

## **American Veteran Died**

We lost another great American Veteran and we mourn his passing. According to military.com, George H. W. Bush enlisted in the Navy as Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class on his 18th birthday, answering the call of his nation. He was commissioned as ensign and was one of the youngest, if not the youngest Navy pilot when he got his wings. According to the Pioneer Press, Bush was one of the Navy air cadets who were assigned to the Naval Air Station in Minneapolis. He learned to fly at Wold Chamberlain Field. The planes they trained on were yellow, one engine, two open cockpit biplanes with a cruising speed of 85 mph. Their training in Minneapolis lasted only three weeks.

Bush spent much of his Navy time as a pilot of an Avenger torpedo-bomber in a squadron that was based on the USS San Jacinto, an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. He logged 1,228 hours of flying time, made 126 carrier landings and flew 58 missions. On a bombing run in 1944, his plane was hit by enemy fire. With his plane on fire he completed the bombing run and bailed out at sea. He was rescued by a Navy submarine. He was discharged in September, 1944 after the war ended. He continued to serve his country in many roles including President. He always supported Veterans. May he rest in peace.

Of the many stories I've heard over the past few days, the one that impressed me the most was when asked about his legacy, Bush replied that they will mention mistakes I made and the successes we had. I really liked that fact that he took the blame for his mistakes personally but gave credit for successes to others. That attitude works very well in any position.

In an article from 2017, I wrote about American presidents who were Veterans. Today, I will write about those who served in combat, as Bush did during WWII.

George Washington and James Madison both served in the Army during the American Revolution. Madison was severely wounded at the Battle of Trenton. Andrew Jackson lead US troops against the British during the War of 1812. William Henry Harrison was the commander who fought at the Battle of Tippecanoe. Zachary Taylor fought in the War of 1812, the Indian Wars and the Mexican-American War. Franklin Pierce also fought during the Mexican-American War. Ulysses S Grant is well known for commanding the Union Army during the Civil War. Rutherford B Hayes, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley all saw combat action during the Civil War. Theodore Roosevelt was famous for leading the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War. Harry S Truman was a captain of artillery and saw action in the Argonne Forest during WWI. Dwight D Eisenhower, of course was the Allied Commander in WWII. John F Kennedy was the commander of PT-109 in the Pacific during WWII. Gerald Ford saw action in the Pacific aboard the USS Monterey in WWII. Twenty-six Presidents were Veterans, not all saw combat.