



Truman Johnson Hedding, Vice Admiral, USN

Vice Admiral Truman Johnson Hedding was born July 14, 1902 in Morrisdale, Pa., but grew up in New Mexico. He entered the Naval Academy in 1920. He graduated sixth in his class and was commissioned as an ensign on June 4, 1924.

Hedding then served aboard the USS *Maryland* until 1926 when he requested a transfer to NAS Pensacola, Florida for flight training. He was designated a naval aviator on Nov. 24, 1926 and was subsequently assigned to Fighting Squadron One.

Two years later he applied for postgraduate training and earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering in 1931 from MIT. He then reported to NAS Anacostia as a test pilot. In 1933 he was assigned to the USS *Saratoga* as flight deck officer and landing signal officer.

Transferred to the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington, D.C. in 1936, Hedding had additional duties as a naval aide to the White House. One of his most treasured memories was of Eleanor Roosevelt, "a very gracious lady," who entertained him and his mother at a private tea in the White House.

In 1937, he joined Fighting Squadron 2-B based aboard the USS *Lexington* and later assumed command of Fighting Squadron Two aboard that carrier. He was serving at NAS Pensacola when the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor. His next assignment was in Newport News, Virginia, where he assisted in the fitting out of the USS *Essex*. From 1942 to 1943, he served first as Air Officer and then as Executive Officer of the *Essex*.

He became Chief of Staff to the Commander of Carrier Division THREE in 1943, and in 1944 to Commander Task Force 58, under Adm. Marc Mitscher. For outstanding service in these capacities, he received the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and the Commendation Ribbon with Combat "V."

Career highlights include serving on the staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet from 1944 to 1945; assuming command of the USS *Valley Forge* in 1948; joining the staff of the Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet; and reporting as Deputy Director of the Joint Strategic Plans Group. His final assignment was as a representative for the Bureau of Aeronautics Western District. He retired from the Navy in 1959 and was advanced to the rank of Vice Admiral.

Hedding worked for six years for General Motors Corp. in Los Angeles, eventually moving to Coronado where he lived for many years before moving to a retirement community in Rancho Bernardo 1983. Vice Admiral Hedding died August 23, 1995 in Rancho Bernardo. His ashes were scattered at sea from the USS *Constellation*.

He was married to the former Ysabel Wolfskill Weyse of Santa Monica, California. He is survived by four children, Truman J. Hedding II, Nancy Kletzein, Michele Stephenson, and Joan Hedding; 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.