

CAPTAIN HUGH A. MERRILL, U.S. NAVY

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, USS INDEPENDENCE

A native of California, Captain Merrill was born in Los Angeles on November 23, 1938. He is the son of the late Gregor Charles Merrill and Phyllis Chamberlin Merrill.

Captain Merrill attended the Thacher School in Ojai, California, Yale University, and the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations.

Captain Merrill enlisted as a Naval Aviation Cadet in 1960. He was commissioned an Ensign and received his Navy Wings in June 1962. Subsequent to flight training he reported to VA-44 for A-4 transition training prior to joining his first squadron, VA-172 aboard USS F.D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). After completing three years with VA-172 Captain Merrill reported to VA-56 in January 1966 and served as Weapons Training Officer and Safety Officer, completing two combat tours aboard USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14) and USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65). Captain Merrill was then ordered to Instructor duty at VA-174 flying the then new A-7A Corsair II aircraft. From VA-174, Captain Merrill reported to the Naval Postgraduate School and thence to USS F.D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) as Assistant Strike Operations and Training Officer in March 1971. In February 1973 Captain Merrill reported to the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia. Upon completion he was ordered to Carrier Air Wing EIGHT where he served as Operations Officer until June 1976 when he received orders to VA-72 as Executive Officer and subsequently assumed command of that squadron from April 1978 through July 1979. Captain Merrill was then attached to the Office of Legislative Affairs in Washington, D.C. from August 1979 through October 1981. Captain Merrill reported aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-61) as Executive Officer in May 1982.

Captain Merrill has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, sixteen Air Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V" and various unit, campaign, and service medals. He has over 1000 carrier arrested landings.

Captain Merrill is married to the former Anne Rhett Taylor of Jacksonville, Florida. Captain and Mrs. Merrill have one son, Charles Rhett.

