

LEGACY

FALL 2023



A FINANCIAL AND CHARITABLE PLANNING GUIDE FROM THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY FOUNDATION



A LIFETIME OF USAFA CONNECTIONS



When Ginny (Caine) Tonneson graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with the first class of women in 1980, she had already spent many years at the Academy, attending the base's elementary school and nearby Lewis-Palmer High School. Her father served as the acting head of the USAFA Department of History and later

became the first USAFA permanent professor under the commandant of cadets.

"When I was allowed to seek an appointment, I knew it would stretch me, being part of something bigger than myself," Tonneson recalls. She earned top academic and military accolades, and she and her swimming relay team became the Academy's first female All-Americans.

"Being part of the team was so rewarding, not just for the results, but for the camaraderie, teamwork and as a place where we could just be ourselves," she says.

Her Air Force career, which centered on intelligence assignments, began after she and her CS-25 squadron mate Larry Tonneson married. She also had what she considers the "best job in the Air Force," as the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) of Cadet Squadron 8.

"Being an AOC and having the opportunity to teach a few courses at the Academy encouraged me to go into my current career in education," Tonneson states. "Working at an institution that inspires us all to be better than we thought we could be, and the lessons I learned about leadership, accountability and compassion inspired me to bring these important ideals into the professional development of K-12 administrators and teachers."

Upon her USAF retirement after 20 years, Tonneson's passion for education led to a doctorate and an adjunct faculty position at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. She now operates an educational consulting practice, working on teacher and leader effectiveness projects with school districts, state education departments and international schools in more than 30 countries.

Even while residing in Virginia, Tonneson has always remained connected to the Academy. She has worked at the AOG, been an admissions liaison officer, served as president of the Eastern Virginia USAFA Parents' Club and her class squadron representative, and was twice elected to the AOG board of directors. Her second term on the AOG board runs through 2025.

"We are especially proud that our son, Matthew, Class of 2004, was the first cadet with both parents as graduates. And our daughter continued the Air Force legacy by serving as a USAF surgeon," Tonneson beams.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to be on the AOG board, which has shown me the importance of providing programs and services to meet our graduates' needs throughout their lifetimes, but also the importance of providing the cadets with an extra margin of excellence through programs and services while at the Academy," she says. "Two easy ways of supporting the Academy are by making Sabre Society-level gifts and qualifying for the Polaris Society." Tonneson has committed to making a future legacy gift through estate planning, earning her recognition as a Polaris Society member.

For more information on the importance of estate planning, contact Dale Zschoche P'10, executive director of gift planning. He may be reached at dale.zschoche@usafa.org.





The USAFA football team, led by Coach Troy Calhoun '89, runs onto the field to face Utah State on Sept. 15, 2023. (USAFA Photo)

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS: TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING



Get an income tax deduction now — give to charity later



Easily make contributions anonymously



Maximize your tax deductions

If any of these benefits appeal to you, then a donor-advised fund may be right for you. It allows you more control of your charitable dollars, especially for maximizing your charitable income tax deductions. Your account administrator invests the fund, and you can make gifts to charities from it when you want.

What is a donor-advised fund?

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is an account you establish with an administrator, such as a nonprofit, bank, investment firm or other financial services provider. Each time you contribute to your fund, you may be eligible for an income tax deduction. Some institutions require minimum amounts or have differing distribution requirements. However, all feature one benefit: You give to the fund when you want, then advise the administrator on how you would like your gift to be used. Just remember, this is an advised fund, so the administrator is not bound to follow your advice. However, administrators almost always follow an account holder's advice unless there is a problem with the intended recipient.

DAFs are authorized by Congress and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

Is a donor-advised fund right for you?

If you like controlling the timing of your charitable giving and your income tax deduction, then a donor-advised fund makes sense. It's generally easy to establish and is a hassle-free way of giving to your favorite causes.

Other considerations:

- Your account can accept stock so you avoid capital gains taxation
- Ownership can be passed to children or friends to create a legacy
- You can only advise the administrator, not direct the distributions.

May we help?

To learn more, please contact the Office of Gift Planning. The Air Force Academy Foundation welcomes the opportunity to answer your questions and work with you and your advisors.

ENDING THE YEAR WELL: A HEAD START ON YEAR-END TAX PLANNING

As 2023 comes to a close, there are still many opportunities to give generously and support the causes you care about most. End-of-year gifts are essential to build private support for programs and projects across the U.S. Air Force Academy. These contributions can help you achieve your philanthropic goals while engaging with the Air Force Academy Foundation's mission to support the Academy, serve its graduates and preserve the institution's heritage.

Outright Gift of an Asset

If you wish to make a gift in support of the U.S. Air Force Academy this year but are concerned about preserving your cash resources, consider a gift of an appreciated asset. A gift of securities, business interests or real estate can provide you with significant income and capital gains tax savings, often exceeding the benefits of a cash gift.

Donor-advised Fund

If you are looking for an end-of-year deduction but want more time to make thoughtful giving decisions, consider a donor-advised fund. Grants made from your DAF, both now and in the future, can be used by the Foundation to support the Academy.

Zero-Tax Gift and Sale

If you plan to sell an asset such as securities, real estate or a business, consider a "zero-tax" charitable gift and sale before you sell. By making a gift of part of the asset before the sale, you can use a tax-saving charitable deduction to significantly lower or eliminate the capital gains tax on the sale.

IRA Charitable Rollover

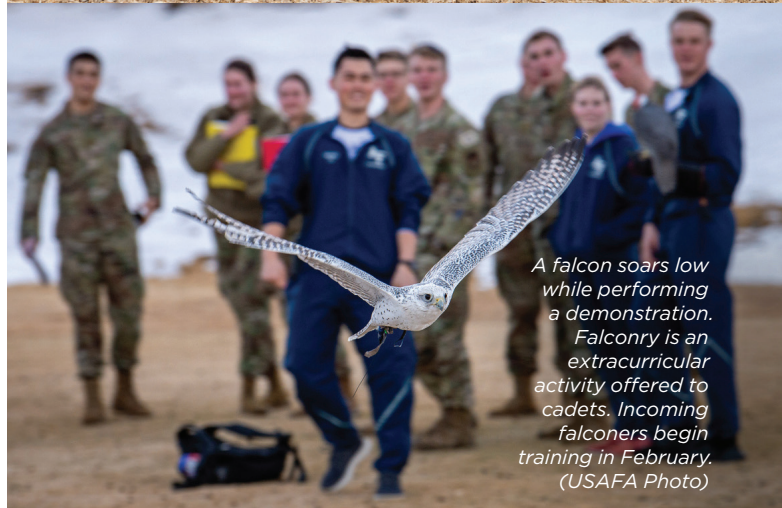
Congress made permanent the law allowing people aged 70½ or older who own an IRA to make gifts directly from their IRA to charity. For many people, this is the best tax-wise way to give. An IRA rollover gift will not be included in your taxable income and may qualify for your required minimum distribution.

Consider these worthwhile strategies before the year's end:

- Are you selling securities, real estate or a business this year? Consider planning strategies to avoid capital gains tax.
- Do you own an IRA and/or 401(k)? Maximize your deductible contributions.
- Do you expect to be in a lower tax bracket or can control income? Shift income to this year.



Gen. (Ret.) Ronald Fogleman '63 addresses his classmates during the dedication of the new Leader Challenge Tower. The 55-foot-high tower replaced the original wood tower constructed in 1996. (Photo by Ryan Hall)



A falcon soars low while performing a demonstration. Falconry is an extracurricular activity offered to cadets. Incoming falconers begin training in February. (USAF Photo)

- Do you have extra medical expenses? Establish a health savings account (HSA).
- Are you age 70½ or older? Make a gift from your IRA.
- Do you expect to be in a higher tax bracket? Talk to your tax advisor for solutions to manage your taxes.
- Do you have investment losers? Sell to offset winners and lower your capital gains tax.
- Do you have state taxes, property taxes, or medical bills? Accelerate deductible expenses.

May we help?

If you would like more information, please contact the Office of Gift Planning. Our team can help you create a plan that meets your needs and goals.

A group of cadets celebrate after jump training, one of many airmanship programs offered at the Academy. (USAFA Photo)



DRAFTING A WILL

Planning for now and tomorrow

Despite the importance of having a will (or trust), many Americans never draft one. For those with a will, it may have been drawn up many years ago and not looked at since. Now may be the right time to review or create your will.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Is your will up to date?
- If you were to pass away today, would your property go to the people and charities for whom you want to provide and in the manner you would like?
- Do you have peace of mind that your plans are in order?

A will and a well-thought-out estate plan can ...

- Allow you to create a final legacy and testimony to share your core values and beliefs with your family and friends
- Provide an appropriate inheritance that meets the needs of family, individuals and charities important to you
- Ensure the transfer of your estate with the fewest delays
- Avoid unnecessary costs, taxes on retirement plans, estate taxes and other expenses
- Minimize interpersonal conflicts and maximize a positive impact on family and others
- Direct the selection of a guardian for your heirs who are minors
- Give you peace of mind.



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GET A FREE WILLS GUIDE!

Return the enclosed card or visit legacy.usafa.org/willsguide to request a FREE estate planning guide and receive more information about estate planning and supporting the Air Force Academy through a legacy gift.

