

CDR Billy V. Wheat, USN (Ret.) "Bill"

Date of Designation: 10 February 1950

Dates of Active Duty: June 1950 - 31 October 1971

Total Flight Hours: 4,823

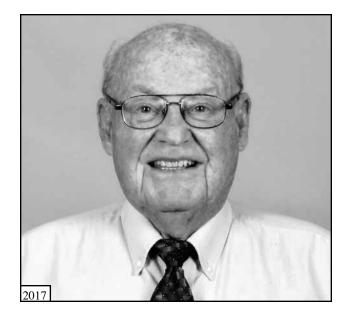
<u>Combat Tours</u>: Vietnam: VA-86, USS *Independence* (CVA-62) 1965. Vietnam: VA-25, USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) 1970. Total Combat Missions - 96

<u>Aviation Commands</u>: OinC, U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Team "Blue Angels"

Combat Awards: Distinguished Flying Cross 6 Air Medals Purple Heart 2 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V" Vietnam Service Medal Republic of Vietnam Service Medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 1950 Enlisted in US Navy.
- 1952 Selected for Naval Aviation Cadet Flight Program. Received Wings and Commissioned Ensign. 1954 1954 Orders to VF-172 Blue Bolts squadron based at NAS Jacksonville, FL. (F2H Banshee). 1958 Orders to NAAS Chase Field, Beeville, Texas for Flight Instructor Duty (F9F Cougar). Orders to USS Franklin D. Roosevelt CVA 42 as 1961 Catapult Officer. 1963 Orders to CAG-7 as Senior Landing Signal Officer. (A4 Skyhawk, F8 Crusader). 1965 Shot down and rescued in North Vietnam flying with VA-86.



- 1965 Orders to Naval Personel Office, Washington, DC asAir combat Placement Officer for Attack Community.
- 1967 Orders to Navy Flight Demonstration Team, The Blue Angels as OINC and Flight Leader (F11 Tiger, F4 Phantom).
- 1970 Orders to VA-25, Fist of the Fleet, as Executive Officer (Aircraft A7 Corsair II).
- 1971 Medical Retirement due to Aneurysm in brain.

Summary of Significant Career Event

- (1) Two Combat Tours 1965 and 1970.
- (2) Shot down and rescued in North Vietnam, 1965.
- (3) Flight Leader of Navy Blue Angels, 1967-1969. Taking Blue Angels to Paris for the International Air Salon, 1967

Summary of Significant Post Career Events

- (1) Manager of State of Florida Pari-Mutual Facility 1972-1996.
- (2) President of Navy League Chapter in Lake Chapala, Mexico.