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Campbell Keene, Rear Admiral, USN

Campbell Keene was born in Augusta, Maine, on December 25, 1893, son of George Butts Keene and Margaret Campbell Keene. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy and the Bowdoin College before his enrollment, in the U. S. Naval Reserve Force on November 26, 1917 as a Seaman, second class. He was called to active duty in April 1918 and was commissioned Ensign on November 6, 1918, while serving with the Naval Reserve Flying Corps, Washington, D. C. He subsequently entered the United States Navy, was advanced in grade to the rank of Captain to date from June 20, 1942. On June 30, 1950 he was transferred to the Retired List of the Navy in the rank of Rear Admiral, promoted on the basis of combat awards.

In December, 1918 he was sent to the Naval Air Station, Hampton Roads, Virginia, and after several months he was ordered to the USS *Shawmut*, flagship of the Air Detachment, Atlantic Fleet. After serving eighteen months aboard, he was ordered, in December, 1921, to shore duty, and reported to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, where he was stationed until January, 1925. The following March he reported to Aircraft Squadrons, Asiatic Fleet, and was attached to Torpedo Squadron 20, with additional duty in the USS *Jason*. Returning to the West Coast, he had duty at Naval Air Station, San Diego, California from February, 1928 to July, 1930. The next two years he was attached to Scouting Squadron 9, Aircraft Squadrons, Scouting Fleet, aboard the USS *Pensacola*. When detached he reported to Fleet Air Base Pearl Harbor, T. H., for a two-year tour of shore duty,

From, 1934 to 1936, he was attached to Scouting Squadron 1, based on the USS *Langley* at first, and later on the USS *Ranger*. In July, 1936 he assumed command of Scouting Squadron 14S in the USS *San Francisco*, with Cruiser Division 8, Scouting Fleet, and the following January transferred to Scouting Squadron 6B, which he commanded six months aboard the USS *Concord*, a Battle Force cruiser. From June, 1937 to April, 1940, he was assigned to the Naval

Air Station, San Diego, and the next month he reported to the USS *Wright* as Air Officer. The *Wright* was a unit of the Pacific Fleet when the war in the Pacific was precipitated by the Japanese attack on the Fleet and Pearl Harbor. Rear Admiral Keene was serving with the Marine Aircraft Group at Wake Island when taken a Prisoner of War and held at Zentsuji, Japan, from February, 1942 to September, 1945,

He was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, and the Legion of Merit with Combat "V," the citations stating in part: Presidential Unit Citation to The Wake Detachment of the First Defense Battalion, U. S. Marine Corps, etc., "The courageous conduct of the officers and men of these units, who defended Wake Island against an overwhelming superiority of enemy air, sea, and land attacks from December 8 to 22, 1941, has been noted with admiration by their fellow countrymen and the civilized world, and will not be forgotten so long as gallantry and heroism are respected and honored. They manned their shore Installations and flew their aircraft so well that five enemy warships were either sunk or severely damaged, many hostile planes shot down, and an unknown number of land troops destroyed."

Legion of Merit with Combat V: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Commanding Officer of a Fleet Air Detachment from Patrol Wing TWO on Wake Island prior to the outbreak of hostilities and until he was taken prisoner on December 23, 1941. He overcame serious handicaps due to lack of equipment and shortage of personnel, adding immeasurably to the effectiveness of patrol plane operations during the critical days following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Joining forces with the Island Commander after the outbreak of war, (he) and his men rendered invaluable service in connection with planning, communications, transportation and supply and greatly assisted in the activities of Marine Fighting Plane Squadron TWO ELEVEN..."

After being liberated at the close of the war he reported to the Navy Department, Washington, D.C. From November, 1945 to February, 1946 he was attached to the Bureau of Naval Personnel for duty followed by three months at Naval Air Training Bases, Pensacola, Florida.

In June, 1946 he was ordered as Officer In Charge of Naval Air Control Center, San Diego. After one year, he transferred to command of Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Miramar, San Diego. Relieved of that command in February, 1948, he assumed command of the Naval Air Station, Olathe, Kansas. He was so serving when relieved of active duty pending his retirement on June 30, 1950.

In addition to the Legion of Merit with combat "V," and the Facsimile of and Ribbon for the Presidential Unit Citation, Rear Admiral Keene has the World War Victory Medal; American Defense Service Medal; Navy Expeditionary Medal with silver "W" (Wake); Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; and World War II Victory Medal.