

**The Thomas Michael Besch, Chief Warrant Officer (CW4), USA Retired
“Armed Services Personnel Endowed Scholarship
in Surveying, Mapping, and Geographic Information Systems”**

DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Michael Besch, Chief Warrant Officer (CW4), USA Retired “Armed Services Personnel Endowed Scholarship in Surveying, Mapping, and Geographic Information Systems” was established by one of the first graduates of the then newly created Bachelor of Science Surveying and Mapping (BSSM) Degree program in 2016. This program was created by Professor Emeritus Thomas Michael (Mike) Besch, P.S., M.S., in the mid-1990s.

Besch was born in Tallassee, Ala., and honorably served his country in both war and peacetime with the United States Army for 28 years, conducting mapping, charting, and geodesy operations around the world. Besch’s military career included service with the U.S. Army Topographic Battalion and joint assignments with the Defense Mapping Agency and School as a master instructor. His experiences ranged from surveying in the jungles of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Conflict to surveying the sands of Desert Storm. A wounded combat veteran who was dedicated to “duty, honor, and country,” he retired with the distinguished, highly decorated rank of Chief Warrant Officer (CW4), having served as a geodetic and topographic surveyor and a terrain analyst.

Upon Besch’s arrival at The University of Akron and his transition into civilian life during the early 1990s, he single-handedly transformed UA’s two-year surveying and mapping program into a four-year degree program – the only one in the state – which continues to be known for its outstanding land surveying graduates.

Besch, who continues to serve The University of Akron as program director of surveying, mapping, and GIS technology, is a highly respected educator, survey historian, sought-after land surveyor, and expert witness. Under his tutelage, UA’s BSSM program has become nationally recognized for its excellence, producing more than 200 land surveyors who hold bachelor’s degrees and more than 400 who hold associate degrees. Besch also has served on the local, state, and national level for various professional societies and land surveying organizations and is known among his peers as “The World Famous Surveyor.”

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

The Thomas Michael Besch, Chief Warrant Officer (CW4), USA Retired “Armed Services Personnel Endowed Scholarship in Surveying, Mapping, and Geographic Information Systems” was established to support full-time University of Akron students who have been honorably discharged from the United States of American Armed Services Personnel (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) or who hold active- or reserve-duty status with the National Guard or any other reserve components of federal military service for the United

States. Candidates must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and be enrolled in the surveying and mapping program in UA's College of Applied Science and Technology (formerly Summit College). Preference will be given to combat or disabled veterans. Recipients of The Thomas Michael Besch, Chief Warrant Officer (CW4), USA Retired "Armed Services Personnel Endowed Scholarship in Surveying, Mapping, and Geographic Information Systems" shall be selected by the Department Chair for Engineering and Science Technologies in conjunction with the Office of Student Financial Aid.

FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Thomas Michael Besch, Chief Warrant Officer (CW4), USA Retired "Armed Services Personnel Endowed Scholarship in Surveying, Mapping, and Geographic Information Systems" shall be held by The University of Akron Foundation and administered according to the Foundation investment and spending policies and procedures, which at present provide that 4.5 percent of the average fiscal year-end market value of the fund over the last three years will be distributed annually. Distributions will not be made from the fund's principal when the current market value of the fund is less than the historical gift value.

RECEIVING AGENT

Additional contributions to The Thomas Michael Besch, Chief Warrant Officer (CW4), USA Retired "Armed Services Personnel Endowed Scholarship in Surveying, Mapping, and Geographic Information Systems" are welcome, and all additions shall be subject to the terms of this agreement. Contributions should be directed to The University of Akron Foundation, Akron, Ohio 44325-2603, the tax-exempt receiving agent for The University of Akron.

AMENDMENTS

If The University of Akron Foundation determines in its sole discretion that all or part of the endowment cannot be used appropriately or practicably for the purpose described in this agreement, and it is not possible to amend the agreement by the donors or their legal guardians, the Foundation may apply endowment funds for other purposes that are as nearly aligned as possible to the purpose described in this agreement.

Contact / Tax Deductible Donations to;
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Email: cbw@uakron.edu