



**Robert J. Stroh, Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)**

Date of Designation: January 1932                      NA # 3888

Dates of Active Duty: June 1930 - December 1969

Total Flight Hours: 5,000+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 127 (approximate)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 10 Prop: 5,000+ VP/VPB: 3,000

VS/VB: 2,000

Combat Tours:

WW II: CO, VD-3, 1943-1944; Gilbert, Marshall and Marianas Islands.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VD-3, Mar. 1943-Mar. 1944.

CO, Tactical Air Control Group TWO, Jul. 1949 - Jul. 1950.

CO, USS Valcour (AVP-55), Jul. 1950 - Jul. 1951.

CO, USS Saratoga (CV-60), Apr. 1956.

COMCARDIV 14, Aug. 1958.

COMCARDIV 6, Jul. 1962.

Deputy Director, Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff (JSTPS), Jul. 1963.

COMFAIRJAX, Aug. 1967.

Gray Eagle, Jul. 1968.

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross

3 Air Medals

## Duty Assignment Chronology

Admiral, Stroh was born in New York City, and got his early education in the city public schools. He graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1930, followed by Navy flight training 1931-1932. His first fleet duty assignment was VS-9, aboard USS *Pensacola*.

Because of his interest in photography, he was ordered in 1942 to London, England to investigate the efforts of the British in photo reconnaissance and photo interpretation. When he returned from England, he was ordered as Officer-in-Charge of the Navy Photo Interpretation School in Anacostia, D.C. In 1943, he became Commanding Officer of Photron III which consisted of eight PB4Y1 Liberator Bombers modified for photo reconnaissance. The command accomplished the initial reconnaissance of the Japanese bases in the Gilbert, Marshall and Marianas Islands at the onset of the Central Pacific Campaign under Admiral Nimitz. At the conclusion of WW II, Admiral Stroh was assigned to CNO staff duty and later attended the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Admiral Stroh took command of the USS *Valcour* (AVP-55) on a six month deployment to the Persian Gulf in 1950. In 1951, he was ordered to a staff of SACLANT, the first NATO Naval Command. In 1953, he attended the National War College in Washington, D. C. followed by a tour on the CNO staff.

In 1955, Admiral Stroh was assigned as the Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO) of the USS *Saratoga* (CV-60) and in April 1956, he commissioned and took command as the first Commanding Officer of CV-60. Following this tour, he was again assigned to the CNO staff. In 1958 he commanded Carrier Division 14 with his flag in the USS *Wasp* and a division of destroyers, forming a Submarine Hunter Killer group in the Atlantic. He was assigned to staff duty at CINCPAC at the beginning of the Vietnam War. Following this tour of duty, he commanded Carrier Division 6 with his flag in the USS *Independence*. His task group was involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis supporting Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 1963, Admiral Stroh was ordered as Deputy Director of the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff responsible for targeting all of the armed forces nuclear weapons. In August 1968 he became the "Gray Eagle", the oldest Naval Aviator still on active duty. Admiral Stroh's last tour of duty was COMFAIR Jacksonville, where he was retired in 1969.

Admiral Stroh married the late Gloria Shea Stroh, his childhood sweetheart in 1937. He has 2 children, son Tim and daughter Robin, and 3 grandchildren.