



## MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

### Admiral Thomas Moorer

United States Navy (Ret.)

*Thomas Moorer* was raised in Eufaula, Alabama; and then went on to the U.S. Naval Academy graduating in 1933. After completing Naval Aviation training at the Pensacola Naval Air Station in 1936, he flew with fighter squadrons based on the aircraft carriers Langley, Lexington, and Enterprise.

In addition to his fighter experience, Moorer also qualified in seaplanes and flew with a patrol squadron in the early years of World War II. Serving with Patrol Squadron Twenty-Two at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when the Japanese attacked in December 1941, his squadron subsequently participated in the Dutch East Indies Campaign in the Southwest Pacific where he flew numerous combat Missions. Moorer received a Purple Heart after being shot down and wounded off the coast of Australia in February 1942 and then surviving an attack on the rescue ship, which was sunk by enemy action the same day. Moorer also received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his valor three months later when he braved Japanese air superiority to fly supplies into and evacuate wounded out of the island of Timor.

Moorer served both as Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet (CINCPAC) and Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet – the first Navy Officer to have commanded both fleets. He served as the Chief of Naval Operations between 1967 and 1970, at the height of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. He also served as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1970 until 1974.

In 1972, Moorer received the Gray Eagle Award, as the most senior active Naval Aviator, and held it until retirement in 1974.

Moorer died on February 5, 2004, at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland at the age of 91.

He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.