



**William Paul Thayer, LCDR, USNR (Ret.)**  
 "Paul"

Date of Designation: March 1942 NA # 114570

Dates of Active Duty: June 1941 - October 1945

Total Flight Hours: 12,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 250

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 8,000 Prop: 4,000 VF/VA: 3,800

Other: 8,200 (Commercial, company and personal aircraft)

Combat Tours:

WW II: North African Invasion, Nov. 1942 - Dec. 1942.  
 South Pacific, Jan. 1943 - Aug. 1943, Guadalcanal,  
 and Russell Islands. South Pacific Invasions (New  
 Guinea, Halamahara and Philippines), Feb. 1944  
 - Dec. 1944.

Combat Awards:

3 Distinguished Flying Crosses

10 Air Medals

2 Presidential Unit Citations

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

10/45-6/47 Trans World Airlines, Co-pilot.  
 3/48-9/50 Chance Vought Aircraft, Production and  
 Experimental Test Pilot.  
 9/50-9/51 Northrop Aircraft, Chief, Experimental Flight  
 Test.  
 9/51-1/53 Chance Vought Aircraft, Sales Manager.  
 1/53-7/55 Chance Vought Aircraft, Sales and Service  
 Manager and Chief of Flight Test.  
 7/55-7/58 Chance Vought Aircraft, Vice President - Sales  
 and Service and Chief of Flight Test.  
 7/58-8/59 Chance Vought Aircraft, Vice President -  
 Washington Office.



8/59-8/61 Chance Vought Aircraft, Vice President and  
 General Manager, Aeronautics Division.  
 8/61-10/63 Chance Vought Corporation, President.  
 10/63-4/64 Ling-Temco-Vought, Inc., Senior Vice  
 President.  
 4/64-10/64 Ling-Temco-Vought, Inc., Executive Vice  
 President - Aerospace Group.  
 10/64-1/65 Ling-Temco-Vought, Inc., Executive Vice  
 President.  
 1/65-7/70 LTV Aerospace Corporation, President.  
 7/70-1/83 The LTV Corporation, Chairman of the Board  
 and CEO.  
 1/83-1/84 Department of Defense, Deputy Secretary of  
 Defense.  
 2/84-Present Semi-retired Small Company Investor.

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Fighter Ace during World War II, all Japanese Zeros  
 - Six total. Four probables.
- (2) First pilot to use Martin Baker ejection seat when  
 XF7U-1 caught fire during airshow at Naval  
 Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD (1949).
- (3) First pilot to exceed speed of sound in a Navy produc-  
 tion fighter - XF7U-1 (1949).
- (4) First pilot to demonstrate all structural and high Mach  
 Number (MN) limitations of the XF6U-1 (1950).
- (5) First pilot to demonstrate all structural and high MN  
 limitations of the XF-89 (1951).
- (6) First pilot to have barrel-rolled a Boeing 737.
- (7) First pilot to have flown the F-15, F-16, F-18, F-20,  
 and the B-1B in 1983 while serving as the Deputy  
 Secretary of Defense.

- Continued -

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (8) Flew around the world in a Cessna 414 with another pilot (Byrum Teekell) in 63 days with golf clubs. (1993 and age 73).
- (9) Established new around the world speed record for Learjet category aircraft with three other Learjet Captains in February, 1996 with 8 stops and average speed of 467.3 mph. (Age 76).
- (10) Still fly WW II Vought Corsair F4U-1D in public air shows.
- (11) Horatio Alger Award - 1982.
- (12) University of Kansas Distinguished Service Citation.
- (13) General J. H. Dolittle Award - Society of Experimental Test Pilots.
- (14) Kitty Hawk Award.
- (15) City of Hope Aerospace Man of the Year Award.
- (16) Doctor of Aeronautical Science - Salem College.
- (17) Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.
- (18) National Exploring Chairman of the Boy Scouts of America.
- (19) Chairman of the Aerospace Industries Association.
- (20) Regional Vice President and Board of Directors of the National Association of Manufacturers.
- (21) Board of Directors of Business Roundtable.
- (22) Chairman of the United Nations Association of the U. S.
- (23) Chairman of the National Corporate Board of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C.
- (24) Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.
- (25) Navy Experimental Test Pilots Hall of Fame - USS *Yorktown*, 1994.