



GENERAL HENRY H. ARNOLD EDUCATION GRANT

in honor of

LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY TUNNER



Lieutenant General William H. Tunner will be forever remembered as the Commander of the Berlin Airlift. He masterminded the synchronization of the airlift that supplied food and coal for 2.3 million Berliners for fifteen months after the Soviet Union blockaded the land routes to the city.

General Tunner became involved with airlift early in his career when he helped General Robert Olds organize Ferrying Command, which later became Air Transport Command. His experience with airlift was tapped in 1943 when he went to the China-Burma-India Theater to supervise airlift of supplies and people to China. The route went across the Himalayas from India, in what became known as "flying the Hump."

Air Transport Command and the Naval Air Transport Service merged to form the Military Air Transport Service (MATS) in early June 1948. Only three weeks later, the Soviet Union blockaded Berlin and the Berlin Airlift began. General Tunner's brilliant airlift capabilities used during the Airlift brought him recognition as the "Aviation Man of the Year" in 1949. He accepted the honor in the name of the men and women of the Berlin Airlift.

When the Korean War began in June 1950, General Tunner was again called upon to demonstrate his airlift expertise. He went to Japan to organize and command a new airlift organization - Combat Cargo Command. He had the initial job of providing airlift for the Inchon invasion and later paratroop operations.

Appropriately, General Tunner was named commander of the Military Air Transport Service in July 1958 where he served until his retirement in June 1960. The Military Air Transport Service was subsequently named the Military Airlift Command. During his distinguished career, General Tunner was rated as a command pilot, aircraft observer, and combat observer. Included in his many decorations are the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. General Tunner died April 6, 1983.