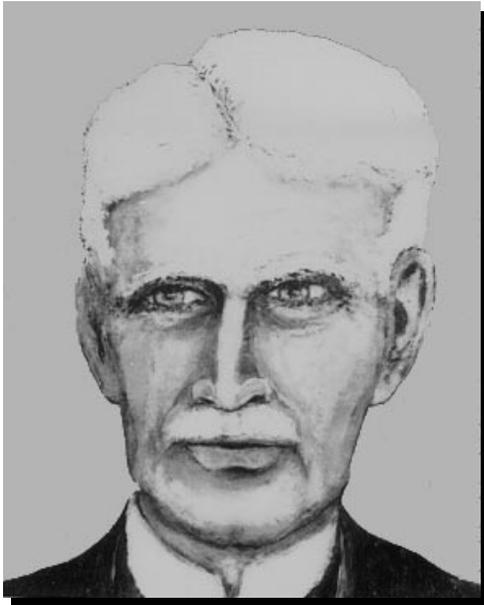




**Ordnance Corps  
Hall of Fame**

**1975 Inductees**



## **Mr. J. Walter Christie**

Mr. J. Walter Christie's major contributions to the Ordnance Corps were the combat vehicle concepts he designed. He developed a four-wheel-drive truck for General Pershing and his staff in 1916. During World War I, he built the forerunners of modern self-propelled artillery, mounting 75mm, 3-inch, and 5-inch guns on four-wheel-drive chassis. He built the first "convertible" vehicle, using tracks for cross-country mobility and rubber tires for high-speed travel on roads. After the end of World War I, he continued his work on the design and prototyping of advanced combat vehicles, demonstrating the first amphibious tank, which swam across the Hudson River in 1923. Although the U. S. Army never adopted any of Mr. Christie's designs as standard, it did buy several of his prototypes and the rights to their design. As a result, many of his design features, such as his trailing arm road-wheel suspension system, large road-wheel excursion, and high power-to-weight ratio have been incorporated into several subsequent generations of U. S. tanks.



## **Colonel John P. Harris**

Colonel John P. Harris was born in Wilmington, Delaware on August 14, 1892. Colonel Harris was directly responsible for the success of the U. S. Munitions Program during World War II. Foreseeing a possible world conflict, Colonel Harris conceived and directed the preparation of a plant site file in 1938. The plant site file identified 500 locations throughout the nation which were most desirable for powder and ammunition plant construction. The availability of this file greatly facilitated the rapid and orderly expansion of the production of powder and explosives from 133,000 pounds in 1938 to over 3 billion pounds in 1943. Through his leadership and efforts, industry developed and perfected the production of synthetic toluene and expanded ammonia production capacity. His persistence and dedication to the development of these two key components of munitions assured that sufficient quantities were available during World War II. Through his dedication, hard work, and foresight, the powder and explosive program of the Ordnance Corps during World War II was made possible within the limited time available. Colonel Harris retired in 1953 and is now deceased.



## **General Henry A. Miley**

General Miley was born on February 14, 1915 and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1940. During a military career spanning over 34 years, he served in Ordnance and Ordnance-related positions of exceptional responsibility. General Miley had the distinction of being the first Ordnance officer to attain the rank of general. While assigned as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (Programs and Budgets), during the Vietnam buildup, he was directly responsible for the successful establishment of a logistical base in Vietnam. In November 1970, he was selected as Commanding General, U. S. Army Materiel Command (AMC). His 5-year service as Commander of AMC was characterized by the drawdown in Vietnam and steadily declining resources. Through his innovative managerial techniques and leadership, he established a responsive logistical base for the Army. The major research and development efforts conducted by AMC during his tenure have covered the spectrum of weapons systems. The tube launched, optically tracked, wire-guided missile system (TOW); the advanced attack helicopter; and the SAM-S missile system are among the systems developed. As a result of his foresight and professional acumen, today's Army has an exceptionally efficient logistical base ready to meet the current demands, and is sufficiently flexible to meet the challenges of tomorrow. He was the first Ordnance officer to attain the rank of 4-star general. General Miley retired in 1975 and served as the President of the American Defense Preparedness Association.



## **Colonel Leslie A. Skinner**

Colonel Skinner's contributions led to momentous advancements in rocketry and fuzes. Best known of the numerous weapons he devised and designed was the 2.36-inch shoulder-fired rocket and its launcher, the legendary bazooka. He designed and carried through into standardization the U. S. Army's first air-to-ground and artillery rockets, the 4.5-inch-diameter solid-fueled M8, and the 3.5-inch target rocket. Colonel Skinner also assisted in the development and testing of the first proximity fuze. His remarkable achievement of designing and carrying through to standardization in the brief period of 18 months, the U. S. Army's first three rocket weapons, was a direct result of his own initiative and determination to get better weapons into the hands of American soldiers then in battle, in keeping with the highest traditions of the U. S. Army Ordnance Corps.