

## Charles Roy Collicott



Commander Charles R. Collicott, USN (Ret.), passed away on 24 June 2025, at the age of 88. “Bud” was born in Kearney, NE, and raised in Broken Bow, NE. He graduated from Broken Bow High School and attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln before receiving his congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1955.

He graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1960 and would later earn a Master of Science degree in Industrial Management at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

Following flight training and receiving his call sign “Cowboy,” he was assigned to VF-51, flying F-8s from Ticonderoga as Commander James B. Stockdale ’47’s wingman and participated in the first airstrike in North Vietnam. He completed three more combat cruises interspersed with graduate school, a U.S. Air Force exchange tour flying F-100s and an operations analyst tour at the Center for Naval Analysis.

Following command selection, he served as XO/CO of VF-33, flying F-4s. Subsequent assignments included: XO, VF-124 flying F-14s; CO, Technical Assistance Field Team, overseeing initial introduction of F-14s into the IIAF, Isfahan, Iran; XO, VX-4; Air Operations Officer, CarGru Four; and Fighter Weapons System Operational T&E Director, ComOpTevFor. Over his career, he accumulated over 5,300 hours in tactical fighters and 180 combat missions.

Upon his retirement in 1985, Bud landed at NavAir, Flight Control Branch, for more than 28 years as an engineering consultant. He played a major role in establishing the Navy’s ability to conduct independent verification, system-integration and validation of flight control software that included several weapons platforms. He was able to continue contributing to naval aviation by mentoring and teaching several generations of engineers about naval aviation and the U.S. Navy. Notwithstanding his many significant professional achievements as a naval officer, pilot and engineer, Bud will be best remembered for his commitment to his family and his love for life. He enjoyed scuba-diving, reading, hiking and skiing. He had a special love for Nebraska football, golf and spending time with family and friends.

Bud is survived by and was devoted to sharing time with his wife, Sheila; his brother, Skip (Irvine); his two daughters, Cheryl Collicott (Donna Anderson) and Pam Nold (Jim); his two granddaughters, Taylor Broadrick (Mitchell) and Morgan Howell; and his great-granddaughter, Daphne.

*The Collicott Family*