



Capt. Harold Addison Taylor Jr. USN Ret.,

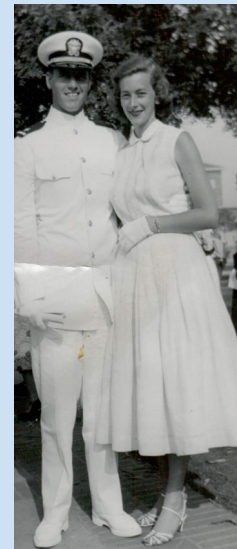
known to his friends and family as Hal, was born on Wednesday, September 28, 1932 in Cleveland, Ohio to Grace Mary (Colligan) Taylor and Harold Addison Taylor Sr.

As a child, his family moved from Cleveland, to New York City, to Los Angeles, finally settling in San Jose, CA where he attended Campbell Union High School graduating in 1950. He excelled in both football and tennis; earning varsity letters in both.

Hal's exceptional athletic skills in football earned him a full ride scholarship to UCLA where he played both center and kicker. (Leather helmets and no face masks were the norm back in those days.) An untimely knee injury ended his football career during his junior year.

To supplement paying his college tuition, Hal cleaned swimming pools at 4 AM and joined UCLA's Navy ROTC. Upon graduation he received a commission as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve in June 1954 where he would proudly wear the uniform for the next 30 years.

In 1953 Hal needed a date for a UCLA fraternity initiation party. A fraternity brother's girlfriend knew Greta and matched them up on a blind date. Needless to say, Hal had found his special one! A few months before Hal's graduation in 1954, Hal proposed and Greta accepted, however Greta had one more semester to complete and Hal had to report immediately for Naval duty in Pensacola, FL. The wedding would have to wait a few months. Hal and Greta officially tied the knot on Sunday, March 6, 1955. Hal had only a 72 hour leave pass to drive from Florida to Los Angeles, get married and get back to base in Pensacola. It was one heck of a ride!



In loving memory

HAROLD ADDISON TAYLOR JR.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1932 - MAY 27, 2024



Loved beyond words

Missed beyond measure

Hal's first duty station was Basic Flight training at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton (Pensacola) FL where he



earned his wings and flew the Navy's SNJ basic trainer which included six successful carrier landings aboard the USS Lexington. This was followed by Advanced Flight training in Hutchinson, KS, flying the Grumman TBM Avenger where he learned navigation and instrument flying. (There was no GPS back in those days.)

Hal's first combat squadron was VP-17 based at Whidbey Island, Washington from January 1956 to February 1959. There he flew the Navy's P2V Neptune Sub Hunter. He quickly accomplished the skills to be designated a Plane Commander as well as being the designated Instructor pilot for his squadron.

While assigned to VP-17, he deployed to Naha Okinawa, Tinian, Taiwan, Atsugi Japan, Iwakuni Japan, Misawa Japan, Chitose Japan, and Kodiak Alaska.

From June 1959 to May 1962 Hal returned to Pensacola as a Flight Instructor teaching students to fly the T-28 Trojan Advanced Trainer.

From July 1962 to July 1964 Hal was assigned to TACRON 12-Amphibious Air Assault Forward Air Controller, San Diego, CA. He deployed to Guantanamo Bay Cuba (Cuban Missile Crisis), Cubi Point Philippines, Okinawa, South Vietnam, and Taiwan.

From August 1964 to June 1965, Hal attended the Naval War College and Staff at Newport, Rhode Island.

He spent November 1965 to December 1967 assigned to Patrol Squadron VP-8 based at NAS Patuxent River, MD as the Squadron Operations Officer. Flying P-3 Orion Sub Hunters, he deployed to Argentia Newfoundland, Keflavik Iceland, Azores, Rota Spain, Sangley Point Philippines, Saigon Vietnam, U-Tapao Thailand, Danang Vietnam.

From January 1968 to September 1969 Hal was assigned to Commander Fleet Air Wings Pacific and Fleet Air Moffett, Moffett Field, CA.

From October 1969 to August 1970 he served as a Flight Instructor for VP-31, flying the P-3 Orion at NAS Moffett Field, CA.

September 1970 to July 1972 was spent as Commanding Officer/Executive Officer Patrol Squadron VP-19 NAS Moffett Field, CA. During this time, his squadron was deployed to Iwakuni Japan, Cam Ranh Bay Vietnam, Danang Vietnam, Singapore, Australia, U-Tapao Thailand, Mauritius Island, and Cocos Island. In total, Hal completed five tours during the Vietnam War.

From August 1972 to August 1975 Hal was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, (JCS-J3), Pentagon, Washington DC. Due to an unanticipated security clearance onboarding procedure, Hal was assigned to be a designated survivor in case of nuclear attack. This provided him with unparalleled access to the Pentagon's resources and allowed him to prepare daily high-level security briefs for senior military, congressional, and cabinet members. Hal's final duty station, September 1975 to June 1984, was as Commanding Officer NDRC, (Naval Drug Rehabilitation Center) NAS Miramar, CA. In June of 1984, he retired as a Captain, United States Navy. Hal proudly and faithfully wore the uniform for 30 years.

Not to state the obvious, but Hal loved to fly. He didn't play golf, hunt, or fish - just fly. When he retired from the Navy, he earned his Civilian Flight Instructors Certification. Working at two San Diego flight schools, he taught numerous civilian students to fly. He also worked for Defense Contractor Flight International. Flying Lear Jets, he towed targets for Navy ships to calibrate their weapon systems and practice firing at incoming targets. He would tow a fiberglass mock-missile with a small metal nose cone for a radar signature on a wire 5 miles behind the Lear. The ships would fire at the mock-missile after the Lear overflew the ships bow. Health issues eventually ended his flying days. When he logged his last flight, he had accumulated over 100,000 hours. An accomplishment only very few pilots can claim.



In 2018 Hal and Greta moved from their Poway, CA home of 47 years to be near their daughters Janice and Lori in Windsor, CO. As his health was rapidly failing, Hal was adamant, he did not want to die in a hospital surrounded by strangers. He wanted to be at home, with his family. He went out on his own terms. Hal befittingly left our world on Memorial Day, 2024.

Nicely done, Dad!

Hal was preceded in death by both parents, his older sister Jane, younger sister Mary, and younger brother Frank. He is survived by his loving wife of 69 years Greta, son Greg Taylor (Peggy) of Coppell, TX, and daughters Janice Taylor of Windsor, CO, and Lori Taylor (Bob) of Windsor, CO.



He is also survived by his younger brother Chris Taylor (Collette) of Corvallis, OR. Hal greatly enjoyed his time with his four grandchildren and one great grandson, and many nieces and nephews. Hal loved his country, and the United States Navy but most of all he loved his family, his many faithful dogs, and most of all the Lord.

I'm not sure what kind of airplanes are in heaven, but I'm sure Hal has already had a check hop or two and accumulated more hours of flight time.

I look forward to flying with you again someday. I want to say, keep your wings level and maintain your air speed but what fun would it be if you can't fly under a bridge or two?

Anchors Aweigh, Dad! Anchors Aweigh.



Hal passed away peacefully in his home on Monday, May 27, 2024, Memorial Day.

Written with love, gratitude and respect by Greg Taylor.

Thank you-

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. Hal had a generous and compassionate heart. He regularly contributed to food banks and animal shelters. In lieu of sending flowers or cards, consider supporting a local charity in your area. Your thoughts and prayers have been a source of strength and comfort as we reflect upon Hal's life and honor his memory.

Sincerely,

The Taylor family

Interment will be at Fort Logan National Cemetery

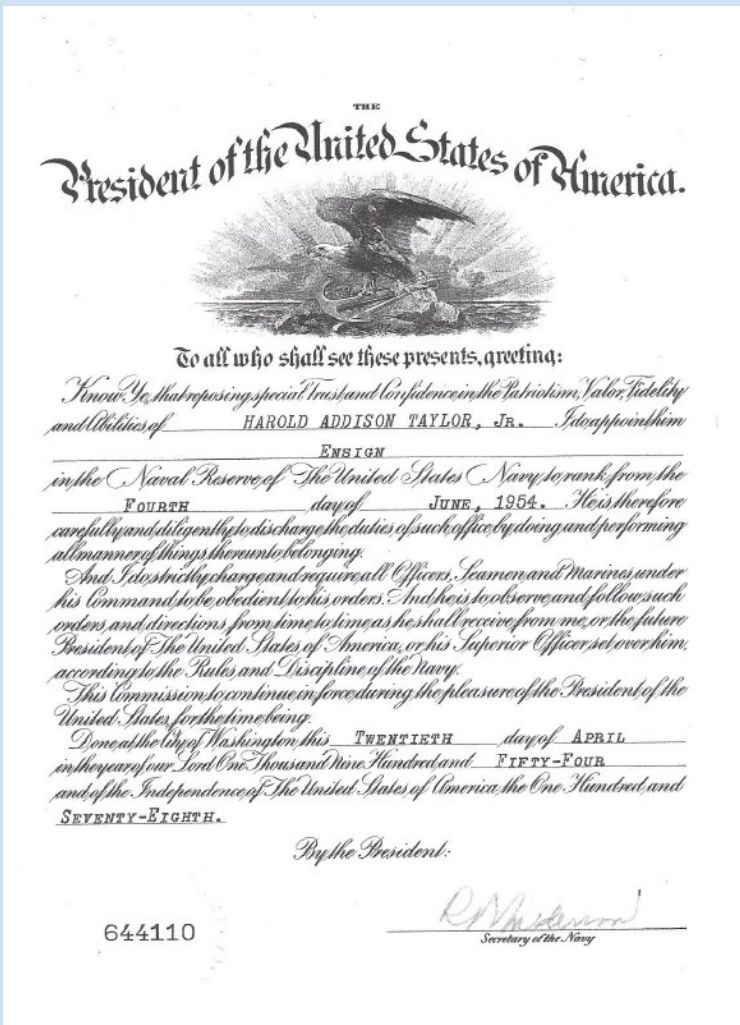
Hal's Navy Commission President's Greeting



High Flight

by John Gillespie Magee, Jr

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
 And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
 Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling
 mirth
 Of sun-split clouds, and done a hundred things
 You have not dreamed of, wheeled and soared and
 swung
 high in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
 I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
 My eager craft through footless halls of air.
 Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
 I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy
 grace
 Where never lark, nor ever eagle flew,
 And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
 The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
 Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.



“Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think I can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, ‘I served in the United States Navy.’”

~John F. Kennedy.

