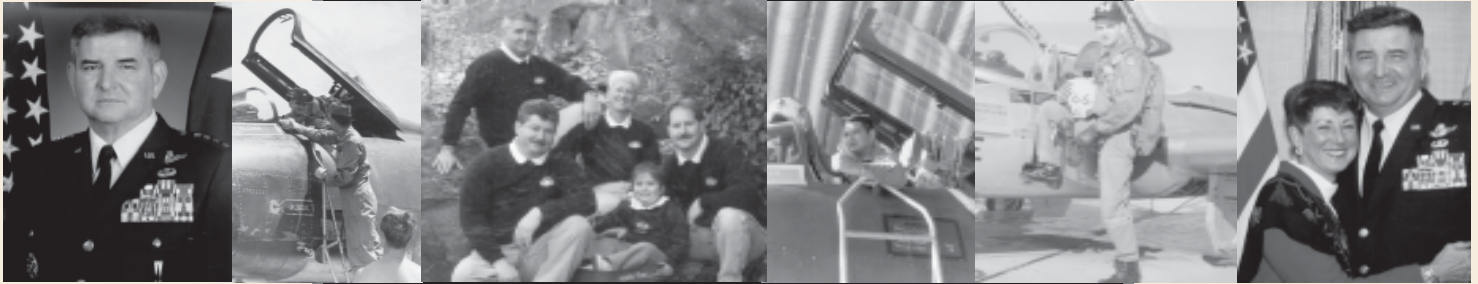


# OUR DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

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## General Ronald R Fogleman



## Mr Harry J Pearce

The USAF Academy and its Association of Graduates recently announced the winners of the Air Force Academy's first Distinguished Graduate Award. General Ronald R Fogleman '63 and Mr Harry J Pearce '64 earned this prestigious honor for their singular and distinctive contributions to society and the nation. Honor, Duty, Loyalty, and Integrity capture the essence of these two distinguished graduates. Their accomplishments are testimony to the values the Academy instills in its graduates.

The awardees will be honored at ceremonies and events held in conjunction with the Academy's Founders' Day in April. Both men will have the opportunity to interact with cadets during their visit.

The Association of Graduates established the Distinguished Graduate Award as a way to identify to the public and the Cadet Wing the broad national impact that graduates of the United States Air Force Academy have on society. The individual achievements of our first winners exemplify the qualities and characteristics that the Academy strives to imbue in its cadets—the future leaders of our Air Force and the country.

The accomplishments of these distinguished graduates are sketched in the following pages. Their achievements are too numerous to account for all of them here, but these highlights illustrate their commitment and dedication to the nation and the Air Force Academy.

BY DICK RAUSCHKOLB '70  
VICE PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

**G**eneral Fogleman is a 1963 graduate of the Academy. He is the first Academy graduate to rise to be the Air Force Chief of Staff. As a young officer, he served two tours in Southeast Asia, logging 315 combat missions and over 800 combat hours as a high-speed F-100 Forward Air Controller and F-4E pilot. His exceptional courage in the face of hostile forces was recognized with the award of the Silver Star and two Distinguished Flying Crosses. He also received the Purple Heart for injuries received while ejecting from his crippled aircraft.

As the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Fogleman stabilized the service after the turmoil of reorganization and downsizing. He led the Air Force to new understandings of accountability and excellence, intensifying the commitment to personal integrity, service before self, and excellence in every endeavor. Where others counseled silence on matters of fairness, he spoke out courageously on the national stage for accountability and responsibility. In an act of unprecedented selflessness, he chose to retire from office in order to strengthen civil-military cooperation and emphasize the Air Force's contribution to national defense.

Since retirement, General Fogleman has remained a staunch supporter of the Air Force by continuing to serve on commissions to advise the nation on its future defense needs. Donating his time and resources, he has been heavily involved in numerous fund-raising activities for the Air Force Memorial Association.

His continued love for his alma mater and its ideals set him apart from other graduates. He continues to contribute his time, talent, and financial resources to support the Academy mission and its cadets. He was an early member of the Sabre Society and he has recruited numerous supporters to join this prestigious organization whose members provide important financial support to the Academy. He has spoken at the Academy on numerous occasions; most recently he was a keynote speaker at The Academy's National Character and Leadership Symposium.

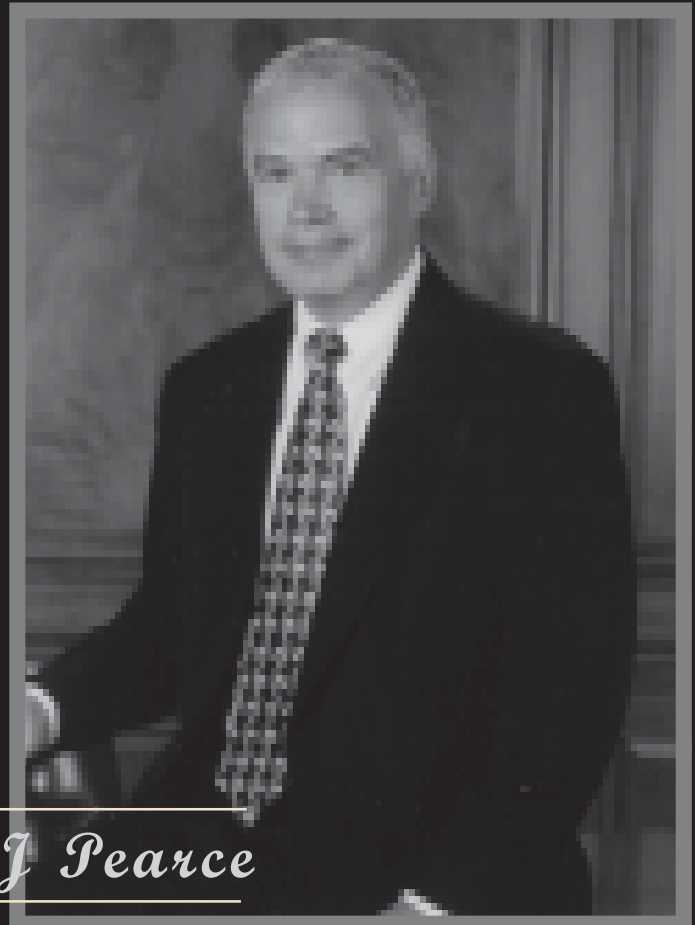
Throughout a lifetime of service to the nation, General Fogleman espoused and lived by the core values of the Academy and the Air Force: Integrity, Excellence and Service Before Self.



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*General Ronald R Fogleman*

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*Mr Harry J Pearce*

**M**r Harry J Pearce is a 1964 graduate of the Academy. After graduating from the Academy, he received his law degree from Northwestern University's School of Law. During his Air Force service, he was a Staff Judge Advocate. He started working for General Motors in 1985 as Associate General Counsel and quickly moved to higher positions. From '96 until recently, he was Vice Chairman of General Motors Corporation. He is a tough competitor, who is credited with making a huge impact on the way GM did business, winning a legendary legal battle with NBC's "Dateline," and leading GM's advanced technology efforts to produce cleaner, fuel-efficient cars and trucks for the future. He is now the Chairman of Hughes Electronics Corporation, a subsidiary of General Motors.

But Harry Pearce's lifetime commitment to causes far more important than the bottom-line is why he won this award. His support for improving education, increasing minority opportunities, encouraging local economic development, developing environmentally sound business practices, and ending the trauma of life-threatening diseases illustrate his unswerving commitment to bettering society. His years of concern for higher education and minority opportunity have earned him numerous

awards. In May, Mr Pearce received The American Jewish Committee's National Human Relations Award. Last year, he was presented with both the Black Patriots Foundation Leadership Award and the National Conference for Community and Justice's "Humanitarian of the Year" Award for his work with the NAACP.

Three years ago, Harry was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia, or AML, a life-threatening disease. He beat the illness, but saw the devastating toll it takes. He turned his personal battle with the disease into a public mission, and, today sits on the board of six different foundations that support leukemia and bone marrow research and treatment.

Few graduates of the Academy have dedicated as much time and energy as Harry Pearce toward building a strong Academy. He is currently chairman of the Sabre Society. His leadership over the past year has resulted in a 67 percent increase in membership in this organization of high-end donors pledged to support the Academy and cadet programs. He is also the chairman of the Academy's Board of Visitors.

In spirit, character, and accomplishment these remarkable men epitomize the values and ideals of the United States Air Force Academy.

