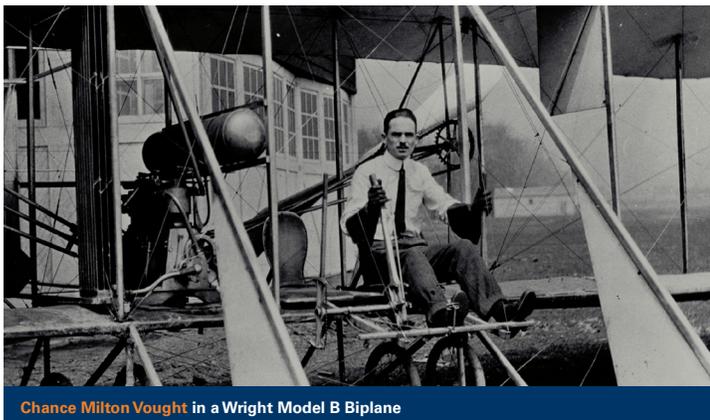


The University of Texas at Arlington

A Tribute to Chance Vought's Legacy *Endowing Engineering and Science Education*



Chance Milton Vought in a Wright Model B Biplane

The heritage of Vought Aircraft stretches back almost a century, to the end of World War I when Chance Milton Vought, a 28-year-old pilot-engineer who learned to fly under the tutelage of Wilbur and Orville Wright, partnered with Birdseye B. Lewis to create the Lewis & Vought Corporation. The year was 1917. Over nine decades the company built more than 15,000 military aircraft, including a vast array of biplanes used during and after World War I, multiple fighter planes used during World War II, and jet fighters used during wars in Korea and Vietnam. Chance Vought died in 1930, but the company that bears his name, Triumph Aerostructures—Vought Aircraft Division, still builds structures for commercial and military aircraft.

The company may bear one man's name, but none of the Vought innovations and accomplishments would have happened without the thousands of employees who first organized in the 1930s as the Vought Employees Club. To preserve the company's history and legacy, a group from the Vought Retiree Club established the Vought Aircraft Heritage Foundation in 2002. The Heritage Foundation restores historic Vought aircraft for display in aviation museums and keeps a historical archive to preserve the history of the company.

To extend Vought's legacy into the future, the Heritage Foundation knew they would need to promote education. Using money from the former Vought Employees Club and funds raised through the sale of restored aircraft, the Vought Aircraft Heritage Foundation established the \$300,000 Chance Vought Engineering and Science Endowment at the

University of Texas at Arlington. This gift was supplemented by The Maverick Match, which used the University's natural gas royalties to match endowment gifts—dollar-for-dollar—to create a \$600,000 endowment.

“Chance Vought was an early pioneer in aviation and his companies have been on the leading edge of the aviation industry since 1918,” said Cathie Barrington, financial manager of the Vought Aircraft Heritage Foundation. “This endowment will continue the legacy that Chance Vought started.”

The Chance Vought Engineering and Science Endowment will provide scholarships to engineering and science students and will support K-12 outreach efforts in the colleges of Science and Engineering. Twenty percent of the endowment will support UTeach Arlington, a program that recruits science and engineering students for careers as high school science or math teachers.

Through this endowment, aspiring engineers and scientists will be given the tools they need to lead future generations into new technological frontiers.

Vought and UT Arlington have a long history of collaboration, primarily through a cooperative education program with the colleges of Science and Engineering that stretches back to the 1960s. “Vought hired many UT Arlington co-op graduate students,” said Dillon Smith, treasurer for the Vought Aircraft Heritage Foundation. “They became valuable, long-term employees.” This relationship, Smith said, along with the one-to-one matching funds, were big factors in selecting UT Arlington for the endowment. Another factor was the University's central location between Dallas and Fort Worth, Smith said. “We wanted to support local high schools and magnet schools in North Texas.”

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Members of the Vought Employees Club and the Vought Aircraft Heritage Foundation meet with UT Arlington President Vistasp Karbhari. The Chance Vought Engineering and Science Endowment, established by the Foundation, will provide scholarships to engineering and science students and will support K-12 outreach efforts in the colleges of Science and Engineering.

UT Arlington President Vistasp Karbhari called the partnership with the Vought Employees Club and the Vought Aircraft Heritage Foundation a fitting tribute to Chance Vought. “Through this new endowment, aspiring engineers and scientists will be given the tools they need to lead future generations into technological frontiers we can barely imagine today,” Karbhari said.

Barrington said helping the development of future leaders in engineering and science is important to former Vought employees, “and we also look forward to continuing Chance Vought’s legacy, not only through these future leaders, but also in our relationship with UT Arlington.”