

APPENDIX 18

Honorary Naval Aviator Designations

The official Honorary Naval Aviator Program was initiated in 1949 to honor individuals for certain extraordinary contributions and/or outstanding performance for service to Naval Aviation. In recognition of their service, an Honorary Naval Aviator designation is bestowed on the individual with the right to wear the “Wings of Gold”.

The program is managed by the Chief of Naval Operations, Director Air Warfare (previously designated Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Air Warfare and Assistant Chief of Naval Operations, Air Warfare). Final approval of the nomination is made by the Chief of Naval Operations.

The honor designating an individual an Honorary Naval Aviator has not been bestowed lightly. The following is a list of those individuals who have received the honor:

<i>Number and Name</i>	<i>Presented by</i>	<i>Date Received</i>	<i>Reason</i>
1 CAPT Richard (Dick) Schram, (Stunt Pilot)	Chief, Naval Air Reserve	Oct 1949	“Flying Professor.” Outstanding contribution to aviation since the early 1930s.
2 SGT Clifford Iknokinok (Alaskan National Guard)	James H. Smith, Jr. Asst. Secy. Navy	21 Nov 1955	Rescued 11 Navy men, shot down by Soviet MiGs over International waters, Bering Strait, Alaska.
3 SGT Willis Walunga (Alaskan National Guard)	James H. Smith, Jr. Asst. Secy. Navy	21 Nov 1955	Same as above.
4 Dr. Herman J. Schaefer	VADM Robert Goldwaite (Flight Surgeon Wings)	Jun 1960	As a scientist, made outstanding contributions to aerospace research while at the Naval School of Aviation Medicine.
5 Dr. Dietrich E. Beischer	VADM Robert Goldwaite	Jun 1960	Same as above.
6 Mr. F. Trubee Davison (Asst. Secy. of War for Air)	VADM Paul H. Ramsey DCNO (Air)	Jul 1966	Organized the 1st Yale Unit in 1916. Served as Asst. Secy. of War for Air for 6 years, from late 1920s to 1930s.
7 Mr. Jackie Cooper (Navy Reserve Commander)	VADM Bernard M. Stean Chief, Naval Air Training	10 Jul 1970	Active in Navy’s PAO program, recruiting and promoting since World War II.
8 VADM Hyman C. Rickover	VADM Thomas F. Connolly DCNO (Air Warfare)	21 Jul 1970	Vigorously supported Naval Aviation and achieved great advancements in nuclear propulsion for aircraft carriers.
9A LTC Barry R. Butler, USAF	VADM Bernard M. Streaan Chief, Naval Air Training	19 Aug 1970	Made significant contributions as Advanced Training Officer, Naval Air Training Command. He flew several hundred hours in Navy aircraft and made six landings aboard Lexington (CVT 16).

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10 Mr. John Warner (Secretary of the Navy)	VADM William D. Houser DCNO (Air Warfare)	14 Oct 1972	Vigorously supported Naval Aviation. Presented at establishment of VF-1 and VF-2 (first F-14 squadrons) at NAS Miramar.
11 Mr. Robert G. Smith	VADM William D. Houser DCNO (Air Warfare)	8 May 1973	Artist, McDonnell Douglas Corp. National recognition as an outstanding aviation artist.
12 Mr. George Spangeberg (NAVAIRSYSCOM)	VADM William D. Houser DCNO (Air Warfare)	Sep 1975	Recognized for his many years of service as a Navy aircraft designer.
13 Mr. Jay R. Beasley	VADM E. C. Waller III Director of Weapons Sys. Eva. Grp. for VADM Houser	25 Jul 1977	Presented in recognition of 23 years of exceptionally dedicated and valuable service to Naval Aviation as production test pilot with Lockheed & P-2/P-3 instructor.
14 Mr. Robert Osborne DCNO (Air Warfare)	VADM Frederick C. Turner	21 Jan 1977	Presented for contributions to Naval Aviation safety; created Dilbert, Spoiler and Grampaw Pettibone illustrations.
15 CAPT Virgil J. Lemmon	VADM Wesley L. McDonald DCNO (Air Warfare)	23 Feb 1981	“Mr. Naval Aviation Maintenance.” Awarded for 40 years of distinguished service to Naval Aviation and the Naval Aviation Maintenance establishment.
16 ADM Arleigh A. Burke	VADM Wesley L. McDonald DCNO (Air Warfare)	13 Oct 1981	Outspoken supporter of Naval Aviation; made decisions that shaped the Navy’s air arm as it is known today.
17 GEN James H. Doolittle	ADM Thomas B. Hayward CNO	11 Dec 1981	In recognition of many years of support of military aviation.
18 Mr. Paul E. Garber	VADM Edward H. Martin DCNO (Air Warfare)	26 Mar 1985	Made significant contributions to Naval Aviation spanning the age of manned powered flight. Including service in World Wars I and II and impressive contributions in maintaining the history of Naval Aviation as the Ramsey Fellow and Historian Emeritus of the National Air and Space Museum.
19 Mr. Bob Hope	VADM Edward H. Martin DCNO (Air Warfare) and the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. John Lehman	8 May 1986	Presented in recognition of 45 years of selfless dedication to the well-being of those serving their nation in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard and for making remarkable contributions to the morale of those in Naval Aviation.

<i>Number and Name</i>	<i>Presented by</i>	<i>Date Received</i>	<i>Reason</i>
20 Mr. Edward H. Heinemann	VADM Edward H. Martin DCNO (Air Warfare)	18 Oct 1986	Contributed to major achievements in the technical development of naval aircraft and as one of aviation's most highly regarded aircraft designers. The majority of the aircraft he designed served in Naval Aviation and he has become known as "Mr. Attack Aviation." A man whose professional life has been dedicated largely to designing a superb series of carrier-based aircraft.
21 CAPT Robert E. Mitchell, MC, USN	RADM E. D. Conner Deputy, CNET	25 Jun 1990	Recognized for 43 years of contributions in the field of aerospace medicine. Conducted extensive research in the Thousand Aviator Program; worked with the Navy and Marine Corps Vietnam Prisoners of War (Repatriated); wrote and published numerous medical papers; and his operational work as a Naval Flight Surgeon has helped shape the course of Naval Aviation.
22 Mr. Harold (Hal) Andrews	VADM Richard M. Dunleavy ACNO (Air Warfare)	29 Apr 1991	Outstanding contributions to Naval Aviation as a civilian engineer with 30 years of service to the Navy; provided technical advice and support for the 50th and 75th Naval Aviation anniversary celebrations; volunteered support to Naval Aviation News magazine as Technical Advisor since the 1950s and his vast knowledge of Naval Aviation events, both technical and operational, have contributed to the advancement of Naval Aviation since his association with it beginning in World War II.



Bob Hope is made an Honorary Naval Aviator during 75th Anniversary celebrations at NAS Pensacola, Fla. Mrs. Dolores Hope is pinning on his wings. Vice Admiral Edward H. Martin, DCNO (Air Warfare), is on the left and Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman is on the right.



The Naval Aviation Hall of Honor at the National Museum of Naval Aviation.



Squadron insignia, past and present, showing squadron designation in the lower scroll.