

## **Homer Dwight Harris**

Homer Dwight Harris was born on October 3, 1921 in Cullman, Alabama. He enlisted in the Navy on July 9, 1940 as Apprentice Seaman with the goal of becoming an Enlisted Pilot. He attended boot camp and aviation mechanic school at Norfolk. His first duty station was Corry Field, where he applied for flight school the day after becoming AMM3C. Harris completed flight class 12B-41PE at Pensacola, and received his wings as Aviation Pilot 3C on July 6, 1942. Later, he was AP2, AP1, ADC/AP, ENS., LTJG, LT., and LCDR. Duty stations included: Quonset point, Argentia, New Foundland, Dunkeswell England, Miami, Oak Harbor, Kaneohe, Hawaii, Memphis, Atlantic City, Jacksonville, Pensacola, helicopter training, El Centro, San Diego, Atsugi Japan, Norfolk, and NAS Pensacola, retiring there November 1, 1970.

He flew 34 different type aircraft accumulating 10,171 flight hours with 65 carrier landings.

Some memorable experiences:

1. Being catapulted off CVA-31's new steam cat in a plane (TF-1) that he had never flown before, having had no prior carrier experience.
2. Flying Blue Angel 8 transport from 1966 to 1970.

Medals include: American Theater, European Theater, American Defense, Pacific Theater, WWII Victory, National Defense Service, Good Conduct (4), Vietnam Service, and Armed Forces Expeditionary.

WWII Service included:

- Anti-submarine warfare flying Lockheed Hudsons (PBO's) and Venturas (PV's) Argentia, Newfoundland.
- Protecting large convoys in the North Atlantic.
- Later protected shipping in the Bay of Biscay using B-24's (Navy PB4Y's) from airfield at Dunkeswell, England.
- Departed Scotland 6/17/44, 11 Days after "D" Day in Europe.
- Was at Kaneohe, Hawaii in 1946 awaiting transportation to join a Catalina (PB4Y) squadron when the atom bombs were dropped ending the war. Hallelujah!!