

# Advocates for Harvard ROTC

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From: Captain Paul E. Mawn USN (Ret.) H-1963

To: Advocates for Harvard ROTC

Subject: **2<sup>nd</sup> highest military awards for valor among Harvard alumni**



Distinguished Service Cross



Navy Cross



Air Force Cross

The 2<sup>nd</sup> highest US military decorations for valor have a different name and date of origination by service. For the US Army, this award is called the Distinguished Service Cross and was established by the US congress in 1918. The equivalent award for the Navy and US Marine Corps is the Navy Cross, which was first awarded in 1917 and formally approved by the US congress in 1931. The Air Force Cross was established by the US congress in 1960 (note: previously deserving personnel in the US Army Air Service of the Signal Corps (WW I), US Army Air Corps (1920's to 1947) or US Air Force (1947 to 1960) were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross). These awards are made for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an enemy force for heroism of such a high degree to above those required for all other US combat decorations but not meeting the requirement for the Medal of Honor. The British equivalent of the US Distinguished Service Cross was the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for senior officers and for lower ranks (i.e. Lt. Commanders/ majors and below) were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) [note: In 1993, the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross (CGC) became the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest British award for valor and replaced the DSO as well as the DSC]. The Legion d'Honneur was established by Napoleon and is the highest award in France for both military and civil service to France and is almost equivalent to the Victoria Cross (UK) and the Medal of Honor (US).

During World War I, at least 11,319 Harvard men from almost every class from 1887 to 1921 served our country in the military. Many of these men were sent overseas to France and four were awarded the Medal of Honor, which is detailed elsewhere. In addition, over 100 Harvard men were awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest military medal for valor (i.e. the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross and Air Force Cross or foreign comparable medals) as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest valor award (i.e. the Silver Star). At this point, the below preliminary list of Harvard alumni heroes is not intended to be exhaustive. The below list currently reflects all the names that have been discovered based on research to date base, which has primarily focused on World War I. If you know if anyone has been inadvertently left out, please contact Captain Paul E. Mawn USN (Ret.) at 1-978-443-9532 (i.e. particularly relative and classmates from World War II to the current World War on Islamic Fundamentalist Terrorism).

## **1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS**

### **1930**

**Col. George Percy USMC (Ret.) 2d Battalion, 21st Marines – Navy Cross.**

He was born in Arlington, MA and was a battalion executive officer on Iwo Jima. After the World War II, he returned to the financial business in New York City. His **Navy Cross citation** reads as follows: “*The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to George A. Percy (0-3106), Major, U.S. Marine Corps (Reserve), for extraordinary heroism as Executive Officer and subsequently as Commanding Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 21<sup>st</sup> Marine regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, from 21 February to 16 March 1945. After his Battalion Commander was wounded and evacuated on 2 March, Major Percy assumed command of the Battalion at a time when the combat efficiency was low and the men were faint with fatigue and shock. Revealing outstanding professional ability and an intimate knowledge of the situation, he quickly organized the Battalion's defense for the night and, on the following morning, led his force in an attack which ended on the cliffs overlooking the sea. Severely wounded in the left arm while directing an attack on 8 March, he submitted to treatment by the Battalion Surgeon but refused to leave the field. Wounded a second time that afternoon, he against refused evacuation and remained with his troops until completion of the operations. His indomitable fighting spirit, strategic ability and aggressive leadership were contributing factors to the final victory, and his exemplary devotion to duty reflects the highest credit on Major Percy and the United States Naval Service.*”

## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (continued)

1930

Brigadier General James Roosevelt USMC (4<sup>th</sup> Raider Battalion) – Navy Cross & Silver Star.



Brigadier General James Roosevelt USMC (4<sup>th</sup> Raider Battalion) – Navy Cross & Silver Star. He was born in New York City. Prior to Harvard College, he attended the Groton school. He started and managed a very successful insurance agency. He resigned in 1937 to work in the White House for his father, President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He left this position a year later and moved to Hollywood, California, where he accepted a job with motion picture producer Samuel Goldwyn and set up "Globe Productions", a company to produce short films for penny arcades.

In October 1939, Roosevelt resigned the USMC lieutenant colonel's commission he had been given in 1936. He was then commissioned as a Captain in the US Marine Corps Reserves and went on active duty in November 1940. In early 1941, the President sent him to the Middle East as a military attaché with the British forces. He traveled extensively in the area, and observed several important campaigns.

In August 1941, he joined the OSS staff of General William Donovan USA as the Coordinator of Information, with the job of working out the exchange of information with other agencies. After Japan's Attack on Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt requested assignment to combat duty. He transferred to the Marine Raiders, the Marines' commando force, and became second-in-command of the 2nd Raider Battalion under Evans Carlson. His influence helped win Presidential backing for the Raiders, who were opposed by Marine traditionalists. Roosevelt served with the 2nd Raiders at Midway, and in the Makin Island raid in the Pacific theater, where he earned the Navy Cross. He was given command of the new 4th Raiders, but was invalided in February 1943. He served in various staff positions during the rest of the war. In November 1943, he accompanied Army troops in the invasion of Makin, and was awarded the Silver Star by the Army. He was released from active duty in October 1945, with rank of Colonel. In addition to Makin, he also participated in battle Okinawa. Colonel Roosevelt continued in the Marine Corps Reserves until he retired in 1959 with the rank of Brigadier General. His Navy Cross citation reads: *"For extraordinary heroism and distinguished service as 2nd in command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Raider Battalion against enemy Japanese forces on Makin Island. Risking his own life over and beyond the ordinary call of duty, Major Roosevelt continually exposed himself to intense machine gun and sniper fire to ensure effective control of operations from the command post. As a result of his successful maintenance of communications with his supporting vessels, 2 enemy surface ships whose presence was reported were destroyed by gun fire. Later during evacuation, he displayed exemplary courage in personally rescuing 3 men from drowning in the heavy surf. His gallant conduct and his inspiring devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."*

After the war, Roosevelt returned to live in California and went back into the insurance business. Roosevelt was elected to the US congress as a representative from California in 1954. IN 1965, he resigned from Congress when President Lyndon Johnson appointed him a delegate to UNESCO. Roosevelt resigned from this assignment in 1966, and returned to private life. Despite having been a liberal Democrat all of his life, James Roosevelt supported President Nixon's re-election in 1972 and Ronald Reagan in 1980 and 1984. After retiring from politics in 1966, he became president of the International Overseas Services Management Company. Brigadier James Roosevelt USMC (Ret.) died in Newport Beach, California in 1991 of complications arising from a stroke and Parkinson's disease. He was 83 and was the last surviving child of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

## **1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (continued)**

**1934**

**Cdr. Robert W. Skinner III US Navy (MC) – (surgeon – 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Raider Battalion) Navy Cross & Purple Heart**



Robert Skinner was born in 1911 in Cynwyd, PA to a father who had graduated from Harvard in 1906. After the William Penn Charter School in Philadelphia, Bob entered Harvard where he joined the NROTC. After Harvard, he later graduated from Medical School at the University of Pennsylvania which was followed by his internship in Pittsburg, where he also started his surgery practice. Bob was then called up to active duty and assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine division as a battalion surgeon. Dr. Skinner later was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Raider Battalion under the command of Colonel Merritt Edson USMC. After the war, he returned to private practice as a surgeon in Lancaster PA until his retirement. He died at home in March 1999. His Navy Cross citation reads as follows:

*The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander (MC) Robert W. Skinner, III, United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as a Medical Officer attached to the FIRST Marine Raider Battalion during the attack on Tulagi, Solomon Islands, on 7 August 1942. Although often exposed to enemy fire, Lieutenant Commander Skinner distinguished himself in administering aid to the wounded and in supervising evacuation of casualties.*

*Later, when his battalion was fighting on Lunga Ridge, Guadalcanal, he made at least three trips from the forward of the rear dressing station, a space of several hundred yards of exposed terrain swept frequently by hostile fire. He subsequently accompanied our forces, moving forward with the battalion in the second and third Matanikau River battles, despite a wounded knee. By his courage, determination, and untiring devotion to duty, Lieutenant Commander Skinner saved many lives. His actions throughout the operation were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.*

## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (continued)

1938

Lt. Cdr. Brent Maxwell Abel US Navy – (Commanding Officer - USS Buckley DE-51) Navy Cross.



Brent Abel was born in 1916 in Washington, D.C. but was raised by his mother in Scarsdale, N.Y. He graduated from Harvard University as a French major before attending Harvard Law School from which he graduated in 1940. Early in his career, he moved to San Francisco where he quickly became a prominent lawyer in estate planning and taxes

On Brent's 28th birthday (6 May 1944), his ship engaged a surfaced German submarine in the Central Atlantic in the predawn hours. After an exchange of fire, the Buckley rammed the U-boat. According to the Escort Sailors Association, "Then there occurred one of the most remarkable incidents of the Atlantic War as attributable to an extraordinary courage on the part of the enemy as to the valor of the Buckley crew. Men began swarming out of the conning tower and forward hatch of the submarine and up onto the (forward deck) of Buckley. Because the sub was now below the maximum depression of the (Buckley's) guns, a bitter fight had suddenly become man-to-man for the possession of Buckley. The Buckley crew rallied quickly and fought their enemy with objects, fists and guns. Still the enemy persisted in boarding. Captain Abel had to make another decision. Engines were reversed as Buckley backed away from the sub. 'All engines ahead full' ! Guns crews returned to their stations pouring a living hell of fire into U-66."

That's when the sub's remaining crewmembers turned their mortally wounded ship and sideswiped the Buckley, causing serious damage. The U-boat sank, and the Buckley crew captured and rescued 36 German sailors.

Lt. Cmdr. Abel, who would receive the Navy Cross for gallantry, credited the victory to his crew for its teamwork and calm under pressure. This episode was called "probably the closest naval combat of modern warfare."

After the war, he returned to San Francisco where he eventually became a senior partner in the law firm of Bingham McCutchen. Years after the battle, one of the German survivors located Mr. Abel and told him "All of us survivors of the U-66 have always had the desire to get to know our wartime adversaries in the war on the sea and if the opportunity presented itself to say thank you for the fair treatment on board the Buckley and for saving our lives." Mr. Abel then helped organize a reunion of the opposing sides in Germany, and when the evening finally occurred, he not only acknowledged that he was proud of his accomplishment, he said he wished he could have saved more lives. Some of his law colleagues and protégés found out about Mr. Abel's distinguished military career only upon his death. A former managing partner of his law firm said: "Just meeting him, you wouldn't know he was a war hero. He was very refined, and intellectual and dignified." Lt. Cdr. Abel was 89 years old when he died at his home in San Rafael, California on December 2005 26.

His Navy Cross citation reads as follows: "*The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Brent Maxwell Abel, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer Escort U.S.S. BUCKLEY (DE-51), in offensive action against a German submarine during while patrolling the Atlantic Coast on the early morning of 6 May 1944. Lieutenant Commander Abel expertly directed his command and made an undetected, high-speed approach in bright moonlight to a surfaced German U-boat. With skilled seamanship, he silenced its guns within four minutes after contact, despite a heavy barrage of enemy torpedo and automatic weapon fire. Narrowly escaping another torpedo, he then closed on the wildly maneuvering submarine, raked it with all available fire and rammed, with the enemy attempting to board the vessel in retaliation. Withstanding the desperate attacks of the enemy ship, which tried to ram after the combatants became disengaged, he persistently held to his target until the submarine, with its conning tower shattered and burning fiercely, all hatches open, abandoned by its crew and completely out of control, disappeared beneath the surface of the water and exploded. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy of the United States.*"

## **1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (continued)**

**1938**

**Lt. Joseph Kennedy US Navy – Bombing Squadron 110 (VB-110) Navy Cross [Killed in Action]**



Joe Kennedy was born in Hull, MA as the oldest son of Joseph Patrick Kennedy Sr. (H-12) and was the brother of President John F. Kennedy (H-40) and former Attorney General Bobby Kennedy (H-48). Joe was educated at Choate Hall. After a gap year in the UK at the London School of Economics, he entered Harvard where he played football, rugby and earned his “H” on the sailing team. At Harvard, he lived in Winthrop House and was a member of Pi Eta, the hasty Pudding Institute of 1779, the Iroquois Club and the St. Paul’s Catholic Club. He graduated cum laude from Harvard and then traveled around Europe for a year prior to entering Harvard Law School. Before his final year of Law school, he was accepted at Navy OCS and then went to flight school where he earned his wings of gold as a Naval Aviator in May 1942. Lt.(jg) Kennedy was then sent to a patrol squadron in the Caribbean before being reassigned to England with the first US Naval squadron to fly B24’s under the Coast Command of the Royal Air Force. He participated in 25 combat missions operating against German submarines which sneaked out of the Bay of Biscay to attack allied shipping in the North Atlantic. During May 1944, he had flown enough missions to be transferred back to the US but he volunteered to remain with his squadron.

Joe was promoted to LT. in July 1944 when he volunteered for a very dangerous mission of piloting a radio controlled experimental plane filled with explosives before parachuting out after putting the plane on course to crash into a high value Nazi V-2 rocket launching target. His mission was to take a drone Liberator bomber loaded with 21,170 pounds of high explosives in the air and stay with it until 2 “mother” planes achieved complete radio control over the drone. The plane with Lt Kennedy in the cock pit took off from the Winfarthing (Fersfield) air base on schedule Unfortunately, the plane exploded on 12 August 1944 while still over England with Lt. Kennedy and his flight navigator still on board. No final conclusion was ever reached on the cause of the explosion. However, experiments with these drones continued and a 2<sup>nd</sup> drone was later successfully flow against the German submarine pens at Helgoland. The distant ancestors of these original drones are now a key weapon in the current world wide war on Islamic fundamentalism. .

Lt. Kennedy’s Navy **Cross citation** reads as follows: *The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Joseph P. Kennedy, United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Commander of a Navy Liberator Patrol Plane in Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED TEN (VB-110), Special Air Unit ONE (Europe), during a special air mission directed at Mimoyecques, France, on 12 August 1944. Well knowing the extreme dangers involved and totally unconcerned for his own safety, Lieutenant Kennedy unhesitatingly volunteered to conduct an exceptionally hazardous and special operational mission. Intrepid and daring in his tactics and with unwavering confidence in the vital importance of his task, he willingly risked his life in the supreme measure of service, and, by his great personal valor and fortitude in carrying out a perilous undertaking, sustained and enhanced the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.*

## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (continued)

### 1940 (HBS-MBA 1951)

**Captain Theodore Woods Noon Jr.** US Army 351<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 88<sup>th</sup> Division – Distinguished Service Cross.



**Capt. Noon - 1945**

Ted was born in Cambridge where he graduated from Rindge Tech prior to Harvard. He was the son of Ted W. Noon Sr. (Yale-1896). His DSC was earned for his heroics as a rifle commander despite wounded 5 times, which resulted in a loss of one leg. Before & after the war, he worked in Oklahoma as a petroleum engineer and geologist with Texaco. After his MBA from HBS, he became an investment banker in Boston & New York.



**Ted Noon - 1965**

For his Harvard 25<sup>th</sup> reunion report, Ted stated: "My job in Italy was to take hills without stopping to study the geology and to lose as few men as possible". He retired to New Hampshire with his wife Marjorie in 1978. His **DSC citation** reads as follows: "*The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Theodore Woods Noon, Jr. (ASN: 0-1285480), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in while serving with the 351st Infantry Regiment, 88th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 12 and 13 May 1944, near Santa Maria Infante, Italy. While advancing in an attack, First Lieutenant Noon was severely wounded in both arms by machine gun fire; but in spite of his wounds he rushed an enemy pill box and single-handedly knocked a machine gun out of action. During this engagement he received several wounds on his face and head, but returned to his company and led his men forward to take the objective. Refusing to be evacuated for medical treatment, Lieutenant Noon led his company in an attack against another enemy position. While making a personal reconnaissance, he was wounded in both legs by shell fragments. Again refusing aid, he ordered the officers with him to return to the company and start the attack. In the last phase of the attack First Lieutenant Noon had recovered sufficiently to lead his men forward in the assault. When the objective was taken, he personally supervised the reorganization of his company. Only upon the order of his superior officer did he allow himself to be evacuated for hospitalization. First Lieutenant Noon's courage under fire, his prodigious determination, and his aggressive leadership were an inspiration to his men, and his heroic performance reflects the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States*".

### 1943

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Fredrick Barton Harvey Jr.** USMC – 1 battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division – Navy Cross



**2nd Lt. Harvey - 1943**

Fred was born in Baltimore, Maryland and prepared at the Hill School, Pottstown, PA. for Harvard where he was on the baseball team and graduated cum laude. He joined the Marine Corps after graduating from college and spent 2 years in the Pacific participating in combat at Roi, Maurur, Tinian, & Saipan, where he was wounded and returned to the USA to prepare for the invasion of Japan. After the War, he married and became an investment banker in Baltimore and served on many boards including the Harvard Board of Overseers. Fred also received the Purple Heart.



**Fred Harvey - 1968**

His Navy Cross citation reads: *For extraordinary heroism as platoon commander of company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Marines, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault on Saipan, Marianas Islands on 15 and 16 June 1944. Landing at the waters edge with the initial assault waves in the face of devastating rifle and machine-gun fire. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harvey moved his platoon inland against fanatic enemy resistance to establish the original point of disembarkation. When a Japanese officer rushed at his swinging a sword, he parried the blow and killed the man with his carbine, Charging an enemy shellhole with his rifle jammed, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harvey courageously used his bayonet in hand to hand combat until a Japanese grenade exploded in the vicinity, knocking off his helmet and forcing him to take cover, although wounded, he continued his heroic efforts and contributed directly to the success of our forces in taking this fiercely defended Japanese stronghold, By his leadership, fighting spirit and personal valor in the face of overwhelming odds, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harvey upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval service.*

## **1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (continued)**

### **1943**

**Lt. (jg) Fredrick Cole Talbot USNR – VB-15 – Navy Cross**



**Lt. (jg) Talbot - 1943**

Fred was born in 1920 in Portland, ME and prepared for Harvard at the Belmont Hill School. He worked briefly in retailing at Filenes in Boston before enlisted in the Navy as an aviation cadet. After his commissioning and receipt of his naval aviator wings of gold, he joined an air group as a bomber pilot on the USS Essex. He was in action over the Marianas, Iwo Jima and the Philippines and was also the recipient of the Distinguished flying Cross and several Air Medals. After the war, he went into the retail end of the automobile business in New England.



**Fred Talbot - 1968**

His Navy Cross citation reads: *The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Frederick Cole Talbot, Lieutenant, Junior Grade, U.S. Navy (Reserve), for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Pilot of a carrier-based Navy Dive Bomber in Bombing Squadron FIFTEEN (VB-15, embarked from the U.S.S. ESSEX (CV-9), in action against enemy Japanese surface forces over the Sibuyan Sea during the Battle for Leyte Gulf in the Philippine Islands on 24 October 1944. In the face of intense and accurate antiaircraft fire from the whole enemy formation, under extremely hazardous combat conditions, Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Talbot participated in a bombing attack on an enemy ship. Fearlessly maneuvering through withering hostile fire of all calibers, he pressed home his attack. Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Talbot's outstanding courage and determined skill were at all times inspiring and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.*

### **1945**

**Lt. (jg) Frank Shaughnessy USNR (Naval aviator) – Navy Cross**

He was from Massachusetts. He protected a down wing mate and kept the enemy at bay His Navy Cross citation reads: *The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Francis Shaughnessey, Ensign, U.S. Navy (Reserve), for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Pilot of a carrier-based Navy Combat Plane, in action on 28 July 1945, while deployed over Kure, Japan. His outstanding courage and determined skill were at all times inspiring and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.*

### **1948**

**Lt.(jg) Charles D. Farmer USNR (VF 10 – “The grim reaper squadron”) – Navy Cross**



He was born in Alabama where he lived until his family moved to New Jersey when he was a teenager. He graduated from Carteret Military Academy before joining the Navy during World War II and eventually earned his wings of gold as a naval aviator. He was deployed on carriers in Pacific on both the USS Enterprise and USS Intrepid (CV 11). In addition to the Navy Cross, Lt. Farmer was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as two Navy Air Medals. After the war, Charles entered Harvard where he majored in government and was a member of Eliot House. After graduation from college, he worked as a congressional clerk in Washington DC. Subsequently, he returned to Massachusetts where he owned automobile dealerships and served on the Boards of several hospitals and banks.

His Navy Cross citation reads: *The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lt. (jg) Charles Davis Farmer USNR for extraordinary heroism in the operations against the enemy while serving as pilot of a carrier based navy fighter plane in Fighting Squadron Ten (VF-1) attached to the USS Intrepid (CV 11) in action against enemy Japanese forces in the vicinity of Okinawa in the Ryukyu Chain on 16 April 1945. When his four plane fighter patrol division was attacked by an outnumbering force of enemy aircraft, Lt. (jg) Farmer led his light in an aggressive counter attack and fighting a gallant battle despite the enemy's altitude advantage, personally blasted four of the hostile planes from the sky and materially assisted his division in destroying seven during this fierce action. By this indomitable fighting spirit, cool courage and forceful leadership, Lt. (jg) Farmer contributed essentially to the breaking up of a concentrated enemy attack on our surface forces and upheld the highest traditions of the US Naval service”.*

### **3. HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL by CLASS (continued)**

#### **1968 (AMP)**

**Brigadier General Robert F. Titus USAF (NORAD Command; Inspector General) – Air Force Cross**



General Titus was born in 1926, in Orange, N.J. He attended secondary schools in Maryland and Virginia, and studied mining engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He received a master of business administration degree from the University of Chicago in 1961, and graduated from the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program in 1968, and the National War College in 1970.

He served on active duty in enlisted status from January 1945 to August 1946 as a squad leader with the 82d Airborne Division. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in September 1949. Robert Titus studied engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1945, serving as a squad leader with the 82d Airborne Division. He was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in 1949. During the Korean War he flew 101 combat missions in F-51 and F-86 as a flight commander and assistant operations officer. He flew 400 combat missions in North and South Vietnam and destroyed three MiG-21s in aerial combat. Two days before he earned the Air Force Cross, he earned the Silver Star in another mission.

He was then transferred to Dover Air Force Base, Del., and ferried F-84 and F-86 aircraft to Europe via the arctic route. In March 1954 he was transferred to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., for test pilot training. He remained at Edwards to participate in the flight test and development of all the century series fighter aircraft through the F-107. During this period, he accomplished the F-100 zero launch tests, representing the U.S. Air Force as a pilot in the North Atlantic Treaty organization fighter trials in France in 1957, and in 1959 flew one of the two F-100s that made the first flight of single-engine jet fighters across the North Pole. For this notable flight he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and nominated for the Mackay Trophy. He also qualified as a test jumper and jump master with the 6511th Parachute Test Group at the Air Force Flight Test Center. He entered Graduate School at the University of Chicago under the Air Force Institute of Technology program in October 1959.

In August 1961 he went to Germany where he served as operations officer of the 53d Tactical Fighter Squadron at Ramstein and Bitburg Air Bases and in February 1963 became an F-105 flight safety officer in the Directorate of Flight Safety, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, at Lindsey Air Station. General Titus was assigned to Headquarters Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va., from August 1964 until May 1966, as chief, Fighter Operations Branch, in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations.

In May 1966 he went to the Republic of Vietnam where he assumed command of the "Skoshi Tigers," the only F-5 squadron in the U.S. Air Force, at Bien Hoa Air Base. In January 1967 he became commander of the F-4-equipped 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Da Nang Air Base. He flew 400 combat missions in North and South Vietnam and destroyed three Mig-21s in aerial combat. In September 1967 General Titus was assigned to Headquarters U.S. Air Force, where he was project officer for the F-15 and chief of Advanced Tactical Systems in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Research and Development. He entered the National War College in August 1969. In June 1970, he went to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., as vice commander, 15th Tactical Fighter Wing and later became commander.

In May 1971 General Titus was transferred to Okinawa and assumed command of the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing of the Pacific Air Forces at Kadena Air Base and later became commander of the 313th Air Division. He was appointed deputy chief of staff, operations, Air Force Systems Command, with headquarters at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., in August 1973. General Titus then assumed duty as the U.S. deputy chief of staff, LIVE OAK, with headquarters collocated with Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe at Shape, Belgium, in September 1974.

He moved to NORADADCOM, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., as the assistant deputy chief of staff for plans and requirements (J-5), NORAD, and the assistant deputy chief of staff for plans and requirements, ADCOM. He served in this dual capacity from June 21, 1976, until Feb. 1, 1977, when he became the NORAD/ADCOM inspector general. His other military awards include: Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with 3 oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 24 oak clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PE Mawn". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Paul E. Mawn  
Captain USN (ret.)

Sources: Information from veterans' families and various Harvard class reports