



Robert E. Mitchell, Captain, MC, USN (Ret.)

Date of Designation:

Flight Surgeon: 24 June 1955, Flight Surgeon # 999

Honorary Naval Aviator: 25 June 1990, Honorary #21

Dates of Active Duty: 4 July 1947 - 25 June 1990. Then in a retired/retained status until 1993.

Total Flight Hours: 2,099.4 (Special Crew)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 10 Prop: 2,040+ Helo: 50

VR/VP: 2,040+ HS/HC/HU: 50+ LTA: 2

Other: Prior to designation as Flight Surgeon, flew 50+ hours in PBM-5A (Marshall Islands) and 25+ hours

MedEvac, etc., R4D (Naples, Italy).

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: Danang, Vietnam - 34 missions, Jul. 1965-Jul. 1966

Aviation Commands:

CO, Naval Hospital Rota, Spain 1968 - 1969 (commissioned hospital in 1968).

CO, Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, Pensacola, Florida, 1975 - 1980.

Combat Awards:

Bronze Star

Air Medal

(Legion of Merit/Meritorious Service - non-combat)

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) In 1955, became the principle physician involved in the follow-up studies of the "Thousand Aviator" project, initiated by Doctor Ashton Graybiel in 1940. Worked with the study until 1993.
- (2) Initiator and principle physician involved in the fol-



low-up studies of the men repatriated after being prisoners of war in Vietnam, of men held as hostages in Iran, and of the individuals who were prisoners of war during the Gulf War, 1973 - 1993.

- (3) Initiated ShipAlt installing safety nets on bridle arresters of "C" class carriers, 1959.
- (4) Initiated ShipAlt installing flight deck alarm system from PriFly to Sick Bay in AIRPAC carriers. (Captain Dick Luehrs came up with the same idea at the same time in AIRLANT carriers), 1959.
- (5) Initiated installation of of the first stained glass window in the Aviation Memorial Chapel at Pensacola. The window was funded by Navy Flight Surgeons worldwide. 1964(?).

Honors:

- 1966 Elected Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association.
- 1971 Elected to the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine.
- 1978 Elected to the International Academy of Astronautics.
- 1980 Received the Theodore C. Lyster Award of the Aerospace Medical Association "For outstanding Achievements in the Field of Aerospace Medicine."
- 1982 Elected an Honorary Member of NAM-POW, Inc.
- 1985 Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine of England.
- 1986 Plaque installed in the National Museum of Naval Aviation by NAM-POW, Inc.
- 1989 Elected an Honorary Member of the Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association (The Golden Eagles).
- 1990 Designated Honorary Naval Aviator #21 by Chief of Naval Operations.
- 1996 The Robert E. Mitchell Award established by the Society of U. S. Naval Flight Surgeons, to be

- Continued -

awarded annually to a retired flight surgeon in recognition of Lifetime contributions to aerospace medicine. (Received first award).