

= Andrew Davis Bruce =

Andrew Davis Bruce (September 14 , 1894 ? July 28 , 1969) was an American academic and soldier who served as the third president of the University of Houston . He retired from the United States Army in 1954 as a lieutenant general after seeing action in both World War I and World War II and founding Fort Hood . Three countries , France , the Philippines , and the United States , awarded him service medals , including the Distinguished Service Cross , the U.S. Army 's second highest military decoration . Bruce is interred in Arlington National Cemetery .

= = Early years = =

Bruce was born on September 14 , 1894 in St. Louis , Missouri to John Logan Bruce and Martha Washington Smith . His family moved to Texas when he was a child . After finishing high school Bruce attended the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas , now known as Texas A & M University , where he was required to be a member of the Corps of Cadets and undergo military training . In 1916 , Bruce earned a doctorate of laws from Texas A & M.

= = Military service = =

= = = World War I = = =

Shortly after his graduation , the United States entered World War I. In June 1917 Bruce joined the United States Army as a second lieutenant . He served in the First Officers Training Camp at Leon Springs , Texas . After completing his training he was sent to combat in France as part of the 2nd Infantry Division 's 5th Machine Gun Battalion . He saw action in France in the Troyon Sector near Verdun , in the Aisne Defensive operation near Chateau Thierry , the Aisne @-@ Marne offensive at Soissons , the fighting at St. Mihiel , and the Meuse @-@ Argonne offensive at Blanc Mont . Following the fighting in France , he hiked with his division into Germany to be part of the occupation force . At the relatively young age of 24 he achieved the temporary rank of lieutenant colonel . The government of France awarded him the Legion of Honor , three Croix de guerre medals , and the fourragère .

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1919 . The citation read ,

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Andrew D. Bruce , Major , U.S. Army , for extraordinary heroism in action near Vierzy , France , July 17 ? 18 , 1918 , and near Blanc Mont October 3 ? 4 , 1918 . On the night of July 17 ? 18 , Major Bruce made a personal reconnaissance ahead of his troops through heavy flanking machine @-@ gun fire . He pushed forward to the outpost lines through heavy artillery and machine @-@ gun fire to keep in touch with all his company . On October 3 ? 4 he made a personal reconnaissance on the left flank of his division through heavy shell fire and continual sniping and gained information which enabled him to well place his battalion and cover an exposed flank .

= = = Between wars = = =

In 1920 , Bruce married Roberta Linnell Kennedy . The couple made their home in Bryan , Texas , near Texas A & M , and Bruce taught military science and tactics at Allen Academy . They had three children . For the next two decades Bruce continued to serve in the Army . He served with the 33rd Infantry in Panama , participated in historical work at the Army War College and served on the War Department general staff revising textbooks on military doctrine . He also furthered his own knowledge of military tactics , attending the Infantry School , the Field Artillery School , the Command and General Staff College , the Army War College , and the Naval War College .

= = = World War II = = =

Following the outbreak of World War II , Bruce was assigned to organize a new tank destroyer center . He chose Killeen , Texas for the new camp , and named it Fort Hood for General John Bell Hood . On September 9 , 1942 , he was promoted to major general . The following year he became commander of the 77th Infantry Division . Under his leadership the group participated in campaigns in Guam , Leyte , and Ryukyu . At Leyte , in the Philippines , the division was responsible for taking Palompon , the last main port the Japanese held on the island . During the ten @-@ day battle for that area of the island , from December 21 through December 31 , 1944 , the division estimated that they had killed 5 @,@ 779 Japanese soldiers and taken 29 prisoners , with only 17 Americans killed , 116 wounded , and 6 missing in action . For his service the government of the Philippines later awarded him the Philippine Legion of Honor , the Philippine Liberation Medal , and the Presidential Unit Citation .

In April 1945 , the 77th Division was ordered to seize the island of Ie Shima in the Ryukyu islands so that the US Army could use the island 's airfields to support assaults on Okinawa and other islands in Japan . During the six @-@ day battle to secure the island , 4 @,@ 706 Japanese soldiers and civilians were killed , while 172 Americans were killed , 902 were wounded , and 46 were missing . During the battle , famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle was killed by a sniper . Bruce and his men buried Pyle on the island , later erecting a monument to him . Despite the fact that the Japanese had tried to destroy the airfields , army engineers were able to have all taxiways and runways fully operational by mid @-@ May .

= = = Post @-@ World War II = = =

After Japan surrendered , Bruce served as the military governor of Hokkaido . In 1946 , he was transferred to be commander of the 7th Infantry Division which was occupying Korea . He returned to the U.S. in October 1947 , becoming deputy army commander of the Fourth Army stationed at Fort Sam Houston in Texas . His primary responsibilities were to assist with the training activities of the ROTC , National Guard and Organized Reserve Corps of five states .

Bruce became commandant of the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk , Virginia in early July 1951 and was promoted to lieutenant general on July 30 , 1951 . He retired from the army on July 31 , 1954 . Bruce 's decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross , Army Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster , Navy Distinguished Service Medal , Legion of Merit , the Bronze Star , an Air Medal and the Purple Heart .

= = University of Houston = =

Bruce became the third president of the University of Houston in Houston , Texas on September 1 , 1954 , one month after retiring from military service . He succeeded interim president C. F. McElhinney . Shortly after arriving , Bruce noted that the university was missing something which he considered fundamental ? a chapel for student use located on campus . He remarked to the Director of Religious Activities that if you " [e] xclude religion entirely from education ... you have no foundation upon which to build moral character . "

A year after he took office , Bruce began investigating whether there would be interest in building a religious center and chapel complex at the school . After several years of negotiations with the various religious denominations which had operated on and off campus , Bruce engineered a consensus that the university would build a center based on the model of the Armed Forces Base Chapel . The new religious center would have a single chapel which would be shared by all of the groups , and office space for each group . The center opened in 1965 and was named for Bruce .

In 1956 , Bruce was appointed the first chancellor of the university , in addition to his duties as president . The following year he organized a Board of Governors , consisting of the Board of Regents and other prominent Houstonians . In November 1959 this governing board sought state support for the university , which had grown rapidly under Bruce 's leadership . During Bruce 's tenure , the " University 's curriculum standards and faculty both improved and the University

became better @-@ known . " He retired from chancellorship in 1961 .

= = Later years = =

Bruce was president of the Houston Chamber of Commerce and was also a Mason and a Shriner .
Bruce retired from academia during the 1960 @-@ 1961 school year and moved to North Carolina .
He died on July 28 , 1969 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery . In 1972 , the state of Texas
erected a historical marker in his memory in Killeen at Fort Hood . In addition , Interstate 35 through
Temple was named " General Bruce Drive " .