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Citation of Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science from Marshall University in 1969

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1969

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CITATION

CHARLES ELWOOD YEAGER, native West Virginian, distinguished in your Country's service in war and in peace, through your pioneering achievements in aeronautics and your illustrious military career--scientist, adventurer, daredevil--fighter pilot, soldier, and citizen.

You broke the barrier of sound and thrust the world forward into the new age of supersonic speeds. It was on October 14, 1947, in your daring flight in the Rocket Research Plane X-1, that you became the first man to power through the air faster than the speed of sound. Six years later, you set a new record of 1650 miles per hour in the Air Force X-1A Rocket Plane and established your title as "The World's Fastest Man".

In World War II, you endured the hardships and hazards of grueling combat and compiled a stirring record of successful missions against the Nazis. For your meritorious war record, your Country has honored you with its highest decorations: the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. For your achievements in aviation science, you received the Mackay Trophy, and in 1948 President Harry S. Truman presented the Collier Trophy to you and your colleagues for your success in supersonic speed. Your devotion to duty in the United States Air Force is reflected in your present highly responsible assignment as Commanding Officer of the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina and in your steady advance through the ranks to that of Brigadier General.

The nation has taken you proudly to its heart, and Marshall University shares the honor of your Country and your native State in honoring you today.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the West Virginia Board of Education, the faculty recommending, I hereby gladly confer upon you, CHARLES ELWOOD YEAGER, the HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, in token whereof Dr. Leslie Leon Martin, Administrator of Higher Education, West Virginia Board of Education, will present you a diploma and Dr. Archie Mervin Tyson, Vice President of Academic Affairs, will invest you with a hood symbolic of the degree.

June 1, 1969

Roland H. Nelson,
President