

(The biography of Admiral Connolly is as follows:)

REAR ADM. THOMAS F. CONNOLLY, U.S. NAVY

Thomas Francis Connolly was born in St. Paul, Minn., on October 24, 1909, son of Thomas Ignatius and Leona (Gillespie) Connolly. He attended the University of California at Los Angeles, prior to his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., from the 11th Congressional District of California in 1929. As a midshipman he was a member of the American Olympic team in 1932; athletic editor of the *Lucky Bag*; and was awarded the Society of the Cincinnati Sword for excellence in modern languages. Graduated and commissioned ensign on June 1, 1933, he subsequently advanced in rank attaining that of captain, to date from July 1, 1951. His selection for rear admiral approved by the President on July 22, 1959, his date of rank is April 1, 1960.

After graduation from the Naval Academy in 1933, he served for 2 years aboard the U.S.S. *Cincinnati*, before receiving orders in June 1935 to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., for flight training. Designated naval aviator on July 22, 1936, he remained at Pensacola for a month, and in September was assigned to Observation Squadron 2-B (redesignated Observation Squadron 1 in July 1937), attached to the U.S.S. *Nevada*. In June 1938 he transferred to Patrol Squadron 12 based on the U.S.S. *Langley*, which in 1939 won the Schiff trophy (awarded annually to the naval aviation squadron or unit with the best safety record in flying during the year).

During July and August 1939 he had duty with Training Squadron 8 attached to the U.S. Naval Academy. Between July 1939 and May 1941 he attended a course in aeronautical engineering at the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, continuing instruction at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Cambridge, where he received the degree of master of science in May 1942. He had duty under instruction at various places for a month, and in June 1942 he joined Patrol Squadron 13, assuming command of that squadron on March 11, 1943. While in command of Patrol Squadron 13, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Gold Stars in lieu of a second and third Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal with Gold Stars in lieu of a second and third Air Medal. The citations follow in part:

Distinguished Flying Cross: "For heroic and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as commander of the First Echelon of PB-2Y-3 planes, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Wake Island, January 30, 1944, and succeeding dates * * * Commander Connolly led his unit through intense anti-aircraft fire in pressing home a bold strafing and bombing strike at masthead height against the strongly fortified Japanese base and, in addition, personally directed two other night raids on this strategic island, contributing materially to the neutralization of Wake as a factor in our operations connected with the seizure of the Marshall Islands * * *."

Gold Star in lieu of a second Distinguished Flying Cross: "For heroism and extraordinary achievement * * * in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific area, April 17, 1944 * * *. [He] boldly penetrated enemy territory to lead his squadron on a long-distance mine-laying sortie in the harbor of a strongly fortified enemy base and, despite the additional hazards of maneuvering the heavily loaded planes under adverse night weather conditions, successfully executed his mission and brought his squadron back without loss or damage * * *."

Gold Star in lieu of a third Distinguished Flying Cross: "For heroism and extraordinary achievement * * * operating from advanced bases in the Central Pacific area against enemy Japanese forces on Truk, Saipan, and Wotje from May 25 to June 23, 1944 * * *. By his skill and courage, he aided in providing essential intelligence to his own forces and in inflicting damage on the enemy, thereby depriving the Japanese of access to vital bases * * *."

Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement * * * against enemy Japanese forces on Mille and Truk from October 24, 1943, to March 30, 1944 * * *. By his skill and courage, he aided in providing essential intelligence to his own forces and in inflicting damage on the enemy * * *."

Gold Star in lieu of a second Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement * * * operating from advanced bases in the Central Pacific area against enemy Japanese forces on Truk, Ponape, and Wake from April 5 to April 12, 1944 * * *."

Gold Star in lieu of a third Air Medal: "For meritorious achievements in aerial flight as patrol plane commander of a patrol bomber plane in patrol