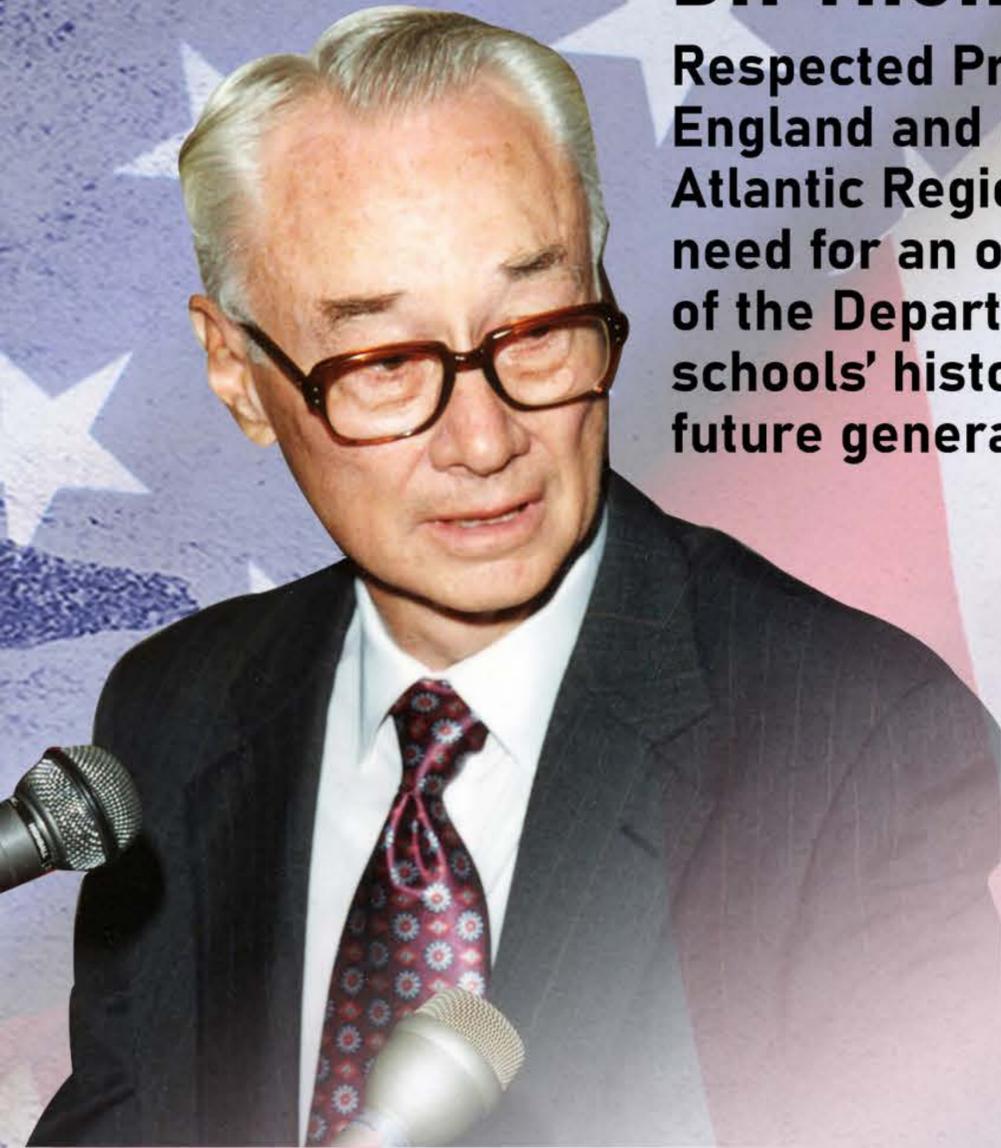


MISSION CHAMPIONS

Dr. Thomas T. Drysdale

Respected Principal and Superintendent in England and Germany and Director of DoDDS Atlantic Region, Dr. Drysdale recognized the need for an organization to preserve the history of the Department of Defense (DoD) overseas schools' history and maintain their legacies for future generations to come.



In 1989, with the help of Dr. Eugene Hughes, President of Northern Arizona University (NAU), the American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) opened on the NAU campus in Flagstaff, Arizona. In 1995, the name was changed to American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) and later moved to Wichita, Kansas.

At stake was the loss of memorabilia, artifacts, and recollections of those schools that had closed. There was also a need to establish protocols for capturing the history of the schools still educating our military children overseas, to include schools opening in the future.

Dr. Drysdale's wisdom and foresight to preserve the past were mirrored in his efforts to capture and preserve the history of schools still educating service members' children at that time and in the future. He and his wife, Norma, shared the vision and hard work that influenced others to become involved and inspired to take up the unfinished and ongoing task to preserve these priceless legacies.

In 1941, Thomas Drysdale enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served in WWII as a B-24 pilot in the Eighth Air Force, 44th Bomb Group, and flew missions over Sicily, Naples, Normandy and Germany. He won the Distinguished Flying Cross and European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal. After WWII he served thirty years in the U. S. Air Force Reserves, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Dr. Drysdale taught in the Whittier (CA) School District from 1952 - 1956. He served as a principal and superintendent in the Department of Defense Dependent School System in England, Germany and Hawaii from 1956 - 1981.

Dr. Drysdale received a B. A. from Whittier College, in Whittier, CA in 1952. He received a Ph.D. in comparative education from Georgetown University in Washington, DC in 1973. He was an adjunct professor of education at Northern Arizona University from 1984 - 1994.

Source: AOSHS

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY