



**Edward Heinemann**  
Aircraft Designer

Heinemann was one of a kind, the leader of a design team, which time and time again gave the Navy, the finest aircraft available. Born in Saginaw, Michigan on 14 March 1908, he moved to California in 1914, where he began with Douglas Aircraft Company in 1926 as a draftsman. He served as project engineer before becoming Chief Engineer in 1936 and Vice President for Military Aircraft in 1958. In 1960, he joined Guidance Technology as Executive Vice President and in 1961 became Corporate Vice President -- Engineering for General Dynamics, a position from which he retired in 1973. Heinemann was awarded the Collier Trophy in 1953 "for the greatest achievement in aviation in America" - the F4D "Skyray", as well as the Guggenheim Medal in 1978 in honor of his invaluable contribution to the nation. He was enshrined in the Aviation Hall of Fame in 1981 and received the National Medal of Science from President Reagan at the White House on 24 May 1983.

After working for the Douglas Aircraft Company as a draftsman, Heinemann joined the International Aircraft Corporation in 1927 and designed the landing gear for its biplane. Then, as chief engineer of the Moreland Aircraft Company, he designed his first airplane, a trainer. At the Northrop Corporation, he designed the dive brakes for its BT-1 dive bomber. After becoming chief engineer of the El Segundo division of Douglas in 1937, his BD-7 "Boston" bomber initially served the allies, then became the A-20 "Havoc" during World War II. He also designed the SBD "Dauntless" dive bomber, the backbone of the U. S. carrier fleet, the A-26 "Invader", the BTD "destroyer" and the AD-1 "Skyraider", which later saw service in Korea and Vietnam. After the war, he designed the "Skystreak" jet to explore transonic flight, and the rocket-propelled "Skyrocket", the first plane to exceed Mach 2. Later he designed the F3D "Skynight", the first jet to down another in night combat, the turbo-prop powered A2D "Skyshark", and the delta-wing F4D "Skyray" carrier fighter, for which he received the 1953 Collier trophy. Then followed the F5D "Sky-lancer"



all-weather fighter, the swept-wing A-3 "Skywarrior" carrier-based bomber, and the A-4 lightweight "Skyhawk" bomber. The A-4 was widely referred to as "Heinemann's Hot-rod." In 1958, he became vice president of military aircraft engineering at Douglas. Then in 1962, after serving as vice president of Guidance Technology, Inc., he joined General Dynamics Corporation and became vice president of special projects. Upon retiring in 1973, he became an aeronautical consultant. Edward Heinemann passed away on November 26, 1991.

**On the design team for:**

Douglas SBD "Dauntless"  
Douglas AD "Skyraider"  
Douglas D-558-1 "Skystreak"  
Douglas D-558-2 "Skyrocket"  
Douglas F3D "Skynight"  
Douglas F4D "Skyray"  
Douglas F5D "Skylander"  
Douglas A3D "Skywarrior"  
Douglas A4D-1 "Skyhawk"