

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



Lieutenant Commander John Kenneth Pellow Navy Fighter Pilot WWII, Korea

John Pellow was born in Negaunee, Michigan on June 25, 1920. After attending St. Paul's grade school and Negaunee High School, he enrolled at Northern State Teacher's College in Marquette. During his years at Northern, John took pilot training at the county airport under the tutelage of Sig Wilson.

In 1941, as a member of the Wildcat Squadron, he traveled to N.A.S., Glenview, Illinois for induction and later to Corpus Christi, Texas for further training and commissioning.

With WWII under way, he was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. On October 26, 1943, he was forced to abandon his crippled plane while on a mission in the Pacific Ocean. After twelve hours in the water, he was rescued by a PBY (float plane) and taken to Vella Lavella Island, New Georgia, Solomons, before transfer to the naval hospital at Oahu, Hawaii. He returned to duty where he remained until transfer to the states for radar school at St. Simon's Island, Georgia, followed by additional radar training at M.I.T. in Boston. The latter occurred as the war ended and John was discharged as a full lieutenant back at N.A.S., Glenview.

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Upon returning home, John and younger brother Dick purchased the weekly newspaper (Iron Herald) and the print shop and ran it successfully for several years.

In the spring of 1952, John (a naval reservist) was called back to active duty. Again it was to N.A.S., Glenview, for refresher courses before transfer to N.A.S., North Island, Coronado, California. In August, he went to Korea on the USS Kearsarge. Following seven months duty aboard the carrier, he returned to North Island and was ultimately discharged as a Lieutenant Commander.

His naval career over, John continued his service to his country by accepting a position of civilian advisor with the Department of Defense in Saigon, South Viet Nam during the Viet Nam war. After almost a year, he returned to the United States.

John died November 15, 1991. His remains are buried in the Cole/Pellow lot in the Negaunee Cemetery.

TJ Mudge, Aug. 2005