

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership



Capt George Burk, USAF (Ret)
United States Air Force

George A. Burk, of Scottsdale, Arizona, is a nationally recognized motivational speaker, author and trainer.

In May 1970, he was the sole survivor of 14 passengers in a military plane crash. The crew was en route to Spokane, Washington to conduct an operational analysis. Ascending through 3000', the aircraft experienced rapid de-compression and massive structural failure, crashing in the hills near Schellville, California. He suffered severe burns and multiple internal injuries. George spent 90 days in Intensive Care where he had two Near Death Experiences, and spent 18 months in the hospital. He was medically retired from the Air Force in 1971.

His awards include: The Bronze Star; Air Force Commendation Medal; Presidential Award for Outstanding Employee with a Disability; Department of Defense Outstanding Employee with a Disability; Department of the Navy Outstanding Employee with a Disability; Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service Award; and the Adrian College, (Michigan) Alumni Achievement Award.

He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Adrian College in 1963 and a Master of Arts degree from Webster University in 1975. In 1998, George was inducted into the Adrian College Athletic Hall of Fame.

George has over 25 years teaching experience at the university and community college level. Courses included aviation safety aircraft accident investigation, leadership, teambuilding, training and development, quality improvement and organizational behavior. He is a contributing writer for several magazines and newsletters in the United States.

George is a guest speaker at the United States Naval Academy on issues of Character Development, Ethics and Leadership. He is also a guest speaker at West Point on The Professional Military Ethic and Character Development.

George was a visiting speaker at the Phoenix, Arizona and Glendale, Arizona Fire Academies. For the past 30 years, he has addressed professional, private and non-profit organizations on issues of Leadership, Core Values, Adversity, Safety, Health and Wellness, and Life Skills.

He has appeared as a guest on a number of radio stations around the country, Canada and several news and TV stations in Phoenix, Arizona. In February, 2001, George's story was profiled on the Discovery Health Channel; "Lifeforce: Overcoming Obstacles."

George is the author of:

- "The Bridge Never Crossed - A Survivor's Search for Meaning." ISBN 1-888725-16-8.
- "Value Centered Leadership - A Survivor's Strategy for Personal and Professional Growth." ISBN 1-888725-59-1;
- "My Mother My Friend - The Story of a Boy and the Love of His Mother," non-fiction, ISBN 1-888725-09-5.
- "Laugh You Live Cry You Die - A Burn Survivor's Triumph Over Tragedy." ISBN 9681596300682

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