



MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

Captain Andrew “Andy” Serrell

United States Navy

Born in 1923 in Dobbs Ferry, New York, Andy earned his student pilot’s certificate at age 16. Graduating High School in July 1942, he immediately enlisted in the Naval Reserves as an Aviation Cadet, completed flight training and ultimately found his way to Patrol Bombing Squadron 121, flying the PB4-Y out of the many island bases in the Western Pacific and participating in raids against Wake and Marshall Islands, and later against Iwo Jima. For his service in the Pacific, he earned the Air Medal with two gold stars.

After the war, Andy transitioned from Naval Reserves to regular Navy and was promoted to Lieutenant. What followed were assignments as an instructor pilot, a tour in charge of a target towing squadron flying F6F Hellcats, and a 3 year assignment flying the giant Martin “Mars” seaplane on regular trans-Pacific flights. It was during this time that Andy began to pursue a college education.

After a tour at VP-30, then CDR Serrell reported as Executive Officer of Patrol Squadron 44, flying the P2V-5F deployed to NAS Sigonella, Sicily. Upon return from Sigonella, CDR Serrell assumed command of VP-44 and oversaw the squadron’s relocation from NAS Norfolk, VA to NAS Patuxent River, MD. In August of 1962, CDR Serrell accepted his squadron’s first Lockheed P-3A aircraft in Burbank, California.

In October of 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, the front-page photo of a P-3A flying over a Soviet freighter carrying nuclear missiles was taken by CDR Serrell’s squadron, which flew countless armed missions during the crisis.

In the years following his time in VP-44, Andy was promoted to Captain and in 1966 achieved his Bachelor of Science degree and subsequently his MBA from George Washington University in 1969. He retired in 1972 following a tour as an instructor at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair, Washington DC.

In 1944, Andy married his High School sweetheart Beverly Francis and, over the next 71 years of marriage, they had four children. CAPT Serrell passed away in January of 2018, and he and Beverly are interred in Arlington National Cemetery. Over the course of his life, he amassed over 15,000 flight hours, including over 9,000 during his distinguished Naval career.