

Certificate of Selection

This is to certify that

CAPT William D. Young

has been selected to the Hall of Honor



William D. (Bill) Young was born in 1947 in Clearwater, Florida. As an Air Force dependent, he traveled extensively throughout his childhood and entered CMA as a sophomore in 1962. He was an excellent academic student and was a leader on the varsity football, basketball and baseball teams during his three years at CMA. His accomplishments included winning the Daughters of the American Revolution Historical medal, being an ongoing member of the National Honor Society and Top 5 student in his Junior and Senior classes. Upon graduating from CMA in 1965, he entered Vanderbilt University on a Navy ROTC scholarship and graduated in 1969. He completed his flight training and received his Naval Aviation wings in 1971.

On the night of August 6th and early morning of August 7th, 1972, Bill flew a rescue mission into North Vietnam at treetop level with landing lights on to save a downed fighter pilot. His helicopter was hit repeatedly by enemy ground fire yet he persisted until the pilot was located and safely on board. As he exited the area, his aircraft was severely crippled by enemy fire. He managed to fly back to the safety of the USS Saratoga. For his actions, Bill was awarded the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest combat-only award for valor. Further service had Bill in the Gulf of Tonkin, the Western Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean. He also conducted non-combat evacuations and force security missions in Somalia and Liberia. Through it all, he successfully rescued seventeen individuals from mishaps at sea including seven in combat. His personal decorations include the Navy Cross, Defense Superior Service Medal, two Legions of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, individual and Strike/Flight Air medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and various campaign and unit awards. He remained in the service until January 2000 when he retired as a Captain.

Upon retirement from the service, Bill became a senior military analyst with defense contractor TRW, a teacher and coach, and a Peace Corps volunteer in the Ukraine from 2005 to 2007. Bill has met the highest standards in all aspects of his life. His outstanding Naval career was defined by unselfish determination to save a fellow American regardless of the perils. By his example he has distinguished himself, brought great credit to Columbia Military Academy, and is most worthy of induction into the CMAAA Hall of Honor.



Done this Second Day of August
Year Two Thousand and Fourteen

Walter H. Young
Chairman, Hall of Honor Committee

Michael D. DeLoach
President, CMA Alumni Association