

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



Captain William George Garrett

William G. Garrett was born in Ishpeming, Michigan on January 28, 1919. He received his kindergarten through grade 12 education in the Ishpeming Public Schools graduating from Ishpeming High School in 1936. He earned a B.S. Degree in 1940 from Northern Michigan University and an MA Degree in 1952 from the University of Michigan. He did graduate work towards an Ed.S Degree at Michigan State University.

William enlisted in the Army Air Corps in June 1942 and served twelve months as an Aviation Cadet in the Army Air Corps Eastern Flying Training Command with stops at Orangeberg, South Carolina for primary flight training in a PT-17 plane, Shaw Field, South Carolina for basic flight training in a BT-13 plane, and Georgefield, Illinois for advanced flight training in an AT-10 plane. Flight training was continued at Maxwell Field, Alabama for B-24 Heavy Bomber transition training, flight crew training, and radar training.

William left Langley Field, Virginia with his B-24 Bomber plane and flight crew on July 1, 1944 to join the 764th Bomb Squadron 461st Bomb Group, 15th Air Force stationed at Cerignola, Italy – Strategic Air Offense, World War II. He served as a B-24 Liberaider Bomber Pilot and Flight Commander while serving as pilot of the lead B-24 Bomber, which was

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR

the so-called Mickey Ship (radar equipped), as the First Attack Unit Leader Formation on 16 of the 35 combat missions he flew over Germany, Romania, France, Austria, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia. These combat missions served to create a severe shortage of German oil supplies and all types of equipment for waging war (aircraft factories, tank factories, ammunition dumps, oil refineries, etc.)

William received the following honors and awards while serving as a member of the Army Air Corps from June 1942 to November 1945: Distinguished Flying Cross (two time recipient), Air Medal Award (four time recipient), Presidential Unit Citation Award (two time recipient), Bronze Service Star Award European-African Middle Eastern Combat Campaign (one time recipient), Silver Service Star Award European-African Middle Eastern Combat Campaign (one time recipient), World War II Victory Medal, and Aviation Wall of Honor at Sawyer International Airport.

William was honorably discharged from the Army Air Corps in November 1945 with the rank of Captain.

Garrett was serving as Superintendent of the Gwinn Community School System when the federal government announced the building of an Air Force installation to become known as KI Sawyer Air Force Base within the school district. He was called upon and accepted the leadership in developing a school system handling 500 students to one handling 3700 students in a period of ten years. Three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school were built to provide expanded educational opportunities for the rapidly increasing student population. Garrett gained recognition in "Who's Who" publications on the basis of his leadership and professional skills in developing and building a modern and superior school system in such a

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR

short time under adverse and unique conditions. He was recognized in 1962 and 1963 editions of "Who's Who in American Education". "Who's Who" in the Midwest recognized Garrett in 1967. The two publications, although not connected in any way, serve as biographical directories of eminent persons from American communities.

Garrett was additionally presented the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of 20 or more years as an administrator in the public school system of Michigan by the Michigan Association of School Administrators in January 1977.

TJ Mudge, Feb. 2004

