



MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

Lieutenant Commander Clyde Cassius Barber

United States Navy

A native of Drennen, Colorado, LCDR Barber graduated from high school in Pueblo, Colorado and enlisted in the Navy on 24 May 1941, less than one month after his 17th birthday. He completed recruit training in Sand Diego and Aviation Machinist's Mate "A" School in Alameda, California. Arriving in Hawaii on 18 December 1941, he witnessed the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and reported to VP-11, a PBY Squadron at NAS Kaneohe Bay.

During World War II, LCDR Barber served as a PBY Catalina aircraft crewmember in Pacific battles from Midway to the Philippines. Especially notable was his participation in PBY "Black Cat" operations and the evacuation of 219 Australian commandos from their post near Wewak, New Guinea in December 1943. After stripping unnecessary equipment and armament and reducing the normal 10-man crew to a skeleton crew of 5 airmen, pilots landed their 104-foot wingspan aircraft in the Sepik River before taking off to return to Port Moresby. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. On 20 September 1945, after only four years of service, he was advanced to Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate at the age of 21.

From March to September 1949, LCDR Barber participated in Operation Vittles (Berlin Airlift) with VR-8, operating from Rhein-Main Air Base, in Frankfurt, Germany. VR-8, one of the two Navy Squadrons supporting Operation Vittles, set record for tonnage delivered and aircraft utilization achieve in support of Berlin. In November 1956, LCDR Barber participated in VR-7's "Around the World" flight supporting the Suez Crisis. He logged 7500 crewmember flight hours during his 20 years of enlisted flying.

On 2 May 1961, LCDR Barber was commissioned and continued his career in Aviation Maintenance Officer billets in California, Okinawa, Vietnam and Washington. On 30 June 1971, LCDR Barber completed his final tour of duty as the Commander Fleet Air, Whidbey Aviation Maintenance Administration Facility Officer.

LCDR Barber is 93 years old, and his wife, Eileen, and he have been married for 73 years.