

Obituary – CAPT James L. Ball

Capt. James Lewis Ball was born on June 8, 1920 To Alford and Ida Mae Ball in Anson, Texas, north of Abilene. James passed from this life on December 16, 2006 in San Antonio, Texas. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Audrey, his parents, and a daughter, Ida Lou Connelly. He is survived by a daughter, Elaine Cain and husband Archie of San Antonio, Texas and a son, James Lewis Ball Jr. of San Diego, California.

Captain Ball enlisted in the Navy in 1939. His first assignment was at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland as a sailing instructor. After the beginning of World War II, Capt. Ball went through flight training, graduating in 1942 as a Naval Aviation Pilot, E-5. His first flying assignment was with VP-74, a seaplane squadron credited with sinking 7 German submarines and taking prisoners from every submarine. In 1943 he received field commission to Ensign, USN. After World War II he served in Panama and the Galapagos Islands for a short time before being assigned to Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expedition. He and his crew searched for and located six survivors of an aircraft that had been lost for fourteen days after crashing on the Polar Icecap.

In 1965 Captain Ball was promoted to Navy Captain, 06. During his career Captain Ball served as an instructor pilot in the Navy's All Weather Flight School, as a Naval Air Transport Instructor and Check Pilot, as the Executive Officer of an Aircraft Maintenance Squadron supporting the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, and VIP pilot at Anacostia Naval Air Station in Washington, DC. He also was Commanding Office of VP-44, a P3A squadron in Patuxent River, Maryland. During the Viet Nam Was he was Commanding Officer of Fleet Air Wing 10 in the Pacific and Viet Nam. Captain Ball later served as Chief to COMFAIR KEFLAVIK in Iceland, and as Director of the Navy Logistic Management School.

During Captain Ball's flying career he accumulated over twelve thousand accident free flight hours. While in the Navy, Captain Ball received a Bachelors degree from the University Of Mississippi. He attended the Navy Line School, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Naval War College, and George Washington University from which he received a Masters Degree.

After his retirement in 1973, Captain Ball moved to Key West, FL and in 1964, Jim and Audrey moved to Frankston, TX. In 2000 they moved to Air Force Village in San Antonio, TX.

