



THE OKLAHOMA EDUCATIONAL MEMORIAL TRUST FOUNDATION HONORS

Reginald Oras Shaw



This scholarship was established by the parents of Reginald Oras Shaw to honor his memory and life after his untimely death while enroute to one of his oil leases near Oilton, Oklahoma, a new well on production. Word came that Reg had lost his life in a collision with a large bus on a narrow highway.

The following words are taken from an obituary that was written by his father:

The 49th Fighter Group, with Eddie Rickenbacher insignia, left for Japan on October 26, 1948, shortly after a gala occasion in Greenwich, Connecticut, where an announcement had been made of the engagement and approaching marriage of Dorothy Grace Montague to our Reg. Japan was new to him. Misawa Air Base on Northern Honshu became the pivot of jet operations. To the Air Force he gave time and talent, but his heart was in Connecticut. Months later, on August 20, 1949, the final marriage vows were spoken at Christ Church in Greenwich, thus bringing full realization to a romance that withstood the perils of months and years of separation. Dorothy and Reg were man and wife. Their happiness was complete. A lovely honeymoon back to Japan, six months of duty in the Orient. And then the return home to personally take charge of his oil operations in Oklahoma.

We lived in Tulsa and New York so Reg had his early education in Holland Hall in Tulsa and Horace Mann in New York. Later he entered Tulsa Public Schools and graduated from Will Rogers High School in 1942 as an officer of his class, captain of the track team, and an active participant in the full life of an outstanding institution. Enrollment in Tulsa University followed immediately, but his heart was pointed toward West Point and his appointment was earned on competitive examination. West Point claimed him on July 1, 1943, and he graduated June 4 in the Class of 1946. Along with his academic degree and commission in the Air Force, Rag sent home the Major "A" earned in track, and this award joined some 200 other trophies, medals, and citations which remain in his room as silent witnesses of

youthful achievements. There the Army "A" casts a protective pattern around his World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal with the Japan Clasp.

Reg flew jets over the Arctic out of Fairbanks during the long winter of 1947-1948. On changes in assignment and at every opportunity he returned to Oklahoma and Connecticut to see friends and loved ones. His capacity for making friends appeared to be without limitation. In turn, he never faltered in his friendship for others and I never knew him to undertake a task that was not completed with distinction. He was a finer son than I had any right to expect and in our close association over the span of his life, there was never a serious misunderstanding between us.

From childhood, Reg was a member of the First Christian Church at Tulsa. With a sincere attitude toward others he also had an abiding faith in God, and took just pride in the high standards of moral conduct expected of a West Point graduate. He was a good speaker and I recall a quotation used by him in 1944 in an address before the Tulsa County Bar Association. He spoke on "West Point Today", and he said:

*"Our ideals are like stars,
We are unable to touch them with our hands;
But, like a sea-faring man on a desert of water,
Following them, we reach our destiny."*

On another occasion before a fraternity group at the Tulsa University, I heard him use for the first time a quotation by Lincoln, to be used often by him later, when he said,

*"I want it said of me
By those who know me best,
That I plucked a thistle and planted a flower,
Wherever I thought a flower would grow.*

Reg went through life planting flowers in the hearts of others. This philosophy of good living seemed to become a part of him and the genuine happiness that he brought to all about him is the truest evidence of the worthwhileness of his life.

Recently I opened a file belonging to Reg in which there was a single sheet of paper. Alone on this sheet in Reg's own handwriting were these words:

"It is difficult to make a man miserable who has developed a sense of worthiness in himself, and a kinship with the Great God who made him".

- Adapted from <https://www.west-point.org/users/usma1946/15684/>