



Lockheed martin founder

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Glenn Luther Martin (January 17, 1886 - December 5, 1955) was an early American aviation pioneer. He designed and built his own aircraft and was an active pilot, as well as an aviation record-holder. He founded an aircraft company in 1912 which through several mergers amalgamated into what is today known as Lockheed Martin.

He attended and studied business at Kansas Wesleyan in Salina, Kansas. In 1933, he received an honorary Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas Wesleyan University.

As he grew up, he became fascinated with flight, first with kites, then later the Wright brothers' airplane. In 1909 he decided to build one himself based on the Curtiss June Bug; but it was destroyed on the first test flight. For his next effort, Martin used silk and bamboo in the aircraft's construction. This airplane made a short flight. Martin was often assisted by his mother Minta Martin holding a lamp in the building of his first few airplanes.

Martin held a record for longest American over-water flight, 66 miles. His company designed aircraft for the military, including bombers for both world wars. An early success came during World War I with production of the MB-1 bomber. The MB-2 and others were also successful.

Martin's donations to the University of Maryland, College Park, created the Glenn L. Martin Institute of Technology, which includes the A. James Clark School of Engineering. The university's wind tunnel and a classroom building (the home of the Department of Aerospace Engineering and other units) also bear Martin's name.

In 1945, Glenn L. Martin founded the AAABA National Baseball Tournament in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The tournament continues to be played each August at the Point Stadium.

USPS Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellation Series commemorated the 110th Anniversary of Glenn L. Martin's first flight with a series of 5 postal cancellations in 3 cities with world premieres of trumpet solo and clarinet/vocal/guitar arrangements of "Break Free on Wings of Music" by Kendall Ross Bean, and the retracing of Glenn Martin's flight path on May 10, 1912.



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