



George Bush wasn't the only TBM driver in WW II. LCDR V. G. Lambert, CO, Torpedo Squadron Fifteen aboard USS *Essex* (CV-9). 1944

Valdemar G. Lambert, RADM, USN (Ret.)
"V. G."

Date of Designation: December 1937 NA # 5542

Combat Awards:

Navy Cross
Silver Star
2 Legion of Merit with Combat "V"
3 Distinguished Flying Crosses
8 Air Medals
Navy Commendation Ribbon
Presidential Unit Citation

Duty Assignment Chronology

Graduated from college 1936, and after a month of Elimination Base training, he commenced flight training at Pensacola, Florida in December 1936. He completed flight training a year later and reported to the cruiser USS *Boise* as a Fleet Aviation Cadet. He was commissioned Ensign in August 1939 and a year later became a Flight Instructor at Pensacola.

Immediately after the U. S. entered WW II he was assigned duty as XO of an Inshore Patrol Antisubmarine Squadron and later served as CO of another, both based on the East Coast. He assumed command of Torpedo Squadron 15 in August 1943, and remained as CO until the squadron was decommissioned in Nov. 1945.

Air Group 15, while embarked in USS *Essex* in 1944, attacked 23 enemy bases, shot down or destroyed on the ground 660 aircraft, and sank more than 250,000 tons of combatant shipping while participating in the First and Second Battles of the Philippine Sea, the Mariannas Campaign, and various other operations in the Western Pacific. His other combat tour was during the Korean War as Air Operations Officer on the Staff of Carrier Division Three, and additional duty as Special Plans COMSEVENTHFLT Staff in connection with the Inchon invasion.



His combat awards are the Navy Cross, Silver Star, two Legion of Merit with Combat "V", three Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and various Area and Campaign ribbons.

In addition to command of three aircraft squadrons, Admiral Lambert commanded Carrier Air Group FIFTEEN, the fleet oiler USS *Ashtabula*, the carrier USS *Saratoga*, Carrier Division SIX, the Navy Technical Training Command, Naval Base Subic Bay, and Naval Base Long Beach, CA. He had 4 tours of duty in the Washington area, and one on the Staff of CINCPACFLT in Pearl Harbor, HI.

He retired from active duty August 1973, and since has resided in Monterey, CA., where he has been active in church, civic affairs, and Real Estate, but has had time for golf, tennis, and motorhome traveling.

Personal

He and his wife Thelma have been married 58 years (as of Nov. 1997) and have 3 children, 4 grand children and 2 great grand children.