

CAPTAIN P. H. SPEER

Commanding Officer

1 July '72

to

March '73

Captain P. H. Speer was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1928 and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Speer, presently of Ridgway, Pennsylvania.

He began his Naval career in 1946 when he enlisted in the Naval Aviation College program. Following two years at Wisconsin State College, Captain Speer entered flight training in 1948 and was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1950. His first assignment was with VX-3 at the Naval Air Station, Atlantic City, New Jersey. He was subsequently ordered to VF-172 and participated in the introduction of the F2H Banshee into the Korean War, flying from the USS ESSEX.

Captain Speer attended General Line School, Monterey, California, in 1953 and then was a flight instructor in the Naval Air Training Command until 1955.

He served as Operations Officer with VF-111 aboard the USS BON HOMME RICHARD and as combat instructor with VF-124. He was subsequently named Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of VF-211, making two combat tours to Southeast Asia in 1966 and 1967.

During his tour, VF-211 became the first Navy squadron to down more than five enemy jets and also won the Naval Air Pacific Combat "E" for excellence. Captain Speer scored a personal "kill" of a North Vietnamese MIG aircraft over Hanoi on 19 May 1967. He made two more deployments to Southeast Asia on the staff of Commander Carrier Division Three in 1968 and 1969 prior to reporting to Miramar Air Station in California for training as a prospective Air Wing Commander.

He took command of Attack Carrier Air Wing Eleven in October 1969 and of Attack Carrier Air Wing Fourteen in January 1970, making another combat tour of Southeast Asia on the USS CONSTELLATION. He assumed command of *BLUE RIDGE* in July 1972. He left *BLUE RIDGE* to take command of the attack carrier CONSTELLATION (CVA64).

His personal awards include the Navy Cross, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", 21 Air Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V" and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross.

Captain Speer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of California.

He is married to the former Genevieve D. Nagy of McKeesport, Pennsylvania. They make their home in San Diego, California.

