

Jon A. Reynolds '59

USAF Brigadier General, Retired

Jon Reynolds, though you experienced hardships that would break many, you never lost your direction. After seven years in North Vietnamese prison camps, you went on to distinguished careers in the military and the private sector. Friends describe you as a humble man of integrity.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, you were an engineering major at Trinity and a member of Alpha Chi Rho. You said the fraternity was central to your undergraduate life, and you have remained close to the friends you made during that time. Upon graduation, you obtained your commission via the U.S. Air Force ROTC.

Following pilot training, you were assigned to the 429th Tactical Fighter Squadron in New Mexico, where you participated in Cold War deployments, including the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. By the time you deployed to Vietnam in 1963, you were a seasoned pilot. As a forward air controller for the Vietnamese 22nd Infantry division in Kontum, you directed air strikes against Viet Cong forces. In 1965, you deployed to Thailand, flying F-105 fighter-bombers in strikes against North Vietnam. On November 28, 1965, you were shot down and captured; you spent more than seven years as a prisoner of war. During that time, your creed was to never give up, no matter how dim the situation.

Upon your repatriation in 1973, you chose to remain in the military and taught history at the U.S. Air Force Academy after receiving your master's degree from Duke University in 1975. You earned your Ph.D. from Duke in 1980. In 1982, you joined the Defense Intelligence Agency and studied Mandarin Chinese, and in 1984, you were assigned as air and defense attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China, from 1984 to 1988. During that time, as the senior U.S. military representative in the People's Republic of China, you were responsible for establishing nearly \$1 billion in security assistance programs. You also were the first westerner in the modern era to fly a Chinese fighter aircraft.

You retired from the U.S. Air Force as a brigadier general in 1990. Your decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After your retirement, you joined Raytheon Company as vice president for its International Technology Programs. Your first project was to destroy chemical weapons stored on Johnston Atoll. From 1993 to 2000, you and your wife, Emilee, lived in Beijing, where you were responsible for all of Raytheon's sales and operations in China, Hong Kong, and Mongolia.

Throughout the years, you have remained close to your alma mater, serving as a member of the National Alumni Association and a class secretary and sponsoring summer interns from Trinity's Engineering Department while you were with Raytheon China. You received an Alumni Achievement Award in 1973 – just months after you were released as a prisoner of war – and Trinity's 150th and 175th Anniversary Awards.

In recognition of your extraordinary service to your country, your exemplary career with Raytheon, and your dedication to Trinity, I have the honor of presenting you, Jon A. Reynolds, for the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Joanne Berger-Sweeney
President and Trinity College
Professor of Neuroscience

Philip S. Khoury '71
Vice Chair, Trinity College Board
of Trustees

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