GENERAL HENRY H. ARNOLD EDUCATION GRANT

in honor of

GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE
HENRY HARLEY ARNOLD

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General Henry "Hap" Arnold was one of this nation's foremost air power advocates. He was the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces during World War II. After the war, his leadership was key to the creation of the Air Force as a separate service in 1947. To this day, he is the only five-star "General of the Air Force". It was General Arnold who created today's Air Force Aid Society.

General Arnold's aviation career began while he was assigned to Governors Island, New York where he had the opportunity for assignment to the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps. He received instruction from the Wright Brothers at Dayton, Ohio from April until June 1911. On July 5, 1912 General Arnold won the first of all United States Military Aviator badges for a record flight of 6,540 feet in a flimsy Model B Wright biplane. At Fort Riley, Kansas in late 1912, he sent the first air to ground radio message. General Arnold also conducted the first successful mid-air refueling operation in this country. In 1934, he organized and led one of the more memorable flights of U.S. Army Air Corps history, commanding ten Martin B-10's from Bolling Field, D.C. to Fairbanks, Alaska and return.

General Arnold was born in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania on June 25, 1886. He died on January 15, 1950 and soon thereafter the Board of Trustees of the Air Force Aid Society created a special education fund in his honor. That fund eventually became the forerunner of what is now called the Education Fund of the Air Force Aid Society.

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