



## **BARBARA M. BARRETT**

### **Secretary of the Air Force**

Barbara M. Barrett is the 25th Secretary of the Air Force and leads the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, comprising the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. She is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of 685,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen and their families. She oversees the department's annual budget of more than \$205 billion. As Secretary, she directs strategy and policy development, risk management, weapons acquisition, technology investments and human resource management across the global enterprise. As the department's senior leader,

Secretary Barrett implements decisions of the President, Congress and fulfills Combatant Commanders' operational requirements.

Secretary Barrett has served in senior leadership positions in public service, the private sector and academia. Before she was 30, she was an executive with two global Fortune 500 companies. Secretary Barrett's key leadership roles include her time as the U.S. Ambassador to Finland, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and President of the Thunderbird School of Global Management. She also taught leadership as a Harvard Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government. Prior to assuming her current position, Secretary Barrett was the Chairman of the Board for the Aerospace Corporation.

She has served as a board member for multiple organizations focused on diplomacy, defense, aeronautics, science and space. She was a Senior Advisor to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, the Defense Business Board and the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council. She has chaired groups that include the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, the U.S. Commerce Secretary's biennial Export Conference and the U.S. Department of State's Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group.

She is an instrument-rated pilot and was trained and certified for space flight. Additionally, she has been a cattle and bison rancher for close to three decades.

Secretary Barrett earned her bachelor's, master's and law degrees at Arizona State University.

#### **EDUCATION**

1972 Bachelor of Science, Liberal Arts, Arizona State University, Tempe

1975 Master of Public Administration, International Business, Arizona State University, Tempe

1978 Juris Doctor, Arizona State University, Tempe

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY**

1. 1973–1975, Personnel Director, Yavapai Regional Medical Center, Prescott, Ariz.
2. 1976–1980, Attorney, Greyhound Corporation, Phoenix
3. 1980–1982, Associate General Counsel, Assistant Secretary, Southwest Forest Industries, Phoenix
4. 1982–1985, Vice Chairman, U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board, Washington, D.C.
5. 1985–1988, 1989–1990, Partner, Evans, Kitchel and Jenckes, Phoenix
6. 1988–1989, Deputy Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D.C.
7. 1994–present, Owner and CEO, Triple Creek Guest Ranch, Darby, Mont.
8. 1997–1998, CEO, American Management Association, New York
9. 1999, Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
10. 1999–2001, President, International Women’s Forum, Washington, D.C.
11. 2006 Senior Advisor, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, New York
12. 2008–2009, U.S. Ambassador to Finland, U.S. Department of State, Helsinki
13. 2012 Interim President, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Glendale, Ariz.
14. 2013–2017, Chairman of the Board, the Aerospace Corporation, El Segundo, Calif.
15. 2019–present, Secretary of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Horatio Alger Distinguished Americans Award

The Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service

Sandra Day O’Connor Board Excellence Award from the American Bar Association

Inducted into the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame

Committee for Economic Development Leadership in the Nation’s Interest Award

## **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

Honorary Doctorate, Arizona State University

Honorary Doctorate, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Honorary Doctorate, Thunderbird School of Global Management

Honorary Doctorate, University of South Carolina

Honorary Doctorate, Pepperdine University

Honorary Doctorate, Finlandia University

(Current as of December 2019)