

Ms. Jonna Doolittle Hoppes

"Calculated Risk" Life of Jimmy Doolittle

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Moderator: Most don't know, but a little after World War II General Hap Arnold asked Medal of Honor winner Jimmy Doolittle to leave his lucrative position at Shell Oil and go out and form a professional association of Airmen and call it the Air Force Association. And in doing so, to lobby for a separate Air Force.

So a little after a year after he agreed, went out and recruited 10,000 members and formed that association, and we did have a separate Air Force. So it's special and appropriate that our next speaker is the author of "Calculated Risk", a book about General Doolittle, written by his granddaughter. Please welcome Jonna Doolittle Hoppes.

Ms. Hoppes: Thank you.

First of all I want to tell you how much I appreciate and how honored I am to be invited here today. My grandfather was a great proponent of the Air Force. He was a very strong believe that the Air Force was the future and it's proven him right.

In the year 2000 the author and historian C.V. Glines passed me a copy of the original script to the movie "Pearl Harbor". In that movie, in that original script, they had taken the Patton character from the movie "Patton" and made him very foul-mouthed and not so bright and put the Doolittle name on it. I'm not going to bag on Disney, because as soon as we got ahold of them they worked with us to clean up the character and to restore a certain amount of dignity to him. But what we learned in that process was two things that I found rather disturbing.

The first thing was that when someone passes away there's no way to protect them. They become a part of public domain and there's nothing you can really do to protect their image.

But the second thing was even more disturbing, and that's that the kids that are writing books and movies and television shows today really don't understand our history.

So I decided to write a book 52:38