

## Ellsworth Hovey Getchell Foundation

Before his passing, Ellsworth Hovey Getchell endorsed the development of a foundation in his name to support the continued operation of his Hawker Sea Fury and to sponsor educational scholarships. Ellsworth was a forward-thinking man, who understood the importance of inspiring young people to get involved in aviation.

Born and raised in Belmont, Massachusetts, Ellsworth attended Belmont area elementary and high schools. Upon graduation from high school, he enrolled at Tufts University where he played football under coach Woody Grimshaw.

Ellsworth joined the U. S. Army in 1954, serving as a paratrooper with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in Germany. He earned the rank of Staff Sergeant and section leader with a heavy weapons company specializing on the 105mm recoilless rifle.

His return to Tufts University after military service was interrupted by an intense interest in Parachuting. An early pioneer of the sport of skydiving, Ellsworth co-founded two skydiving clubs: the Cambridge Parachute Club (now MIT Skydiving Club) and the Medford Parachute Club, aka *Jumbo Jumpers*. He performed skydiving demonstrations throughout the northeast until a significant accident in the summer of 1959.

In 1962, Ellsworth graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Minor in Aeronautics. His career included a stint with American Electric Power as a power plant design engineer and thermodynamicist. Ellsworth joined Transworld Air Lines in 1966 as a Flight Engineer then Co-Pilot on the Convair 880 and later the Boeing 707. He retired from TWA as a Boeing 727 Captain in 1995, at 60 years of age.

The enduring love of Ellsworth's life was the Hawker Sea Fury he purchased in 1974, which he restored, maintained and flew for over 45-years. Ellsworth performed at airshows throughout North America and was an original member of the U. S. Navy Tailhook Legacy Flight. Ellsworth logged over 29,000 flight hours, including 2,500 hours in his Sea Fury and in the P-51D Mustang.

Ellsworth was beloved by his friends and comrades. He was sharp-witted, intently focused and thoughtful to his core. He pursued his interests with great passion throughout his life with other like-minded individuals. He was an entertaining conversationalist with a deep understanding of his subjects. Ellsworth was also a gifted pilot and instructor. The Ellsworth Hovey Getchell Foundation was created to ensure his legacy lives on.

