

Marion E. Carl



The US Marine Corps' first ace, Marion E. Carl, was awarded the Navy Cross for "extraordinary heroism" during his first combat mission. Upon graduation from Oregon State University in 1938, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. Due to his intense desire to be a Marine pilot, Carl resigned his Army commission and was accepted into the Marine Corps Aviation Cadet Program, receiving his wings in late 1939. The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, his fighter squadron--VMF221--boarded the USS Saratoga and soon found themselves protecting the island of Midway. By mid-1942, the island's air strength included 21 obsolete Brewster Buffaloes, 7 F4F-3 Grumman Wildcats, a Marine dive-bomber squadron, and a small assortment of Army and Navy aircraft. At the start of the Battle of Midway, Captain Carl flew one of the Wildcats on his first combat mission--scoring his first aerial victory and winning the Navy Cross. After Midway, he joined

VMF-223 that, along with a dive-bomber squadron, became the lead echelon of Guadalcanal's Cactus Air Force. In less than 2 months of fighting over this bitterly contested island, Carl scored 15.5 aerial victories and won his second Navy Cross. Major Carl returned to the Solomons as commander of VMF-223 in late 1943, and was withdrawn from combat in early 1944, finishing as the seventh-ranking Marine Corps ace with 18.5 victories. He flew as a test pilot after the war and became the first Marine aviator to operate a jet aircraft from a carrier. Later, flying the Douglas Skystreak, he set a world speed record and received the Octave-Chanute Award. He also commanded the first Marine jet squadron, led the first Marine jet aerobatic team, became the first Marine helicopter pilot, was the first military pilot to wear a full pressure suit, and set a world altitude record in the Douglas Skyrocket. As a brigadier general, he flew combat missions in Vietnam in F-4 fighters and UH-1 gunships. General Carl later served as Inspector General of the Marine Corps. Having accumulated over 14,000 flying hours in over 180 different types and models of aircraft, Marion Carl retired as a major general in 1973.*

Lithograph Setting: On the night of 3 June 1942, a Japanese strike force including four of their best aircraft carriers was spotted closing on Midway Island. Flying an F4F-3 Wildcat in which he had less than 6 hours experience, Captain Marion Carl was in the only fighter squadron committed to defend the island. Thirty miles west of Midway, 25 American Fighters tackled 108 Japanese Zeros and dive bombers. Though greatly outnumbered and outclassed, the Marine pilots fought doggedly against the highly experienced enemy. Following this initial air engagement, 15 of the 25 Marine aircraft failed to return; but Midway's runways and anti-aircraft batteries were still in action. As a result of this heroic defensive effort, the Japanese commander overestimated the island's strength and ordered a second attack. Late on 4 June, aircraft from three US carriers found the enemy task force in the midst of launching their second strike. In the ensuing battle, all four Japanese carriers were destroyed along with 322 of their aircraft. The Battle of Midway proved to be the turning point of the war in the Pacific.

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70th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--1999 Regular Session

NOTE: Matter within { + braces and plus signs + } in an amended section is new. Matter within { - braces and minus signs - } is existing law to be omitted. New sections are within { + braces and plus signs + } .

LC 1968

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1

Sponsored by Senator FISHER, Representatives KRUSE, MORGAN, WELSH; Senators ADAMS, BEYER, BROWN, BRYANT, BURDICK, CASTILLO, CORCORAN, COURTNEY, DERFLER, DUKES, DUNCAN, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GORDLY, HANNON, HARTUNG, LIM, METSGER, MILLER, NELSON, QUTUB, SHANNON, SHIELDS, STARR, TARNO, TIMMS, TROW, WILDE, YIH, Representatives ATKINSON, BACKLUND, BECK, BEYER, BOWMAN, BUTLER, CLOSE, DECKERT, DEVLIN, EDWARDS, GARDNER, GIANELLA, HANSEN, HARPER, HILL, HOPSON, JENSON, KAFOURY, KING, KNOPP, KROPF, KRUMMEL, LEHMAN, LEONARD, LEWIS, LOKAN, LOWE, LUNDQUIST, MANNIX, MERKLEY, MESSERLE, MINNIS, MONTGOMERY, MORRISSETTE, PATRIDGE, PIERCY, PROZANSKI, RASMUSSEN, ROSENBAUM, ROSS, SCHRADER, SHETTERLY, SIMMONS, SNODGRASS, STARR, STROBECK, SUNSERI, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, UHERBELAU, WALKER, WELLS, WESTLUND, WILLIAMS, WILSON, WINTERS, WITT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

In memoriam: Marion E. Carl, Major General U.S. Marine Corps, Retired.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Marion Carl came into this world on November 1, 1915, in Hubbard, and worked his way through Oregon State College in Corvallis; and

Whereas Marion Carl served his country with great honor and valor through three major wars, including combat duty at Midway and Guadalcanal, downing three bombers and a fighter plane and surviving the downing of his own plane; and

Whereas Marion Carl became the first Marine Corps ace, the first Marine helicopter pilot and the first Marine to take off from and land a jet aboard an aircraft carrier; and

Whereas Marion Carl was a consummate aviator and test pilot, risking his life in the pursuit of knowledge by setting world speed and altitude records; and

Whereas Marion Carl was awarded a Navy Cross with two gold stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross with four gold stars, the Legion of Merit with three gold stars, the Air Medal with 13 gold stars, the Octave Chanute Award for 'notable contribution to the aeronautical sciences' and a host of other decorations; and

Whereas Marion Carl commanded United States troops at bases

throughout the South Pacific, as well as in Korea and Japan, served the entire Marine Corps as its Inspector General and rose to the rank of Major General; and

Whereas upon retirement, this hero, almost totally lacking in ego, lived with great honor and dignity in his Douglas County community; and

Whereas the life of Marion Carl ended in the manner in which he lived it: sacrificing himself to protect another; and

Whereas, upon the death of Marion Carl on June 28, 1998, Oregon lost a dear and honored son; now, therefore,
Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventieth Legislative Assembly, mourn the passing of Marion Carl and celebrate his life and contributions to the state and to the nation; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Marion Carl, including his wife, Edna; daughter, Lyanne; and son, Bruce.
