biggest airlines, explains that he wants succeeding generations of cadets to know him simply as Eddie, not by his formal name, Edward V.



JIMMY DOOLITTLE

General, USAF

WWII Medal of Honor recipient

How would an engineer grant permission to CAP to name a cadet award in his honor? Succinctly.

One of aviation's true giants, Gen Doolittle is famous for being one of the first men to earn a doctorate in aeronautics from MIT, being the first pilot to fly "blind," relying entirely on instruments, and commanding the almost suicidal bombing raid on Tokyo in the early days of WWII, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor.



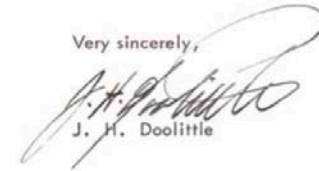
26 March 1963

Headquarters
Civil Air Patrol - USAF
Attn: CPE
Ellington AFB, Texas

You have my permission to establish the James H. Doolittle Achievement for the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Aerospace Education and Training Program, provided there is no obligation to me associated therewith.

Every good wish for success in the important work you are doing.

Very sincerely,



J. H. Doolittle

ROBERT GODDARD

Father of Modern Rocketry

Professor of Physics

“I am deeply moved . . .”

Aerospace enthusiasts know of Dr. Goddard’s legacy. But how many young people appreciate him as “the world’s first space pioneer?” In this letter, Dr. Goddard’s widow thanks CAP for honoring her late husband and perpetuating his memory through the new Cadet Program.

One Tallowanda Drive
Worcester 3, Massachusetts

March 27, 1963

Mr. Charles W. Webb, Deputy Chief of Staff
National Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol
Ellington Air Force Base Texas

Dear Mr. Webb:

Thank you for your very kind letter of the 20th, and for the Time and Sequence Chart of your Civil Air Patrol Program, both of which I have read with much interest.

I am deeply moved that your organization is inclined to honor my late husband by creating the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Achievement. He would be very proud indeed of this honor, and I have no hesitation whatever in granting permission for you to use his name in this manner.

With appreciation of your courtesies,

Sincerely,

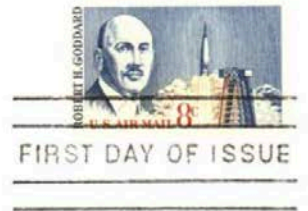


(Mrs. Robert H. Goddard)



FIRST DAY
OF ISSUE

DR. GODDARD CHECKING ROCKET



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Mr. Charles W. Webb
Deputy Chief Staff
Aerospace Education
Hqs. Civil Air Patrol
Ellington AFB, Texas

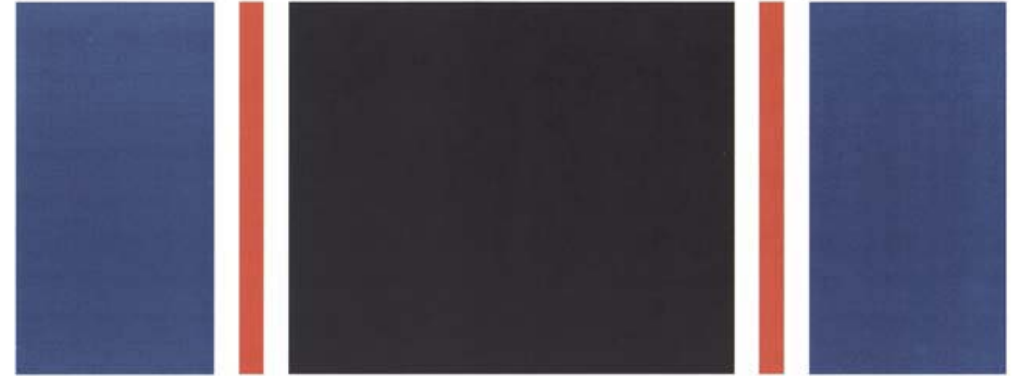
NEIL ARMSTRONG

*First person to set foot upon the Moon
Commander, Apollo 11*

This document was returned to CAP unsigned, with only a brief explanation provided by Mr. Armstrong's secretary:

"Mr. Armstrong has no objection to the use of his name as requested [but] has concluded he will not provide the signed authorization."

Mr. Armstrong was famously reclusive and suspicious of people who might try to make money off of his autograph.



On the dexter and the sinister ends of the ribbon are rectangles of blue which represent the Earth and the atmosphere; bordered to the center are equal strips of white, red and white. The red, white and blue represent the traditional colors of the United States. The final white strip indicates a final barrier to the center of the ribbon which is a large black rectangle and represents the darkness and void of space. In final review, it depicts either from right to left or left to right, an American leaving Earth's boundary, traveling through space and returning to Earth.

I authorize Civil Air Patrol to use my name for the Cadet Program.

NEIL ARMSTRONG

DATE



AMELIA EARHART

Record-setting aviatrix, best-selling author &
Founder of The Ninety-Nines

***“This seems like a very nice thing to do –
the kind of award Amelia would choose
herself. Thank you!”***


Ms. Earhart’s sister grants CAP permission to create the Amelia Earhart Award for cadets. In this handwritten note, Muriel Earhart Morrissey compliment’s the award certificate’s artwork, which is believed to be identical to the artwork still in use today.

March 7, '44
Charles W Webb
Deputy Chief of Staff
Aerospace Education
Civil Air Patrol - USAF Aux
Ellington Air Force Base
Texas
Dear Mr. Webb,
I am very grateful
for the large copy of the
etching of my sister Amelia
which I arrived in perfect
condition today.
Please congratulate your
artist who has caught
a characteristic expression
of Amelia, intent yet eager,
against a beautiful and
symbolic background.
I sincerely appreciate your
sending me this award
etching which I shall prize
as highly as, I am sure,
the recipients of the award
prize them.
Best wishes for continued
success in your Air Patrol Cadet
Program.
Cordially yours,
Muriel Earhart Morrissey

WILLA BROWN

*“Maker of Pilots,” civil rights pioneer
Lieutenant, CAP*

A pioneering aviator, Lt Brown earned her pilot's license in 1937, making her the first African American woman to be licensed in the United States. In 1941, she became the first African American officer in the CAP. In 1943, she became the first woman in the United States who possessed both a mechanic's license and a commercial license in aviation. Her aviation school paved the way for the Tuskegee Airmen.




CIVIL AIR PATROL
USAF Auxiliary

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE

**LT. WILLA BROWN
CADET ACHIEVEMENT**

I grant CAP permission to establish the
LT. WILLA BROWN CADET ACHIEVEMENT
to honor her legacy as
the first female African-American pilot,
WWII-era leader of the Civil Air Patrol,
and civil rights trailblazer



David E Brown
Nephew and family representative

Date

SALLY RIDE

First female American astronaut, STS-7 & STS-41G

Scientist, engineer, & educator

Dr. Ride is best known as the first female American astronaut, but more than that, she was a scientist and engineer who was deeply concerned about science literacy in America. Her Sally Ride Science Festivals inspired thousands of middle school girls to get excited about STEM subjects and related careers.



CIVIL AIR PATROL
USAF Auxiliary



HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE

DR. SALLY RIDE CADET ACHIEVEMENT

I grant CAP permission to establish the
DR. SALLY RIDE CADET ACHIEVEMENT
to honor her legacy and inspire the next generation of
astronauts, scientists, engineers, and public servants
to respond to her personal motto,
"Reach for the stars!"

Tam O'Shaughnessy
Tam O'Shaughnessy, Ph.D.
Co-Founder
Sally Ride Science @ UC San Diego

6/21/19
Date

©2019 Sally Ride Science®. All rights reserved. All other rights reserved.

GEORGE BOYD

*Tuskegee Airman, CAP Wing Commander
Colonel, CAP*

Col Boyd was a recipient of two Congressional Gold Medals, one for his service as a CAP cadet from the WWII era, and another as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the WWII combat unit famous for overcoming the indignities of segregation while simultaneously amassing an incredible combat record. In his later life, Col Boyd served as commander of CAP's Kansas Wing.



CIVIL AIR PATROL
USAF Auxiliary

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE

COLONEL GEORGE BOYD CADET ACHIEVEMENT

I grant CAP permission to establish the
COLONEL GEORGE BOYD CADET ACHIEVEMENT
to honor his legacy as a
former WWII-era CAP cadet,
Tuskegee Airman,
and volunteer CAP leader.

*This honor will be treasured by future
generations. The Boyd Family,
"Thank you"*

Mattie S. Boyd
Mattie S. Boyd
Wife

15 April 2019
Date



CARL SPAATZ

General, USAF

First USAF Chief of Staff

First Chairman of the CAP National Board

Gen Spaatz, “Master of Airpower,” commanded US bomber forces during WWII. After the war, he served as the newly-formed U.S. Air Force’s first chief of staff. In later life, Gen Spaatz served as CAP’s first chairman of its National Board. The general’s grandchildren proudly keep “Tooley’s” legacy alive today through The Spaatz Association, the honor society of CAP Spaatz Award recipients.

GENERAL CARL A. SPAATZ, USAF RET.
5 GRAFTON STREET
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND

April 16, 1963

Mr. Charles W. Webb
Deputy Chief of Staff
Aerospace Education
Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol
Ellington Air Force Base, Texas


Dear Mr. Webb:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 21 March. I have been absent from my desk for some time; hence the delay in answering.

I am glad to grant your request for permission to establish the Carl A. Spaatz Achievement in Phase III of the Civil Air Program.

With best wishes for the program,

Sincerely,



FRANK BORMAN

Astronaut, Gemini 7 & Apollo 8

Colonel, USAF

Astronaut Frank Borman, who orbited the Moon with Apollo 8, gave his support to CAP's Cadet Program just three weeks before man's first lunar landing.

The Frank Borman Falcon Award recognized CAP members who continued their study of aerospace after earning the Spaatz Award. The Falcon Award was discontinued in 1979.

