



October 15, 2014

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, New York 10996

Dear Committee Members:

The West Point Class of 1960 is honored to present Lt Col (USAF, Ret.) Edward A. Osborne as a nominee for the Distinguished Graduate Award presented by the Association of Graduates. Dr. Ed Osborne has exemplified the ideals of West Point from his entry into USMA until this very day. He has been an outstandingly effective and sensitive leader across a great variety of military, educational, business and philanthropic enterprises over the years.

A combat veteran who flew 213 missions over Viet Nam, Ed dedicated much of his post military retirement life to making serious contributions to the quality of education at the Air Force Academy and to the civilian universities in Colorado. You will see in the details of the nomination letter and the supporting testimonial letters that he applied the lessons learned at USMA to inspire and mentor students not only at the Air Force Academy but also in the university system across Colorado. He designed and built a new school of engineering curriculum for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and led the establishment of the new school which was subsequently named for him. He also was such a dedicated and inspirational leader in philanthropic organizations such as Goodwill International that he served on their Board of Directors and was made chair of that world-wide organization for two years. He led a business for many years and personally conceived and directed the creation of new crash-worthy seating for airliners, an accomplishment which saved many lives in subsequent airline crashes. He has given freely of his time, talents and money throughout his life to make the ideals of West Point live in our society. He has inspired many to emulate his dedication to those ideals.

It is a distinct honor and privilege for me as the President of the Class of 1960 to forward the nomination of Dr. Edward A. Osborne, Lt Col (USAF, Ret.), to you for selection as a Distinguished Graduate 2015. I do so without any reservation and with great pride in the many accomplishments and the outstanding service of this member of the West Point Class of 1960. Dr. Osborne is a true Leader of Character.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Otstott  
LTG US Army (Ret)  
President, West Point Class of 1960



USMA Class of 1960  
October 15, 2014

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Sir:

It is with great pride that the Class of 1960 nominates Dr. Edward Allen Osborne, Lt Col USAF (Retired) for the 2015 award of Distinguished Graduate.

Below we list a lifetime of stellar accomplishments, all leading to a single conclusion: Ed Osborne's distinguishing characteristics have been his willingness and ability to identify a need and then insert himself into a lead position where he could significantly and positively advance a solution to that need. This kind of leadership is a rare and valuable commodity.

### **Service to Country**

- Elected Air Force upon graduation, largely due to the inspiration of then thermodynamics instructor Frank Borman. Ed became a fighter pilot and flew 213 combat missions in Vietnam.
- Was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal with two Silver Oak Leaf Clusters.
- Became an instructor at USAFA, rising to tenured professor and then to Head of the Civil Engineering Department, thereby placing his imprint on our sister academy during its formative years. Ed retired in 1982 after 22 years of service. *(See Inglis and Wakin letters)*
- Guided more than a half-dozen USAFA cadet engineering students in obtaining Guggenheim Fellowships for master's degree programs at Columbia University and mentored many others as they met the many challenges to graduate from the USAFA.
- Became a leading authority on the SAE/FAA ad hoc committee that wrote the new Aerospace Standard 8049 on dynamic testing of aircraft seats. That standard subsequently became FAA Technical Standard Order C127. *(See Heming letter)*

### **Service to West Point**

- Has been a member of the West Point Society of the Pike's Peak region for 40 years.
- Attended last five Class of 1960 Reunions.
- Served on the Class of 1960 50 Year Affiliation Program committee. Ed created the design for the ten-sided coin honoring the Class of 2010 and arranged production and distribution of the coin.
- Made a substantial contribution to the class fund.
- Has regularly supported both the Superintendent's Fund and West-Point.Org.

## **Service to Humanity**

- Served 18 years with Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs, serving in a lead position both as board chairman and chairman of its foundation. (*See Baker letter*)
- Was elected to serve on the board of Goodwill Industries International and was elected board chairman in recognition of his leadership ability and outstanding service at the local level. (*See Baker letter*)
- Was a member of the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Board. (*See Chastain letter*)
- Is past president of the El Paso Club.
- Is past chairman and emeritus member of the TheatreWorks Advisory Board at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS).
- Took the lead in persuading the University of Colorado Regents to approve bachelor's and master's degree programs in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering disciplines at UCCS. Recognizing a need, he acted to fill a significant gap in available professional college curricula in Southern Colorado.
- Helped fund the start-up and, at the request of the dean, helped to select the faculty for the new programs.
- Was awarded the UCCS University Medal in 2001 for his service.
- Received in 2002, with his wife Mary, the Colorado Springs Partners in Philanthropy Award as the Outstanding Individual Donors. They had been nominated by four different Colorado Springs nonprofit organizations.
- Supports the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, as well as his and Mary's church.
- Served for 12 years as member of the board of trustees of the University of Colorado Foundation which serves all four campuses of the University. Ed is now a member of the Foundation board of directors.
- Has donated or committed, with his wife Mary, more than \$10 million to UCCS.
- Was recognized in 2011 for his work and support by the re-dedication of the Science and Engineering Center at UCCS as the Osborne Center for Science and Engineering. (*See Shockley-Zalabak letter*)
- Served, with Mary, as co-chair for the University of Colorado's successful *Creating Futures* campaign, raising \$1.5 billion for the University of Colorado system. (*See Benson letter*)
- Is currently working with a physics professor at UCCS to introduce physics education in middle schools. Consistent with his support of engineering and science programs at the university level, once more Ed recognized a need and has helped lead the way to expanding and formalizing this program into a nonprofit organization, "See the Change USA" ([www.seethechangeUSA.org](http://www.seethechangeUSA.org)). Ed serves as a member of the advisory board. (*See Glushchenko and Hendrix letters*)

## Business Accomplishments

- Joined AMI Industries in 1982, bringing to bear his expertise in design of aircraft seating.
- Helped develop the US space shuttle seats.
- In 1984, together with two others, took control of AMI Industries and led the difficult and complex effort to successfully reorganize the company under Chapter 11. Ed and his partners secured multi-million dollar funding for what was considered a high-risk and formidable challenge, largely through their presentation of a sound strategic plan. (See *Armstrong letter*)
- Undertook development of aircraft seating to conform to FAA Technical Standard Order C127. While competing companies petitioned the FAA for relief from some of the specifications of the order that they deemed impractical to meet, Ed required his company to comply with the order in its entirety. (see *DeWeese letter*)
- Led AMI into becoming the sole supplier of cabin attendant seats for Boeing and the supplier of attendant seats for the Airbus A330 and A340 aircraft families.
- Retired as company president in 1998. Ed considers his signature accomplishment to have been his stringent design of aircraft crew safety seats that have since saved countless lives in aircraft crashes. Before the new design, rigid seats used to break loose from floor fittings, and crash crews found bodies and seats piled in the front of the plane. The beneficial results of the new test requirements were seen in the American Airlines plane that ran off the end of the runway in Jamaica in December 2009. The landing gear collapsed, the fuselage split in two, and some forty persons were injured. But all 154 passengers and crew survived.

## Conclusion

Combat pilot, military and civilian educator, entrepreneur, philanthropist – by his superlative accomplishments in all of these endeavors, Dr. Edward Osborne has demonstrated the distinguished leadership ability that West Point strives to develop in all of its graduates. We believe that his outstanding character, his stature in the community, his generosity, and his superior intelligence and industry, combined with his enduring commitment to service, distinguish him and reflect positively on his Alma Mater. We look forward to your concurrence in this judgment.

Ed has indicated his willingness to travel to West Point to accept the award.

FOR THE CLASS OF 1960:



Clayton H. Carmean  
Co-Chairman, DGA Task Force

**2015 DGA Nomination  
Dr. Edward Allen Osborne, Lt Col USAF (Retired)**

**Letters of Endorsement**

**John C. Inglis, Deputy Director, NSA**

**BG (Ret) Malham M. Wakin, USAF, Professor Emeritus, USAFA**

**Frances F. Heming, Jr., PhD**

**Robert G. Baker, Past President/CEO, Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs**

**Robert Chastain III, President/CEO, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo**

**Pamela Shockley-Zalabak, PhD, Chancellor, UCCS**

**Bruce D. Benson, President, University of Colorado**

**Anatoliy V. Glushchenko, Founder, See the Change USA**

**Deborah Hendrix, Executive Director, Parents Challenge 2014**

**John W. Armstrong, Jr., former National Bank Examiner**

**Richard DeWeese, Biodynamics Research Team Lead, FAA Civil Aerospace Medical Institute**

**Robert E. Camley, University of Colorado Distinguished Professor**

**Andrew D. Ketsdever, Chair, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs**

**Steve Bach, Mayor, City of Colorado Springs**

**Stover S. James, Jr., President, West Point Society of Pikes Peak Region**

**William H. Willoughby, Jr., 2012 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient**

605 Hillsmere Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21403

27 October 2013

Distinguished Graduate Award Committee, West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Sir/Madam:

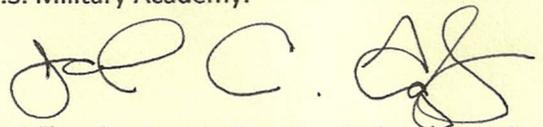
I write to enthusiastically support the nomination of **Edward Allen Osborne**, Class of 1960, as a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Military Academy.

I first met Ed Osborne 40 years ago as a Cadet seeking mentorship in my pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in Engineering at the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA). Then a Major, Ed stood out in a constellation of high performers because he made it clear that his relationship with me was a *primary duty* - a commitment to lead others through selfless service to them and the Nation. And while I was pleasantly surprised at the extent to which Ed took an interest in the whole of my Cadet experience - academics, athletics, and military training - I came to understand that this was his standard approach. I have met and worked for many West Point graduates across the ensuing 40 years, but the one person who comes immediately to mind at the mention of this extraordinary institution is always, for me, Ed Osborne.

With Ed's coaching, my grade point average increased every semester, even as I took on senior leadership positions within the Cadet Wing and continued my affiliation with varsity lacrosse. When a sports injury halfway through my four years at the Academy resulted in a three month stint in a military hospital and a loss of medical qualification for duty, Ed was at the forefront in making the case that my professional qualifications warranted consideration for a waiver - a case he and others in my 'chain of command' eventually won, inspiring in me a lifelong devotion to duty reflecting my attempts to emulate the example set by them. And while that injury challenged my ability to sustain a military career, the memory of Ed and others vouchsafing for me was a key factor in my completion of 30+ years of active and reserve service with the final rank of Brigadier General. None of that would have been possible if Ed had not first helped talk me out of resigning from the USAFA as a rising second class Cadet because of my concern that my physical status would hold me back. His counsel was clear "There's more to life than flying airplanes." A lifetime of experience would confirm again and again that he was right.

One of the most valuable and enduring lessons I learned from Ed was the importance of extending professional values across the whole of one's life. I first experienced this through Ed's own investment of personal time across hours of advice and counsel on issues far afield from his role as my academic advisor. He and his wife Mary hosted me for off post outings that always seem to coincide with my need for a home cooked meal and the valuable advice usually dispensed with it. One of my fondest memories remains a cross country ski trip wherein Ed 'spontaneously' suggested that I apply for a Guggenheim Fellowship at Columbia University. Largely on the basis of his strong recommendation I was awarded the fellowship, and began a journey that prepared me academically and professionally to later teach at both the U.S. Naval Academy (earning the Clements Award for 1984) and the U.S. Military Academy (as visiting professor in 1991-1992.) My motivation, of course, was deeply rooted in the example set for me years before by Ed Osborne.

When I completed USAF pilot training in 1978, my parents pinned my uniform with wings that Ed had given to them for a day that would have been impossible without his advocacy, mentorship, and selfless support. Thirty five years later I take great pleasure in saluting **Edward Allen Osborne**, whose early inspiration, example, and support fueled my Air Force journey. He is most deserving of recognition as a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Military Academy.



John C. ("Chris") Inglis, Deputy Director National Security Agency  
BriGen USAFR (ret)

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Sir:

I am writing to endorse the Distinguished Graduate Award nomination for Edward Allen Osborne by the West Point Class of 1960.

I have been teaching at the United States Air Force Academy both on active duty and in retired status for the past 55 years. I served as a Permanent Professor Department Head, Chairman of the Humanities Division, Assistant Dean, Associate Dean, and Member of the Academy Board. In those capacities, I became acquainted with and worked closely with Ed Osborne for several years. Since his retirement from active duty, I have also worked closely with him, most prominently on the Governing Board of Directors for Discover Goodwill of Southern and Western Colorado.

Ed excelled as a Professor and Department Head at the USAF Academy. In the years that we were colleagues he was viewed as a great classroom teacher, an extremely effective administrator, and a competent, beneficent, leadership role model for cadets. He was an innovative Department Head for our Civil Engineering Department. I observed him almost daily in those years and found him to be a remarkable "people person," characterized by compassion and competence.

Ed's success in the business world was followed by his major contributions to service organizations, both locally and internationally. I worked closely with him on the Goodwill Board of Directors in Colorado Springs for several years and have been absolutely awed by his dedication and generosity. His competence in this area was recognized when he was selected as International Chair of the world Goodwill organization which he served for a two year period. His work and donations for local universities, Hospice organizations, hospitals, and even our zoo, has been absolutely inspiring.

Distinguished military leader, effective classroom teacher, exceptional business acumen, generous contributor and leader of service organizations, international emissary, community builder – Ed Osborne is a great American who made maximum use of the West Point experience in his contributions to our country throughout his life. He is clearly one of your most distinguished graduates.

Sincerely,

  
Malham M. Wakin, Brig. General, USAF Retired  
Professor Emeritus, USAF Academy

October 16, 2013

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my distinct pleasure to endorse Dr. Edward A. Osborne for the award of Distinguished Graduate of the United States Military Academy. I have known Ed for over forty years as one of his former students at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), a faculty colleague at USAFA in the Department of Engineering Mechanics, my employer at AMI Industries, and as a close personal friend and mentor.

For this endorsement I will focus on an area that I have seen first-hand was significantly impacted by Ed's leadership, engineering acumen, and concern for his fellow man. When I joined Ed's AMI engineering team in 1990 the aircraft seating industry was at a critical juncture – the creation of new dynamic test requirements that would greatly improve the capability of aircraft seats in a survivable crash scenario and save many lives as a result. As a member of the SAE/FAA ad hoc committee charged with developing the standards for this revolutionary change to aircraft seat certification, Ed's technical expertise and firm, steady guidance was instrumental in developing that first standard - Aerospace Standard(AS) 8049 - that was subsequently adopted by the FAA in the first dynamic testing Technical Standard Order (TSO) C127. The subsequent impact of these efforts has not only been vastly improved aircraft seating safety through dynamic testing, but has evolved into industry standards in diverse areas, such as side facing seats and inflatable restraints, through the efforts of the SAE SEAT Committee. The SEAT Committee was formed in 1992 through the efforts of Ed and other key industry and FAA individuals. Once again, Ed provided much of the creative insight and foresight that has lasted to this day in the operation of this critical industry committee. Although this important industry initiative required significant effort and time, Ed still found the passion and drive to provide the technical expertise and guidance to make AMI the world leader in aircraft flight crew seating systems. There is no doubt that Ed Osborne is one of those rare individuals that has the innate ability to blend technical expertise, strong leadership, character and a sincere appreciation for the efforts of all who work with him to achieve world-class results in whatever endeavor he lends his talents to. I can think of no one more worthy of the Distinguished Graduate award than Dr. Edward A. Osborne.

Sincerely,



Francis S. Heming, Jr., Ph.D.  
7911 Dutchrock Road  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919  
(719) 641-9063  
[fsheming@msn.com](mailto:fsheming@msn.com)

*Chairman, Distinguished Graduate Award Committee,*

*As a seventy year old retiree from a career in business management and community volunteerism one has a substantial rear view mirror from which to assess outstanding people with whom one's life has intersected. Ed Osborne is such an individual; combining a gifted intelligence, strong business acumen, leadership and organizational skills, a desire to create positive change in institutions he touches and engage generous personal philanthropic gifting as a vehicle for success in the organizations that so benefit.*

*Ed and I first crossed paths in the late 1960's: he an engineering instructor at the United States Air Force Academy and me a young local banker. The cause of this meeting was our mutual membership in a local service club – both of us busy in our respective careers. Immediately I was struck by Ed's intellectual capacity, but more than that was his humanness and caring for the mission related projects in which we were involved. We worked on many a community service project in those years. We stayed in touch through numerous community involvements in the years to follow.*

*Circa 1985, as I had been newly installed as president of a local bank, Ed, Jim MacDougald and Tom Ekle approached the bank with their plan to acquire AMI Industries. The company, a subsidiary of a larger conglomerate, was being poorly managed and starved of both working and equity capital. The three partners to be were employees of AMI and perceived potential if they could but purchase the company. A bankruptcy ensued wherein there was an opportunity for Ed, Jim and Tom. Throughout all this turmoil the company still had an impressive customer list and a quality product for the air craft industry. The three men all had skills that related very well to the company's line of business. What followed was a "bet your job loan decision" by a couple of bankers in a loan to the Turnaround Inc. group (Ed, Jim and Tom). The business success story that was AMI could not have happened without the skill, character and perseverance of the three participants, two of whom are now deceased. The company sold to Coltec Inc in 1997 creating a significant financial reward for the three principals. Ed stayed on with Coltec retiring in 1998.*

*Having changed careers in 1991, I became the president of Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs. In Ed, I saw the kind of governance leader that would take our mission and enterprise to the next level. Our nominating committee brought Ed on board in 1994. He dove in immediately developing new friends for Goodwill, heading committees, chairing the board, co chairing a very successful capital campaign and in 2006 chairing our captive foundation. Ed had a wonderful grasp of the Goodwill mission; we call it the "Goodwill burn". He was excited and an advocate for our numerous innovative community programs and understood well the dynamics of an organization growing at a 14% annual clip.*

*Always the advocate for the organization in our community he designed an "elevator talk" card of precise critical points that could be delivered in a very short time frame. How short? Well, he sold a stranger on a ski chair lift on donating to our capital campaign before reaching the top of the hill, and it was a \$10,000 gift!*

*I inquired of Ed whether he would desire joining the Goodwill Industries International governing board housed in Bethesda, Md. He expressed an interest and was submitted to the nominating committee for consideration. The board is a policy making entity for some 185 Goodwill's internationally. He was elected to the International board in 2001 serving six years in numerous committee leadership capacities and served as the board chairman in 2006. It was not only an honor for Ed to serve on the board but also for our Goodwill in Colorado Springs.*

*Ed and Mary became charter members of our legacy society: "The Good Will" society. They have been generous during their lifetime to Goodwill but also will be upon their demise. Ed and Mary received our initial Guiding Light award in 2001, given annually to persons for their philanthropy and involvement with Goodwill.*

*Though I have centered my comments on Ed's involvement with the Goodwill movement it is only because I was there and witnessed his zeal. Ed and Mary are tremendous role models for philanthropy in our community benefitting Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care, The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and Theatreworks to mention only a few. The Osborne's have spread their time, talent and treasure throughout our community for the mission of organizations they believe in.*

*West Point should be most proud of its son Ed Osborne.*

*Sincerely,*

*(Original signed by:)*

*Robert G. Baker*



# CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO

4250 Cheyenne Mtn. Zoo Rd.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906  
Tel. (719) 633-9925  
Fax (719) 633-2254  
Email: info@cmzoo.org  
Website: www.cmzoo.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### HONORARY DIRECTOR

Katherine H. Loo

September 24, 2014

Chairman, Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
West Point, NY

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am honored to support Dr. Edward Osborne for the Distinguished Graduate of the United States Military Academy award at West Point. Ed has been involved with the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo for 18 years – nearly as long as I have - and served on the recruitment committee that promoted me to president and CEO in 2006. I have had the privilege of developing a trusted partnership with Ed. His commitment and support for our mission of education, conservation and animal care has been integral to our success as a zoological organization.

Over the past decade, the Zoo completed some major renovations which have resulted in record attendance growth. In fact, we welcomed nearly 650,000 visitors during our most recent fiscal year ending this April. Throughout this time, Ed was a steadfast supporter, serving two terms on our Board of Trustees (2000-2006), as well as contributing substantial financial gifts. These gifts have been instrumental to the success of our last three major capital campaigns, making it possible for us to connect to, engage, and inspire the hundreds of thousands of guests who visit us annually.

Ed is a well-respected leader and an exceptional example of outstanding character, professional excellence and dedicated service to the Colorado Springs community. His eagerness to support our efforts, his knowledge, and his commitment to serving the community has unquestionably contributed to the success we have experienced at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

I am proud to support his nomination for this distinguished award.

Sincerely,

**Bob Chastain**  
President and CEO



October 4, 2013

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is with great pleasure that I fully support the nomination of Dr. Edward "Ed" Osborne for "Distinguished Graduate" by the West Point class of 1960. As Chancellor and Professor of Communication at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), I have had the honor of Dr. and Mrs. Osborne's acquaintance for many years.

In dedicated service to the University of Colorado, Dr. Osborne has:

- Served on the following university boards: Chancellor's Ambassadors; University of Colorado Foundation Board of Directors; University of Colorado Foundation Board of Trustees; Theatreworks Advisory Board (Chairman); College of Engineering and Applied Science Advisory Board
- Assisted with the establishment of the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department
- Helped numerous high potential, high achieving students with financial need achieve a college education

In 2001, the University of Colorado Board of Regents recognized Dr. Osborne with a University Medal in recognition of outstanding achievements and contributions to the university. This is the highest medal given by the University of Colorado.

In recognition of Dr. and Mrs. Osborne's philanthropy, UCCS named The Osborne Center for Science and Engineering, the campus' largest building, in their honor during a 2011 dedication.

Dr. Osborne's many contributions are not limited to the University of Colorado community; they extend throughout the Pikes Peak Region. Dr. Osborne plays a significant role in community service and philanthropy. He has been a member of the board of many organizations (Goodwill Industries International, Discover Goodwill of Southern and Western Colorado, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, and the El Paso Club to name a few).

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Ed and Mary are wonderful people, and they have my utmost respect and affection. I can think of no better word to describe them than "distinguished", and I hope the West Point Association of Graduates concurs.

Sincerely,



Pamela Shockley-Zalabak, PhD  
Chancellor and Professor of Communication



# University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

**Bruce D. Benson**  
President

August 29, 2014

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am once again honored to support the nomination of Dr. Edward "Ed" Osborne for "Distinguished Graduate" by the West Point class of 1960. I have known Dr. and Mrs. Osborne for many years and have been deeply impressed by their generosity toward the university – specifically the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) – and their engagement within the community.

Dr. Osborne is the type of person who recognizes a need, and fulfills it. When he realized there were no mechanical or aerospace programs in Southern Colorado, he set about to fix it, ultimately receiving regent approval for a bachelor's and master's degree program at UCCS.

That's only one of many examples of his service to the university, benefiting the entire Colorado Springs region. Others include:

- Being a 12-year member of the board of trustees of the University of Colorado Foundation and now serving as a member of the board of directors.
- Served on the additional university boards including Chancellor's Ambassadors; Theatreworks Advisory Board (Chairman); College of Engineering and Applied Science Advisory Board.
- Served as co-chair for the highly successful Creating Futures fundraising campaign, which raised more than \$1.5 billion for the university.
- Donated more than \$10 million to UCCS. In 2011, in recognition of their philanthropy, the Osborne Center for Science and Engineering was named for Ed and Mary Osborne.
- Helped numerous high potential, high achieving students with financial need achieve a college education.

Dr. Osborne is showing no sign of slowing down. He is currently working with a physics professor at UCCS to introduce physics education in middle schools, a program that has now been formalized into a nonprofit organization, "See the Change USA."

Dr. Osborne's many contributions are not limited to the University of Colorado community; they extend throughout the Pikes Peak Region. Dr. Osborne plays a significant role in community service and philanthropy. He has been a member of the board of many organizations (Goodwill Industries International, Discover Goodwill of Southern and Western Colorado, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, and the El Paso Club to name a few).

There is no doubt that Dr. Osborne is a "distinguished" West Point graduate and greatly deserving of this prestigious honor. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bruce D. Benson  
President



# SEE THE CHANGE USA

One Student Today, One Nation Tomorrow!

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Sir:

It is a great honor to support the nomination of Dr. Edward Allen Osborne for the Award of Distinguished Graduate.

Archimedes once said, "Give me a fixed point, and I will move the Earth." I have the privilege of knowing Dr. Osborne through his endless giving to community and to humanity. Dr. Edward Osborne is a unique man. He is humble and giving, and he has strong moral values that have been the center of his life's work. Dr. Osborne is an exemplary leader that personifies the type of hero our Nation needs.

When looking at the nomination packet, one would immediately notice that Edward has found his "fixed points" from which he is working diligently, day after day, to move the United States and the world forward. None of us have the answer as to how the world will look in the future, even 50 years from now remains a mystery. Nevertheless, each of us can tell the world to come will have more unprecedented problems and will require more outstanding solutions than anyone can imagine.

The level of knowledge, the technological innovation, the passion and serving attitude, and the humility of each human being will be tested to a higher standard. Dr. Edward Osborne has invested his time into building the support for that challenging future. From his involvement in the University of Colorado, to his leadership in the workforce arena through Goodwill Industries, to his direct impact on the curriculum and teacher development for K-12 education with See The Change USA, Edward's legacy is influencing and will continue to influence generations to come. What his wife, Mary, and Edward are doing is more than changing lives in the Pikes Peak Region; it is truly creating the educational climate and the outstanding knowledge capital of our country. Robust infrastructure for one of the top 50 Universities of the United States, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering programs in the Southern Colorado, and comprehensive Physics in Middle Schools across the Nation are just some of Edward's "fixed points" that form thousands of individuals and leaders of our future world.

Edward Allen Osborne is my personal hero. He has a unique gift of propelling ideas into reality. For example, without him none of the kids, especially from crisis and underprivileged communities, would have had an opportunity for an outstanding level of scientific rigor that now See The Change USA brings. It was only due to his support and his personal involvement that Physics in Middle Schools in the United States started to exist. If you want to know one life's impact, imagine for a second that this person did not exist. If there were no Edward Allen Osborne the void in our region and the United States would be so noticeable, that it could be compared to the huge empty space between a nucleus and an electron on the atomic scale.

I have been living and working on all continents - in academic, business, and research environments. I have never met a person of such a caliber as Dr. Osborne. It is a humbling and motivating experience to be able to work with a man of Dr. Osborne's distinction. Dr. Osborne is the most deserving individual for this award. His impact is too great to measure, and I only hope that my words can help you glimpse into Dr. Osborne's contributions.

Best regards,

Anatoliy V. Glushchenko  
Founder, See The Change USA  
[www.seethechangeusa.org](http://www.seethechangeusa.org)  
Director, Center for Advanced Technologies & Optical Materials  
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs  
Phone: (719) 255-3130  
E-mail: [anatoliy.glushchenko@uccs.edu](mailto:anatoliy.glushchenko@uccs.edu)

# *Deborah Hendrix*

Former President  
HSD2 – Board of Education  
2005-2013  
Executive Director  
Parents Challenge  
2014  
dhendrix635@msn.com  
719.271.2411

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

It is my honor to nominate Ed Osborne as a nominee for the 2014 award of Distinguished Graduate. Ed has been a servant leader in the Colorado Springs Community for many years. His involvement on boards and his many acts of service to others have had a profound impact on this community. Ed's involvement in this community has caused many to seek out his knowledge, experience and expertise.

There are many stories about Ed's selfless commitment to the Colorado Springs Community and beyond. I want to focus on an incident that has made an impact on hundreds of students and how Ed was instrumental in helping an underperforming school district be recognized for offering a program not found anywhere else in the State of Colorado and the country.

While I served as President of the School Board of Harrison School District Two, we met with Ed and Anatoliy Glushchenko, a professor at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. They wanted the school District to consider offering Physics at the middle school level. This is something that Anatoliy was quite familiar with as in his home country the Ukraine this is common for all students; although, not common here in the United States. Although Carmel was not a high-performing school and one might shy away from such a school based on the State scores, he and Ed proposed that this pilot would complement their 21<sup>st</sup> Century program. Ed reached out to Harrison School District because he felt we would be receptive and that the program would perfectly align with a school with 75% FRL students. We launched the program and I am proud to say that because of its success at Carmel Middle School, this year the District will implement Physics in all of the middle schools.

I truly appreciate Ed's matchmaking skills. The success of this program has changed the lives of many students that would typically be left out of this type of opportunity.

Ed is a humble man and gets involved in issues where people's lives can and will be changed. He is well respected and revered in the community because of his willingness to connect people and organizations together that will make a difference in the community.

Ed is deserving of this honor because he has impacted the lives of many people and continues his pursuits with not request for acknowledgement or accolades. The lives that are being impacted in Harrison will reach beyond just our District, the State and the world.

Very truly yours,



October 3, 2014

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Sir:

This letter is written in support of the nomination of Edward Allen Osborne for the award of Distinguished Graduate. I was a National Bank Examiner for ten years and primarily a senior lending officer/manager of lending during my 40+ year career in banking. I met Ed and his business partners (Jim MacDougald and Tom Ekle) when they had taken over management of a distressed company and were seeking financing to acquire ownership.

The partners were interested in purchasing AMI Industries, which was in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy due to mismanagement by prior ownership. A substantial percentage of businesses that seek protection from creditors under Chapter 11 bankruptcy never regain financial solvency and only delay inevitable failure. Therefore, bankers seldom consider making loans to such borrowers due to the high probability of loss.

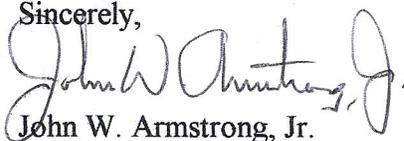
I was impressed with the strategic plan developed by the three co-owners and the potential for the turnaround of the business. I was able to obtain approvals for a multi-million dollar loan request for the purchase of the company and working capital financing in spite of the high degree of risk associated with the financial condition of the business.

The co-owners had a sound financial strategy for returning the business to healthy standards, a unique opportunity to be a dominant supplier of pilot and crew seating for military and commercial airplanes and most important - capable leadership to survive as a business and execute strategic planning. Borrowers, not banks or bankers, repay loans. Consequently, I was entirely dependent on the three owners, who were personally responsible for repayment, to achieve financial success for the operations of the business.

What made the company special was the relationship of management and employees. You couldn't walk down a hallway or enter a room without seeing many banners and charts that exemplified the values, goals, safety records and achievements expounded by management and the pride that employees took in their work.

I am honored to support Ed's nomination and proud to have facilitated financing for the company's turnaround. The business was sold at a return-on-investment of 1400 percent thirteen years later! I have seen successful customers, but in my entire career there is no relationship that started with such a high level of risk and attained outstanding success.

Sincerely,



John W. Armstrong, Jr.

10 Sept, 2014

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Sir:

I was glad to hear that the West Point Class of 1960 is nominating Ed Osborne for the award of Distinguished Graduate. I would like to add my endorsement to the nomination and share some of his contributions to aviation safety of which I am personally aware.

Ed was instrumental in developing the initial version of SAE Aerospace Standard 8049 that established the dynamic testing requirements for aircraft seats. My first-hand experience working with him came later, as he continued to contribute to subsequent revisions. As one of the first to develop seats meeting the new standard, Ed was able to apply the lessons learned toward improving it. Most of the SAE Committee participants involved in developing and revising the document were focused on airliner passenger seats, so his participation ensured that the standard also addressed the unique challenges of providing crashworthy pilot and flight attendant seats.

Ed's company was the first to develop a seat that met the new safety standards. The initial issue of the standard called for all seats to pass dynamic tests after significant deformation was applied to the floor attachments. For pilot seats, this requirement is challenging due to the narrow seat attachment spacing. These difficulties lead some manufacturers to lobby for relief from this requirement (which they eventually received). Ed, however, considered floor deformation a crucial requirement (as do I) and solved the technical problems necessary to produce a seat that was demonstrated in our laboratory to provide the highest level of safety.

In recent years, there have been several major aircraft crashes and in many of these, most, if not all, of the passengers survived. In each case, the protection provided by the dynamically qualified seats installed was cited as a significant survival factor. This is the lasting legacy that Ed and the others that developed the safety standards leave the flying public.

Sincerely,



Richard DeWeese  
Biodynamics Research Team Lead  
FAA Civil Aerospace Medical Institute  
6500 S MacArthur Blvd.  
Oklahoma City OK 73169



University of Colorado  
Colorado Springs  
Department of Physics and Energy Science

## Letter of Support for Edward Osborne

I am very happy to write a letter of support for Ed Osborne in regard to the Distinguished Graduate from West Point award. This is a personal letter, detailing my individual experiences with Ed, but I know from others that everyone he meets has the same kind of remarkable experience.

I met Ed after giving a presentation about a proposed science initiative at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. The initiative dealt with grouping of multiple University disciplines to attack important problems in biology and bio-technology. Afterwards, Ed was the first one to talk to me. He immediately gave me his card and asked one simple question - "What can I do to help you?" What is amazing is that this, and what happened afterwards, is completely typical of Ed Osborne. It is his desire to get involved and then his follow through that sets him apart from others. We met several times after my initial presentation, and he decided he might be able to help us procure some equipment. A short time after that he arranged for me to give some tours to some IBM representatives. Ed was nice enough to come on the tours himself and create a welcoming and supportive atmosphere. Eventually this led to a Shared University Research grant from IBM and about \$125,000 worth of computer equipment to support our computational needs in the BioFrontiers Center.

But his support didn't stop there. Ed, as a member of the CU Foundation, was instrumental in helping us obtain \$5 million to support the research of the BioFrontiers Center. Then he went on to head an effort working to obtain needed specialized research equipment for our Center. We are still working together to push this initiative.

The people who know Ed well know that this is just one small example of the kind of person he is and I am sure you will get many more letters detailing other examples. From my perspective, I found him to be exceptionally supportive, generous, active, and forward looking. It has been a real honor and experience for me to work with him. Ed is not just distinguished, he is exceptional.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Camley  
University of Colorado Distinguished Professor  
CU President's Teaching Scholar



University of Colorado  
Colorado Springs

October 14, 2014

Dear Chairman of the Distinguished Graduate Award Committee:

It is a distinct honor to write a letter of nomination for the Distinguished Graduate Award on behalf of Mr. Edward Osborne, Class of 1960. I met Ed in 2009 when I became Chair of the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering (MAE) at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS). At that time, the Department was moving into the new Science and Engineering Building which was later rededicated as the Osborne Center for Science and Engineering in honor of Ed's enormous contributions to the University. Many donors have given funding to the University for various projects and activities, however, there is only one building on our Main Campus that is dedicated to an individual. It is not because Ed and his wife, Mary, donated money, but because they are an integral part of the campus community and a staunch supporter of the arts in Colorado Springs through their involvement with TheaterWorks and other organizations. Ed is an active member of our MAE Advisory Board which has overseen our growth from nothing in 1999 to one of the largest Departments on campus today. Ed is a supporter of our students through scholarships and works tirelessly for the sciences at UCCS, recently getting a grant for a large computer cluster for the Physics Department.

Of the many high profile things that Ed has done for UCCS, it is one simple thing that he does for our students that embodies the true spirit of a Distinguished Graduate. Ed quietly set up a scholarship for MAE students that take and pass the Professional Engineering Examination. Many of our students are not able to come up with the \$225 fee to take the exam having come from lower income families in Southern Colorado. Understanding the importance of producing quality engineering students, Ed has given our students the opportunity to excel. He has done this with no fanfare and with no other motivation than to provide opportunities to young engineering graduates.

Ed is dedicated to the education of our young people and works tirelessly to insure that students do not suffer under current fiscal policies. In a state (Colorado) that surprisingly ranks last in the United States in government funding for higher education, contributions from individuals is critical. Colorado has reduced its support from higher education nearly 70% since 1980. Extrapolating this trend will leave the University system with zero funding from the state by 2031. This means tuition rates will increase and access to higher education will become more restrictive based on the financial demographics of the region that UCCS serves. Ed's contributions to student scholarships have been an integral part in assuring access for lower income students. Not only do Ed and Mary contribute funds to student scholarships, they are advocates to the state for funding on behalf of the University. Ed has also been working with Professor Anatoly Glushchenko to bring Physics education to middle school students in an effort to excite them about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math professions, further indicating his commitment to education in America.

Regards,

*Andrew D. Ketsdever*

Andrew D. Ketsdever

Chair, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Director, Center for Laser, Energy, and Exploration Research



STEVE BACH  
MAYOR

September 9, 2014

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
C/O Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Committee Members:

Please accept this letter of support regarding the nomination of Dr. Edward Osborne for the 2014 Distinguished Graduate Award.

Ed is an outstanding man of character and renowned service with a great stature in community achievements. The commitment that he made serving as both Board Chair and Chair of the Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs Foundation left an everlasting positive impact. Ed bridged the gap between the surrounding community and Goodwill Industries Foundation by reaching out and advocating Goodwill's mission "to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families" and creating much needed bonds and partnerships. He is a man of action and leadership.

Ed continuously strives to improve the academic opportunities available to others. His vital contributions to the development of the Mechanical and Aerospace Bachelor's and Master's degree programs at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs made the expansion in Southern Colorado possible. Ed also served as a member of the Advisory Board for "See the Change USA." A program dedicated to supporting the education of physics in the middle schools, not only locally but across America.

Through his lifetime of generosity and dedication, Ed has enriched the lives of so many within the City of Colorado Springs and it has been my pleasure to know him. Dr. Edward Osborne is the finest example of the West Point motto "Duty, Honor, Country." I have known Ed personally for decades and have had the opportunity first hand to observe his outstanding leadership and character. For these reasons, I strongly support his nomination for the 2014 Distinguished Graduate Award.

Sincerely,

Steve Bach  
Mayor, City of Colorado Springs



3 October 2014

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Committee  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, New York 10996

Dear Sir/Madam,

The West Point Society of the Pikes Peak Region (WPSPPR) is proud and honored to endorse the nomination of Edward Allen Osborne, Lieutenant Colonel, USAFR, and West Point Class of 1960, for the 2014 award of Distinguished Graduate.

As a Warrior and Leader in the United States Air Force, he flew 213 combat missions as a fighter pilot in the Vietnam War and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, and the Air Medal with two Silver oak Leaf Clusters. At the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), Ed served with distinction as an engineering instructor, cadet flight instructor, water polo and lacrosse coach, and role model. He was selected and sponsored to attend the University of Denver to attain a PhD, and eventually advanced to serve as Professor and Head of the Civil Engineering Department.

As a Director of Engineering, Vice President, and President in civilian industry following his active military service, Ed was credited with many impressive achievements, including helping to develop space shuttle seats, and as well as helping the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) set new dynamic test requirements for aircraft seats.

As a humanitarian and civic leader, Ed worked with Goodwill industries of Colorado Springs for eighteen years, serving as both chair and chair of its foundation. Moreover, he served on the board of Goodwill Industries International and as its board chair. Furthermore, he served as a member of the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Board, President of the El Paso Club, chair and emeritus member of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) Advisory Board, University of Colorado Foundation trustee, while also supporting various other nonprofit organizations, including the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. He and his wife, Mary, were recognized with the Colorado Springs Partners in Philanthropy Award in 2002 for their numerous and outstanding contributions.

As a West Point Graduate, he has been an active supporter of, and made significant contributions to, the West Point Association of Graduates, Superintendent's Fund, West Point Society of the Pikes Peak Region, and the 50-Year Class Affiliation Program.

His numerous outstanding accomplishments, noteworthy service, and extraordinary contributions reflect great credit upon our Alma Mater and the Long Gray Line, and are truly characteristic of an exemplary West Point Graduate who embodies our motto: "Duty, Honor, Country." Lieutenant Colonel Osborne is richly deserving of recognition as a Distinguished Graduate of West Point.

Sincerely,

*Stover S. James, Jr.*

Stover S. James, Jr.  
West Point Class of 1976  
President, West Point Society of the Pikes Peak Region (WPSPPR)

8279 Whitney Lane  
Concord, OH 44077  
October 13, 2014

Chairman  
Distinguished Graduate Award Committee  
c/o Linda Giacoio  
West Point Association of Graduates  
698 Mills Road  
West Point, NY 10996

Sir:

This is to endorse the nomination by the Class of 1960 of Dr. Edward A. Osborne LTC (Ret) for the 2015 Distinguished Graduate Award.

In my view, the life of a distinguished graduate should serve as an example for cadets to emulate. A distinguished graduate exemplifies the values of West Point throughout his professional military career and subsequent civilian pursuits, leaving a legacy of lasting accomplishments in the community and nation. Ed Osborne's accomplishments have met and exceeded this standard.

Ed's achievements are too many and diverse for me to address. I can however relate to his business achievements having been an entrepreneur during my own work life. Following retirement from the Air Force in 1982, Ed joined AMI Industries, a Colorado Springs manufacturer of aircraft seating with 350 employees. The company was owned by a California firm that had management and financial problems. Ed and two fellow employees purchased the business, assets and liabilities, and took it through Chapter 11 Reorganization requiring Ed to borrow several million dollars on his personal guarantee. This venture had to succeed! I asked Ed if the risk gave him the same feeling as flying a combat mission. He agreed it did.

Ed served as an engineer, director of engineering, Vice President and ultimately as President of AMI. Under Ed's leadership, AMI progressed setting industry standards and producing aircraft crew and passenger seats with crashworthy capabilities that have saved countless lives. In 1998, Ed and his partners sold the company and Ed retired. The company and the 350 jobs remain today, a lasting achievement. The risk assumed by entrepreneurs like Ed Osborne saves jobs, builds our communities and American industry and often goes unrecognized.

Following his retirement, Ed began a remarkable career of philanthropy and community service contributing substantially to education and the arts.

During my 15 years as a member of the AOG Board, I served on two Distinguished Graduate selection committees (2000 and 2001). Having reviewed numerous nominations and letters of support, I clearly conclude that Ed's total lifetime achievements have depth, breadth and long term impact that exceed all but a very small number of nominees. Overall, Ed Osborne's contributions are more significant and more multi-faceted than any Distinguished Graduate or nominee I can name, including myself.

Very Respectfully,

*William H. Willoughby, Jr.*

William H. Willoughby Jr.  
Distinguished Graduate 2012