



Ralph W. Cousins, Admiral, USN, (Ret.)
 “Ralph”

Date of Designation: 18 November 1940 NA # 6882

Dates of Active Duty: 3 June 1937 - 31 May 1975.

Total Flight Hours: 4 ,700

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 250

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 250 Prop: 4,450 VF/VA: 4,000

Combat Tours:

WW II: VB-2, USS *Lexington* during battle of the Coral Sea. On board *Lexington* when that ship was sunk in battle of the Coral Sea, May 1942. Guadalcanal campaign: XO and CO of Bombing Squadron 11, leading strikes against Japanese shipping in Solomons, 1943.

Aviation Commands:

CO, Bombing Squadron 11; 1942 - 1943.
 Commander, Attack Air Group ELEVEN; 1945-1947.
 CO, USS *Midway* (CVA-41); 1960-1961.
 Commander, Task Force 77 (All carriers in the Tonkin Gulf): 1967-1969.

Combat Awards:

Navy Cross
 Distinguished Service Medal (4 Stars)
 Legion of Merit (2 Stars)
 Commandeur de l'ordre National du Merite (French Award)

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/33-6/37 U.S. Naval Academy - Midshipman.
 6/37-3/40 USS *Pennsylvania* and on the Staff of
 Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
 3/40-12/40 Flight training, NAS Pensacola, FL.



12/40-7/42 Bombing Squadron TWO (USS *Lexington*),
 Battle of the Coral Sea.
 7/42-7/43 XO and CO of Bombing Squadron ELEVEN
 (Solomon Islands campaign).
 7/43-45 NAS Seattle, WA., and Staff of Commander
 Fleet Air, West Coast.
 4/45-47 Commander, Attack Air Group ELEVEN.
 1947-62 Various Command and staff duties including:
 1950 Graduated from Navy Test Pilot School,
 Patuxent River, MD.
 CO, Naval Air Facility, Annapolis, MD.
 1959-60 CO, USS *Nantahala* (AO-60).
 1960-61 CO, USS *Midway* (CVA-41).
 1962-63 National War College, Washington, D. C.
 1963-65 Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of
 Defense.
 1965-66 Commander, Carrier Division NINE (Gulf of
 Tonkin).
 1966-67 Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans, on the
 staff of Commander in Chief Pacific.
 11/67-69 Commander, Attack Carrier Striking Force,
 SEVENTH FLEET (CTF-77).
 1969-70 DCNO, Fleet Operations and Readiness
 1970-72 Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
 1972-75 Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet.
 5/31/75 Retired from active duty.
 8/75-77 Assistant to President, Newport News
 Shipbuilding.
 1977-79 President Newport News Shipbuilding.
 1979-9/85 Chairman, Tenneco Europe, Inc. London.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Awarded the Navy Cross for part in attacking and sinking a Japanese carrier in Battle of the Coral Sea.
- (2) Led squadron in a number of dive-bombing missions against enemy forces in Solomon Islands campaign.