

BRUCE N. WHITMAN
Trinity Class of 1955
Doctor of Humane Letters

Son Stewart L. Whitman II presented by Trustee Emeritus Douglas T. Tansill '61, P'91, '96

He was long known as a giant of the aviation industry, a true pioneer in flight training and simulation who was devoted to promoting safety and outstanding crew performance. Bruce N. Whitman, a proud member of the Trinity College Class of 1955, passed away in October 2018, after the college had made plans to award him an honorary degree.

Whitman's commitment to service started early. He spent two summers as a seaman with the U.S. Merchant Marine while attending Trinity, where he was a member of Alpha Delta Phi and the varsity tennis team. After graduating with a B.A. in English, Whitman served in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot, navigator, and bombardier in the Strategic Air Command. After active duty, Whitman returned to academia and began study at The George Washington University Law School, all the while flying in the Air Force Reserve and as a captain for East Coast Flying Service.

In 1961, Whitman joined FlightSafety International, the nation's premier aviation training organization, as assistant to the president, and in less than a year, he was named vice president and a director of the company. The following year, he was named executive vice president, and in 2003, he was tapped as CEO.

The number of honors and awards that Whitman received is extensive, so much so that it would be impossible to fit them on this page. Highlights in just the past few years include *Aviation Week's* 2018 Philip J. Klass Lifetime Achievement Award, given for contributions to air crew and passenger safety; the 2016 National Business Aviation Association American Spirit Award, for exemplifying the courage, pursuit of excellence, and service to others that characterize men and women who created and nurtured the American aviation community; and the 2016 Médaille de l'Aéronautique from France, for outstanding accomplishments related to the field of aeronautics. In 2015, he was inducted into the Living Legends of Aviation in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to aviation.

Whitman's board service also was extensive. He was one of the original organizers and chair of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, leading the establishment of the foundation's Character Development Program, which teaches secondary school students life lessons about service, patriotism, and good citizenship. He also served on the boards of Orbis International, which is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of eye diseases in developing nations; the Corporate Angel Network, which transports cancer patients to hospitals at no cost; the AirForce Academy Falcon Foundation, which provides scholarships to youths who want to attend the Air Force Academy; the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum; the National World War II Museum; and many others.

Whitman's ties to Trinity run deep. He attended many Reunions, including his 50th, and at one time served as vice president of the college's alumni association chapter in Washington, D.C.

In recognition of his distinguished career and enormous contributions to the aviation and aerospace industries, and as a result, to the global collaborations that are realized thanks to flight, I have the honor of posthumously awarding to Bruce N. Whitman the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.