

# AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



## **Lieutenant jg Ralph E. Hannula Killed in Action**

Ralph Hannula was born to Mr. and Mrs. Elias Hannula on October 14, 1919 in Ishpeming, Michigan. He graduated from Ishpeming High School in June 1938 following which he attended Northern Michigan College of Education for two years. A member of the Wildcat Squadron, he earned his wings in October 1942 at Corpus Christi, Texas. In November of that year, he was transferred to San Diego, California where he trained until July 1943 when he left for duty in the Alaskan sector. On January 4, 1944, while flying from Kodiak, Alaska to Alta in the Aleutian Islands, he disappeared in a storm. After first being listed as Missing in Action, he was officially listed as dead as of January 5, 1945.

His parents received the following message:

“In view of the length of time that has elapsed and the fact that the area in which the plane was lost has remained under American surveillance, the Secretary of the Navy has directed that the death of your son be presumed to have occurred on 5 January, 1945 which is the day following the expiration of twelve months in the missing status.”

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“The Navy Department is aware of your sorrow and extends sincere sympathy to you in the loss of your son. It is hoped that you may find comfort in the knowledge that your son was serving his country at the time of his death.”

TJ Mudge, April 2004