



# **GENERAL HENRY H. ARNOLD EDUCATION GRANT**

**in honor of**

**CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE  
GARY R. PFINGSTON**



CMSAF Gary R. Pfingston was the 10<sup>th</sup> Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force whose Air Force career spanned the period from 1962 until his retirement in 1994. After a brief stint as a professional baseball player, he enlisted in the Air Force in 1962 as an aircraft mechanic. He subsequently served as a crew chief for B-52s and KC-135s in assignments in California, New York, and Thailand. He later served as a First Sergeant, a role that led to his assignment as a senior enlisted advisor at George AFB, Bergstrom AFB, and finally Pacific Air Forces.

Chief Pfingston became the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force in 1990 and is remembered for working through many demanding issues during a significant downsizing of the Air Force. He was instrumental in advocating for the Voluntary Separation Initiative and the Special Separation Bonus so vital to the transition of members leaving active service. He pushed to expand enlisted training opportunities and was a strong supporter of efforts to open more career fields to women. A former Air Force Chief of Staff remembers Chief Pfingston as someone who didn't just fix things but rather kept things from breaking in the first place.

Chief Pfingston retired to San Antonio in 1994, remaining active in speaking visits to NCO Academy graduations and forums. He died on June 23, 2007.