

## *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE*

### **William Knobloch Class of 1954**



Born in the Bronx on November 1, 1936, to William and Helen Knobloch, Bill grew up on Long Island, coming to Power in September, 1950 from St. Raymond's Parish in East Rockaway. He attended Power on a full, 4 year music scholarship and as a senior, participated in a "Best Band in New York City" competition held at Town Hall. Additionally, in his time at Power, Bill witnessed the initial construction and eventual completion of the Gold Star Gym, which was dedicated in March of 1954. After Power, he attended Fordham University, graduating in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science in History and a minor in Philosophy. He was attending Hofstra University for a M.S. in Education when military service called.

Bill was accepted by the US Navy to attend Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and he was commissioned with the rank of Ensign US Navy on May 1, 1959. After two-months of ground school and the designation of Naval Flight Officer, he was assigned to a Patrol Squadron flying out of Maine and New Foundland. As a

Navigator and In-Flight Tactical Coordinator,

he flew over the North Atlantic tracking Russian submarines during the Cold War, including the North Pole, the Arctic Ocean, Greenland and Iceland.

In January, 1962, Bill entered Navy Flight Training for 18 months with further deployments to the Far East for surveillance activity on Russian nuclear submarines in the Sea of Japan and eventual assignment to the Combat Air Wing of the USS Bennington, an aircraft carrier operating in the Gulf of Tonkin, off the coast of Vietnam. He and his squadron operated 24/7, around the clock and his final mission tally resulted in 300+ shipboard landings, day and night, and in all kinds of weather.

In September, 1967, Bill was hired as First Officer with Pacific Southwest Airlines, while continuing his Navy career in the active reserves. He retired from the Navy, with the rank of Commander, in 1980 while continuing as a commercial pilot. He was Captain on Boeing 727, 737, 757, and 767's, flying to Europe over the North Atlantic while based in Philadelphia. He retired from flying after 36 years with 23,000 hours in the air, between the Navy and the airlines.

With retirement from the skies, Bill spent 10 years on a Seattle area City Council, Bainbridge Island, where he learned quite a bit about community public service. He learned first-hand about city infrastructure while also interacting with community members, finding out what their priorities were for maintaining a quality of life. He also served as chair of the City Council, including assignment as Deputy Mayor, while serving the longest time for an elected City Council member. Bill, and his wife Candace, currently live in Las Vegas, Nevada.