



### **Lawrence E. Flint Jr., CAPT, USN**

Date of Designation: 5 December 1941

Combat Awards:

7 Air Medals

Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V"

Presidential Unit Citation (USS *Bunker Hill*)

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

Lawrence Earl Flint, Jr., was born in Sophia, West Virginia, on June 24, 1920, son of Lawrence E. and Rosetta (Richmond) Flint. He attended Beckley (West Virginia) College and Emory and Henry College, Emory, Virginia, prior to enlisting in the U. S. Naval Reserve as a Seaman Second Class in March 1941. He had elimination flight training at the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C., and in May of that year was appointed Aviation Cadet, USNR. Completing flight training at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida, he was designated Naval Aviator and commissioned Ensign, December 5, 1941. He subsequently attained the rank of Captain, to date from July 1, 1962, having transferred to the Regular Navy on October 30, 1944.

After receiving his commission, he reported in January 1942 as Material Officer (pilot) of Scouting Squadron TWO D-14, based on Bora Bora Island. From July 1943 until April 1944 he served as Engineering Officer (Pilot) of Fighting Squadron EIGHTEEN, attached to the USS *Bunker Hill*. In that capacity he flew missions in the Rabaul, Marshall-Gilbert, Truk and Marianas areas. He was awarded the Air Medal and cited as follows:

"For meritorious achievement...as Pilot of a Fighter Plane in Fighting Squadron EIGHTEEN...in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Gilbert Islands during November 1943, Participating in aggressive strafing attacks against the strongly defended Japanese base at Tarawa, (he) aided in silencing hostile anti-aircraft guns, in starting fires among stores and buildings on the Islands and in destroying large



numbers of Japanese personnel..."

He was also awarded Gold Stars in lieu of the Second, Third and Fourth Air Medals for "meritorious achievement..." in completing five missions each in the Pacific War Area during the period November 18, 1943 to February 22, 1944. He is entitled to the Ribbon for and a facsimile of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS *Bunker Hill*.

In April 1944 he was assigned as Project pilot in the Flight Test Division at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, where he remained until July 1946. After instruction at the General Line School, Newport, Rhode Island, he reported in June 1947 as Executive Officer of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN-A (Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO), operating off the USS *Princeton*. Between January and March 1949 he was Air Group Training Officer on the Staff of Commander Fleet Air, West Coast, after which he served as Flight Service Liaison Officer in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

He spent a year, January-December 1951, in Farnborough, England, as a student at the Empire Test Pilot's School and in January 1952 joined the USS *Kearsarge* for duty as Executive Officer of Fighter Squadron ELEVEN. He assumed command of that squadron in January 1953. While attached to Fighter Squadron ELEVEN he saw action in Korea during the hostilities there and was awarded Gold Stars in lieu of the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Air Medals for meritorious achievement in aerial flight during the period September 17, 1952 to February 20, 1953. He also received a Letter of Commendation, with authorization to wear the Commendation Ribbon and Combat "V," from the Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

In March 1954 he became Assistant Experimental Officer at the Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, California, and two years later (March 1956) joined the USS *Lake Champlain* as Air Officer. While on board that aircraft carrier he participated in the SIXTH Fleet's cruise in the Mediterranean. Detached from the Lake Champlain in June

1957, he served as Head of the Carrier Branch in the Flight Test Division at the Naval Air Test Station, Patuxent River, Maryland and “for extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on December 6, 1959...” was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, The citation further states:

As pilot of a Navy all-weather fighter aircraft, Commander Flint succeeded in establishing a new world jet aircraft altitude record of 96,560 feet. Exercising brilliant airmanship, initiative and planning ability, he clearly demonstrated the inherent capabilities and the maximum performance of an extremely important Naval aircraft and was instrumental in focusing world attention on the continuing and significant development of the science of aviation in the United States...”

Detached from the Naval Air Test Center in April 1960, he next was F4H Project Officer with Carrier Air Group FOUR. He joined Carrier Air Group TWELVE as Chief Staff Officer in October 1960, and in February 1963 became Commanding Officer of that Air Group.

In August 1964 he reported for instruction at the Defense Language Institute, East Coast, Naval Station, Washington, D. C., and in April 1965 became Operations Officer on the Staff of Commander Joint Task Force TWO, Sandia Base, New Mexico.

In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with six Gold Stars, the Commendation Ribbon with Combat “V,” and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, Captain Flint has the American Defense Service Medal; the American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one silver star and one bronze star (six engagements); World War II Victory Medal, China Service Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal; and the United Nations Service Medal. He also has the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

He was married to the former Betty Alice Noble of Ogden, Utah.