

## Gen Joseph W. Ralston, USAF/Ret

In 2003, General Joseph Ralston completed a distinguished 37-year Air Force career as Commander, U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, NATO. As Commander of the U.S. European Command (2000-2003), Gen Ralston was the senior U.S. military officer and commander of all U.S. forces in an area of responsibility that covered more than 21 million square miles and included 93 nations. Previously, Gen Ralston served as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1996-2000), the nation's second highest-ranking military officer.

Earlier in his career, Gen Ralston was commander of the U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. He also commanded the Alaskan Command and the Alaskan NORAD Region. He served as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Plans and Operations, as Director of Tactical Programs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, and as Director of Air Force Operational Requirements.

His career included commands at squadron, wing, numbered air force and major command levels as well as a variety of staff and management assignments. He is a command pilot with more than 2,500 flying hours, including 147 combat missions over Laos and North Vietnam flying the single seat F-105D and later the F-105G as a Wild Weasel.

Gen Joe Ralston was recognized as a Pioneer of Stealth Honoree in 1998 based on his contributions to the early developments of stealth programs and technology.



## In Appreciation

The Pioneers of Stealth (POS) Organization had a vision to design and build a memorial to honor the men and women responsible for developing and fielding military aviation's low observable aircraft. Since 2020, the POS Memorial Committee, Officers, Senior Advisory Group, and members provided the leadership, and direction needed to see this vision become a reality.

Thank you to the over 125 individuals and corporations who donated to the Memorial Fund that made this event possible. Additionally, we would like to recognize the companies and businesses who through their expertise and talented personnel helped to bring this superb Memorial and Dedication to completion.

### *Corporate Donors*

Boeing GE Aerospace Lockheed Martin  
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PIONEERS OF STEALTH  
[www.pioneersofstealth.org](http://www.pioneersofstealth.org)



## PIONEERS OF STEALTH MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY



National Museum  
of the United States Air Force  
Memorial Park  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

July 17, 2023

## PIONEERS OF STEALTH

This memorial recognizes and celebrates the thousands of men and women in the U.S. Government and Aerospace Industry who worked in the deepest secrecy to create the world's first family of extremely difficult to detect, very low observable, and highly survivable stealthy military aircraft.

Efforts began in the Have Blue experimental aircraft, followed by the F-117 Stealth Fighter, and the prototype Tacit Blue airborne radar platform. The period of early stealth development concluded in 1993 with the delivery to the Air Force of the first B-2 Stealth Bomber.

The impact of these four highly complex integrated programs changed combat aircraft design and tactics around the world.

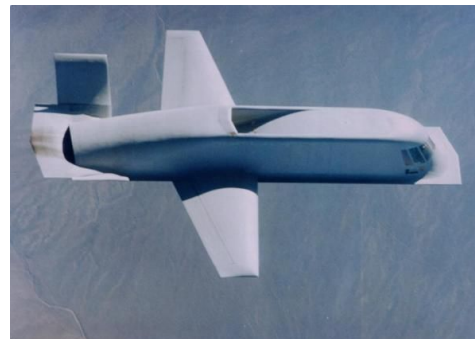
During this crucial eighteen-year period, program participants cooperated to prove the science, develop the technologies, and advance those manufacturing, maintenance, and operational capabilities which continue to provide an invaluable advantage to the United States Air Force.

**These Dedicated Innovators are  
the Pioneers of Stealth.**



# PIONEERS OF STEALTH MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY

Honoring the Inception of Military Aviation's Low Observable Technology



### Opening

*Col Dennis Jarvi, USAF/Ret*

### Presentation of Colors

*USAF Junior ROTC  
Beavercreek High School*

### National Anthem

*TSgt Ainsley DeWitt, USAF*

### Invocation

*John M. Griffin*

### Welcome

*Col Dennis Jarvi*

### Keynote Speaker Introduction

*Maj Gen John P. Schoeppner, Jr., USAF/Ret*

### Keynote Address

*Gen Joseph W. Ralston, USAF/Ret*

### Memorial Transfer

*John M. Griffin, Pioneers of Stealth  
David Tillotson III, NMUSAF*

### Taps

*TSgt Will McCrary, USAF*

### Closing

*Col Dennis Jarvi*