



John H. Glenn, Colonel, USMC (Ret.)
"John"

Date of Designation: March 1943

Dates of Active Duty: March 1943 - 1965

Combat Tours:

- WW II: Pacific theater flying F4U Corsairs. Marshall Islands campaign - 59 combat missions.
- Korea: Patrolling MiG Alley (F-86 Sabrejets) - 90 combat missions and 3 Soviet MiG-15 victories.

Aviation Commands:

Mercury capsule Friendship 7

Combat Awards:

6 Distinguished Flying Crosses
18 Air Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

John Herschel Glenn, Jr., was born on July 18, 1921, in Cambridge, Ohio. Before he started school his family moved to nearby New Concord, where after graduating from New Concord High School, he enrolled in Muskingum College. He had already learned to fly in a Navy program for civilians at the small New Philadelphia airfield and was a licensed pilot before enlisting in the Naval Aviation Cadet Program shortly after Pearl Harbor. He earned his wings and was commissioned in the Marine Corps in March 1943. He was first assigned to the Pacific theater flying the F4U Corsair. Participating in the Marshall Islands campaign, he completed 59 missions, during which he helped develop bombing tactics that were used to great advantage later in the war. He returned to the Pacific in 1947, serving two years on North China patrol, later flying out of Guam. After the war Glenn was reassigned to Corpus Christi, Texas where he served as a flight instructor.



Glenn requested combat duty in the Korean conflict and was sent to Korea in February 1953, flying 90 combat missions. Patrolling "MiG Alley" in F-86 Sabres, he caused something of a stir by claiming 3 Soviet-built MiG-15 victories in 11 days - an accomplishment exceeded by only one other Marine during the entire conflict. For his service in 149 missions in two wars, he received many honors, including six Distinguished Flying Crosses and eighteen Air Medals.

After Korea, he experienced a rigorous year at the Navy Test Pilot School at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD., and subsequently worked in the Flight Test Division. Glenn served several years as a test pilot on Navy and Marine Corps jet fighters and attack aircraft, setting a transcontinental flight in 1957 in the single-engine F8U Crusader. Dubbed "Project Bullet," the flight began in Los Angeles, California, and ended over Floyd Bennett Field, New York. It lasted just over 3 hours and 23 minutes, beat the previous official record by 21 minutes, and was the first flight to average supersonic speeds from Los Angeles to New York.



In 1959, eight days after promotion to Colonel, John Glenn was selected to be one of the first seven Mercury astronauts in the U. S. Space program. After nearly 3 years

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

of exhaustive training and ten postponed launches, on February 20, 1962, he made history as the first American to orbit the earth. He piloted the Mercury space capsule "Friendship 7" for three successive earth orbits. This historic five-hour flight more than accomplished its major objectives of investigating human capabilities in space and testing the spacecraft supporting systems, for which he received the Space Congressional Medal of Honor. Colonel Glenn continued working on NASA missions before retiring from the Marine Corps and NASA in 1965. Following a successful business career as an executive with Royal Crown International, he won his Senate seat in 1974, carrying all 88 counties of Ohio, and was reelected in 1980 with the largest margin in Ohio history. Ohioans returned him to the Senate for a third term in 1986, again with a substantial majority. In 1992, John Glenn again made history by being the first popularly elected Senator from Ohio to win four consecutive terms.

He is considered one of the Senate's leading experts on technical and scientific matters, and is widely respected for his work to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. He continues to serve his country in his position today and has made significant contributions to aviation and military airpower development.

John Glenn and Anna Margaret Castor were married in 1943. They have a son, Dave, and a daughter, Lyn, and two grandchildren. Annie and John Glenn have homes in Columbus, Ohio and Washington D. C.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) First American to orbit the earth in Mercury space capsule Friendship 7.
- (2) Three MiG-15 victories in Korea.
- (3) Set transcontinental speed record in F8U Crusader , July 1957 - Project Bullet.