



Lee Ellis

Nationally Recognized Leadership Coach, Award-Winning Author, Certified Speaking Professional* (CSP), & Colonel USAF (Ret)

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Detailed Biography

LEADERSHIP COACH AND TRAINER

Lee Ellis is President and founder of Leading with Honor®, a leadership and team development training and coaching company, and FreedomStar Media®, a publishing company that provides leadership resources and training. A popular media personality and high-profile human performance expert, Lee focuses on organizational integrity, operational effectiveness and personal accountability for enterprise, government, and not-for-profit leaders. His prior experience was as a founding partner and senior vice president of a leadership assessment and human capital management consulting company headquartered in Atlanta, GA. For over 20 years, he has served as an executive coach and a corporate coach in the areas of hiring, teambuilding, leadership, human performance development, and succession planning. His approach to maximizing leadership performance has been implemented by Fortune 500 clients, senior executives and C-Level leaders in telecommunications, healthcare, insurance, energy, IT, automotive, military, and not-for-profit sectors.



RESEARCHER/DEVELOPER

As the Director of Career/Life Pathways from 1990 – 1998, Lee led the development team that researched, developed, and validated *Career Direct®*, a vocational assessment package and two personality assessments with software applications. From 1998 – 2008, he was responsible for product development of three more behavioral and leadership assessments as well as the launch and Internet deployment of these resources. In total, these assessments have been used worldwide by more than 200,000 individuals and are the instrument of choice in many organizations, including Fortune 500 companies and nationally recognized not-for-profits. Lee's point-of-view on maximizing leadership performance and organizational leadership during crisis is framed by his extensive research and experience in the assessment of human behavior.

AUTHOR/SPEAKER

A prolific writer, blogger and thought leader, Lee's latest bestselling book is entitled *Captured by Love: Inspiring True Romance Stories from Vietnam POWs*. His last two award-winning books, *Leading with Honor®: Leadership Lessons from the Hanoi Hilton* and *Engage with Honor™: Building a Culture of Courageous Accountability*, share his POW experiences and the leadership principles that helped him and his compatriots resist, survive, and return with honor. He also started his own publishing company, FreedomStar Media® to develop these resources. Additionally, Lee co-authored seven books and workbooks on human behavior and career planning. He is a nationally recognized Certified Speaking Professional* (CSP), Certified Virtual Presenter (CVP), and expert on the subjects of leadership and performance, team building, mentoring, and career planning. Some of his appearances include interviews on networks such as CNN, CBS This Morning, C-SPAN, ABC World News, Fox News Channel, plus hundreds of engagements in various industry sectors throughout the world.

EDUCATOR

Lee holds a B.A. degree in History from the University of Georgia and a M.S. degree in Counseling and Human Development from Troy University in Alabama. He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the Air War College. Lee supervised, educated, and trained officers for the last 17 years of his Air Force career. He served as the Vice Commandant of the Squadron Officer School, the Air Force's leadership school for captains. He completed his Air Force career as Professor of Aerospace Studies and Commander of Air Force ROTC at the University of Georgia. More recently he has developed and presented leadership curricula in numerous organizations including Fortune 500 companies, and major sectors of the Department of the Defense focusing on management performance, leadership accountability and principle-based management strategies.

AIR FORCE OFFICER and PILOT

A native of Commerce, Georgia, Lee graduated from the University of Georgia in 1965 and began a career in the Air Force. During the Vietnam War, Lee's aircraft was shot down over enemy territory and he was held as a POW in various prisons in the Hanoi area for over five years. As a military officer, his experiences as a POW piqued his interest in leadership performance in difficult situations, leading to further research and academic pursuit in the area of measuring and optimizing human performance and leadership effectiveness. After repatriation he returned to flying duties with increasing positions of leadership. Rising to the rank of colonel before retirement, Lee's assignments included duty as a pilot, flight instructor, staff officer, chief of flight standardization and evaluation, flying squadron commander, and supervisor in higher education. He was awarded two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Valor device, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Prisoner of War Medal for his service in Vietnam. In addition, he was awarded four Air Force Commendation Medals and four Meritorious Service Medals for performance excellence. Lee is also a 2014 inductee into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame and the 2015 DAR Medal of Honor Recipient for a lifetime of patriotic service as a military officer and spokesman for leading with honor.

Personal: Lee and his wife Mary have four grown children and six grandchildren. They reside in the metro area of Atlanta, GA.

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Condensed Biography/Introduction (351 words)

Lee Ellis is Founder and President of Leading with Honor® and FreedomStar Media®. He is an award-winning author, leadership coach, and expert speaker in the areas of leadership, teambuilding, and human performance. His past clients include Fortune 500 senior executives and C-Level leaders in telecommunications, healthcare, military, and other business sectors. Some of his media appearances include interviews on networks such as CNN, CBS This Morning, C-SPAN, ABC World News, Fox News Channel, plus hundreds of engagements in various industry sectors throughout the world.

Early in his career, Lee served as an Air Force fighter pilot flying fifty-three combat missions over North Vietnam. In 1967, he was shot down and held as a POW for more than five years in Hanoi and surrounding camps. For his wartime service, he was awarded two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Valor device, the Purple Heart, and POW Medal. Lee resumed his Air Force career, serving in leadership roles of increasing responsibility including command of a flying squadron and leadership development organizations before retiring as a colonel.

Lee has a BA in History and an MS in Counseling and Human Development. He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the Air War College. He has authored or co-authored seven books on leadership and career development. His latest bestselling book is entitled *Captured by Love: Inspiring True Romance Stories from Vietnam POWs*. Two additional, award-winning books share leadership insights gained from his POW experience. *Leading with Honor: Leadership Lessons from the Hanoi Hilton* won book-of-the-year awards and was selected in 2013 for the USAF Chief of Staff Professional Reading List. His follow-on book, *Engage with Honor: Building a Culture of Courageous Accountability* was selected best in class for “Leadership” category.

In 2014, Lee was inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame, and in 2015 was a DAR Medal of Honor Recipient for a lifetime of patriotic service as a military officer and spokesman for leading with honor.

Lee and his wife Mary reside in the Atlanta GA area and have four grown children and six grandchildren.

Condensed Biography/Introduction (149 words)

Lee Ellis is president of Leading with Honor®, a leadership and team development training and coaching company. He serves Fortune 500 senior executives in the areas of hiring, teambuilding, human performance, and succession planning. His media appearances include interviews on networks such as CNN, CBS This Morning, C-SPAN, ABC World News, and Fox News Channel. As a fighter pilot in Vietnam, he was shot down, captured, and repatriated in 1973 after more than five years as a POW in Hanoi. He resumed his Air Force career, eventually retiring as a Colonel. After his military retirement, he has worked almost 40 years as an educator, researcher and developer, leadership coach and trainer, and award-winning author and professional speaker and spokesman for leading with honor. Lee has authored seven books, and his latest bestselling book is entitled *Captured by Love: Inspiring True Romance Stories from Vietnam POWs*. Learn more at leadingwithhonor.com.

* The Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation involves a rigorous 5-10 year certification process. It is the highest speaking designation in the industry, and only 1.5% of speakers worldwide can claim this special title.