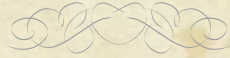


# Did You Know?

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## **General George S. Patton, Jr. - ANCC Member**

George S. Patton, Jr., USMA '09, became a Resident Founding Member of ANCC in 1928.

Many know that he was a member of General Pershing's staff during the expedition to Mexico against Pancho Villa in 1916. General Patton's exploits as a brilliant tactician in the use of tanks and as an exceptional leader while commanding the 3rd Army during the allies surge across Europe in 1944 are also well known.

Few are aware, however, that Patton competed for the United States in the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden. He placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the first Modern Pentathlon competition, with some observers claiming that he had been robbed of a medal, if not the gold. The competition encompasses the skills required of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century military courier: horseback riding, running, swimming, fencing and pistol shooting. In his best event of the five, pistol shooting, Patton placed 20<sup>th</sup>. He claimed that his shots were sufficiently clustered that the lost bullet had not left a trace as it passed through a hole made by earlier shots. The official scorers ruled differently, i.e. that the shot had completely missed the target. Whether the scorers were correct or, as seems more probable, Patton was, we will never know. It is clear, however, that General Patton was a world class athlete as well as a world class military leader.

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