



Kenneth R. Wallace, Captain, USN
"Ken"

Date of Designation: 9 February 1950

Dates of Active Duty: 2 June 1946 - September 1974

Total Flight Hours: 13,150

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 770

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 11,800 Prop: 350

Combat Tours:

Korea: VF-191, USS Princeton, Oct. 1950 - May 1951

Korea: VF-191, USS Princeton, Nov. 1951 - Oct. 1952

Vietnam: USS Midway, Apr. 1964-Jun. 1965

Vietnam: VF-154, USS Coral Sea, Jun. 1966 - Mar. 1967

Vietnam: VF-154, USS Coral Sea, Aug. 1968 - May 1969

Total combat sorties (Vietnam) - 540

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-154, Oct. 1965 - Oct. 1966

COMCVG 15, May 1967 - May 1968

Blue Angels, Dec. 1961 - Dec. 1963

Blue Angels, Oct. 1973 - Feb. 1974

Combat Awards:

3 Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star

18 Air Medals

Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V"

Kenneth Richard Wallace was born in Elizabethton, Tennessee, on December 15, 1928, son of Prince H. and Lucy G. (Thomas) Wallace. He attended Elizabethton High School, prior to enlisting on July 25, 1946, as an Apprentice Seaman, in the U. S. Naval Reserve. After instruction, under the V-5 Program, at Milligan (Tennessee) College, he was appointed Aviation Midshipman and in June 1948 reported for flight



training at the Naval Air Training Command, Pensacola, Florida. Designated Naval Aviator on February 9, 1950, he was commissioned Ensign, USN, on June 2, that year and subsequently advanced in rank, to that of Commander, to date from April 1, 1965. He was later advanced to the rank of Captain.

After receiving his "Wings" in 1950, he joined Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY ONE, and in that assignment participated in two Korean cruises on board the USS *Princeton*. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, with Combat "V," for a single action in the Korean area on June 24, 1952. In addition, he was awarded the Air Medal and Gold Stars in lieu of the Second through the Fourth Air Medals for completing eighty missions during the period December 6, 1950 to October 6, 1952 and is entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the USS *Princeton*.

He next attended the General Line School, Monterey, California. Completing the course there in June 1953, he became a member, flying the slot position, of the BLUE ANGELS--the Navy's flight demonstration team. In April 1956 he reported as Naval Aviator and Operations Officer with Fighter Squadron TWENTY-TWO and in June 1958 transferred to Attack Squadron FORTY-FOUR to serve as Naval Aviator and A4 RAG Instructor.

From August 1959 to June 1960 he was a student, under the five term program, at the University of Mississippi, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He then returned to duty with the BLUE ANGELS, again flying the slot position, and on January 16, 1962 became Officer in Charge of that team. During the 1962 season, the BLUE ANGELS, under his leadership, performed before 6,502,600 viewers breaking all previous attendance records. In February 1964 he reported for instruction (Carrier Air Technical Training Course) at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Glynco, Georgia.

In May 1964 he joined the USS *Midway*, which operated in the Vietnam area, to serve as Naval Aviator and Assistant Air operations Officer until August 1965. He is entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the USS MIDWAY. After a tour of duty as Naval Aviator and F4 RAG student with Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE, he reported in March 1966 as Executive officer of Fighter squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR, on board the USS *Coral Sea*. In October that year he assumed command of that squadron. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Distinguished Flying Cross for single missions on September 23, 1966 and November 21, 1966, respectively, and Gold Stars in lieu of the Fifth through the Ninth Air Medals for a specific number of missions during the period September 13, 1966 to January 17, 1967. He is also entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the USS *Coral Sea*. From May 1967 until May 1968 he served as Commander Carrier Air Wing FIFTEEN aboard USS *Coral Sea*. As an O-6, he later completed a third tour with the Blue Angels, where he had the title of Program Manager (because he was too senior to be a C.O.). In that position, he selected and modified the A-4 aircraft and selected and trained new pilots for the squadron in the 1973-74 season. He retired from that position and became Chief Pilot for the American Express Company, flying Gulfstream II, III, and IV, as well as the Falcon 50, Westwind II, and Sikorsky S-76 helicopters. During his career he accumulated over 13,000 flight hours and 700 carrier landings.

In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross, with two Gold Stars, the Bronze Star with combat "V," the Air Medal, with eight Gold Stars, the Navy Commendation Medal, with Combat "V," and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, with two stars, Captain Wallace has the Navy occupation Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, with bronze star, Korean Service Medal, with one silver star and two bronze stars (seven operations); Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal. He also has the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He is married to the former Harriet C. Jenkins, of Elizabethton, Tennessee, and they have four daughters, Vickie Leigh, Pamela Sue, Lisa Anne, and Nancy Kendra Wallace.