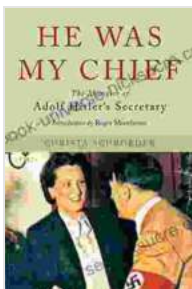


# He Was My Chief: The Inspiring Life and Lessons of U.S. Army General John A. Wickham, Jr.

General John A. Wickham, Jr. was a true American hero and a dedicated leader who served his country with distinction for over four decades. His life and career are an inspiration to all who aspire to lead with integrity, courage, and compassion. This article will explore the key events and experiences that shaped General Wickham's leadership philosophy, highlighting the lessons we can learn from his remarkable legacy.

John A. Wickham, Jr. was born in Dobbs Ferry, New York, on October 6, 1928. He grew up in a military family, with his father serving as a colonel in the U.S. Army. From a young age, Wickham developed a strong sense of patriotism and a desire to serve his country.

After graduating from high school, Wickham attended the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated with honors in 1950 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry. Wickham's West Point experience instilled in him the values of leadership, discipline, and selfless service.



## He Was My Chief: The Memoirs of Adolf Hitler's Secretary by Christa Schroeder

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Wickham's military career spanned over four decades, during which time he served in various leadership positions, including platoon leader, company commander, battalion commander, and brigade commander. He saw combat in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, where he earned numerous awards for his bravery and leadership.

In 1983, Wickham was promoted to four-star general and became the Chief of Staff of the United States Army. In this role, he was responsible for leading the Army during a period of significant change and modernization. Wickham's leadership was instrumental in shaping the Army's post-Cold War strategy and its focus on joint operations.

Wickham retired from active military service in 1987. However, he continued to serve his country in various advisory and leadership roles, including as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the Secretary of Defense's Policy Board.

General Wickham's leadership philosophy was based on the principles of integrity, courage, and compassion. He believed that true leaders possess a strong moral compass, are willing to take risks, and care deeply about the well-being of their followers.

Wickham often emphasized the importance of building trust and developing relationships with those they lead. He believed that trust is the foundation

of effective leadership and that it can only be earned through open communication, honesty, and consistency.

Wickham also believed that leaders should be willing to take risks and make bold decisions. He understood that there are times when it is necessary to step outside of one's comfort zone in order to achieve success.

Finally, Wickham emphasized the importance of compassion in leadership. He believed that leaders should care about the well-being of their followers and should be willing to go the extra mile to support them.

General John A. Wickham, Jr. left behind a legacy of leadership that continues to inspire generations of military and civilian leaders. His commitment to integrity, courage, and compassion is a shining example for all who aspire to lead with purpose and distinction.

Wickham's leadership philosophy has had a lasting impact on the U.S. Army and the field of leadership in general. His emphasis on trust, risk-taking, and compassion has helped to shape the way that leaders are trained and developed in the military and beyond.

In addition to his military service, Wickham was also a dedicated family man. He was married to the former Peggy Olson for over 60 years, and they had three children. Upon his retirement from the military, Wickham and his wife settled in Middleburg, Virginia, where he enjoyed spending time with his family and pursuing his passions for golf and fishing.

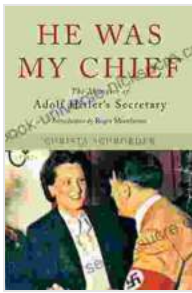
General John A. Wickham, Jr. passed away on March 12, 2016, at the age of 87. He was a true American hero and a visionary leader who left an

enduring legacy of service and inspiration.

There are many valuable lessons that we can learn from the life and leadership of General John A. Wickham, Jr. Here are a few of the most important:

- **Integrity is the foundation of leadership.** True leaders possess a strong moral compass and are always honest and ethical in their dealings with others.
- **Courage is essential for leadership.** Leaders must be willing to take risks and make bold decisions, even when it is difficult or unpopular.
- **Compassion is a powerful force in leadership.** Leaders who care about the well-being of their followers can inspire them to great achievements.
- **Trust is essential for effective leadership.** Leaders must build trust with their followers through open communication, honesty, and consistency.
- **Leadership is about serving others.** True leaders put the needs of their followers ahead of their own and are always willing to go the extra mile.

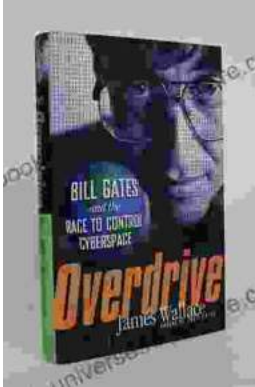
General John A. Wickham, Jr. was a true American hero and a visionary leader who left an enduring legacy of service and inspiration. His life and career are a shining example for all who aspire to lead with integrity, courage, and compassion. The lessons we can learn from his leadership will continue to guide and inspire generations of leaders for years to come.



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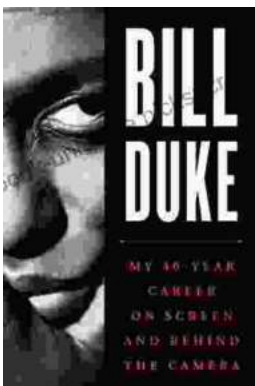
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