

# ENDORSEMENTS

“One of the traditions of the Air Force Academy is a program called the Legacy Class Program where in the newest class is paired with the class that graduated 50 years before them. This pairing begins with the arrival of the new class and grows through the four years until graduation and beyond. Since the inception of the program this pairing has taken several different forms and resulted in many lasting relationships. The Class of 1973 has taken the program to a new level with the assimilation and publication of a book “Becoming Leaders of Character: Conversations with the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 1973.”

The stories in the book reflect the make-up and accomplishments of the Class of 1973...self-described as the “Illustrious Class of 1973.” In several ways it was a watershed class...the members entered in 1969, came from the society of the 60’s with the anti-war movements and protests. It was the first Academy class to not participate in the Vietnam War...their wars would come later in their careers.

This book is important for a couple of reasons, but primarily because it focusses on the sole purpose of the Academy...to produce leaders of character. The book is a compendium of stories told by members of the Class of ’73 as they look back on the fifty years since their graduation. The reflections actually start with their arrival at the Academy and introduction to cadet life. They describe role played by living under the Honor Code and learning how the Core Values became the path to developing leaders of character. Through the stories the importance of

the Core Values in developing a moral compass to guide them on the path to becoming leaders of character is shown.

Included are first person accounts from those who rose to highest leadership positions within the Air Force and public and private life. A Chief of Staff of the Air Force, numerous flag officers, CEOs, the Hero on the Hudson and those who left the military and public life to pursue other interests provide their person perspectives on what went into their becoming leaders of character. When the stories are told and one reflects on what it takes to be recognized and respected as a leader it boils down to three ingredients: Courage, Competency, and Character. The courage to do what is right, the competency to meet the requirements of the task at hand and the character to embrace the core values of Integrity, Service Before Self and Excellence.

The class of '73 has dedicated this book to the Class of 2023, to prospective cadets, to the families of the members of the Class of 73 and to those aspiring to leadership in their organizations and communities. This book should be part of any professional reading program.”

**GENERAL RONALD FOGLEMAN**

United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Class of 1963,  
former history professor, and first USAFA graduate to  
serve as the 15th Chief of Staff, United States Air Force:

“It has been several generations since we have so desperately needed a book like the Class of 1973’s *Becoming Leaders of Character*. The rate and complexity of change remains in a cycle of constant acceleration. To meet the challenges of our evolving world, we need leaders prepared to adapt and succeed in conditions with limited historical parallels. The return of great power competition, emergence of new technologies like artificial intelligence on the battlefield, and generational conceptions of

service are all converging to create profoundly complex environments in which to lead. We must win but must do so with character and within frameworks based on ethics and honor. This book will serve as an exceptional guide for those willing to accept the challenges of this critical time for our country, and the world.”

**MAJOR GENERAL (VSM) MARK ANARUMO, PH.D.**

President, Norwich University, former Director and Permanent Professor for the USAFA Center for Character and Leadership Development

“The legendary Brigadier General George A. Lincoln USA (Ret) famously said of his alma mater (USMA 1929) “*The engraving on monuments of stone and bronze does not mark achievement. Only the engraving on the character and competence of our cadets and our young officers counts toward the fulfillment of our mission.*” Nearly 100 years later, amongst USAFA’s static displays, and monuments of marble, bronze and glass, this guiding principle is even more crucial for our Academy as so brilliantly expressed in the Class of 1973’s *Becoming Leaders of Character.*”

**BRIGADIER GENERAL DANA BORN**

United States Air Force, Retired; USAFA Dean #9, 2004-2013; Class of 1983; Chair, Senior Executive Fellows (SEF) Program Faculty; Advisor, Black Family Graduate Fellows; Lecturer in Public Policy, HARVARD Kennedy School of Government