

**Captain Willard Samuel Houston Jr, United States Navy Retired
1923 - 2012**

Captain Houston was born in Los Angeles, California on April 22, 1923. Enlisting in the Navy shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, he survived as a member of the Navy Weather Team during the Solomon Islands Campaign advancing to the grade of AerM 2/c. In early 1944 he entered the V-12 program where he studied Meteorology at the California Institute of Technology. He received his commission November 2, 1945.

After a short tour as weather forecaster with Naval Air Station, San Diego, he was attached to the VPW-1 Typhoon Tracking Squadron from February 1946 to April 1947. From April 1947 until March 1948, he was Officer in Charge of the Joint Weather Broadcast Team, Guam. From Guam he returned to the States with Duty as Forecaster at Fleet Weather Central, Norfolk, Virginia. In February 1950 he went aboard the USS SAIPAN for duty as the Aerological Officer. While serving aboard the USS SAIPAN he was selected for postgraduate training in August 1951.

After taking his master's degree in Aerology at Monterey in January 1953, he served until October 1955 as Instructor at U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey.

After a short course in CIC techniques at Fleet Air Defense School in December 1955, he went aboard the USS INTERCEPTOR as the Operations Officer.

In April 1957 he was assigned to the Office of Naval Research in Washington. He served as Technical Aide for Atmospheric Physics until June 1960 and was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his part in the development of the ARCAS meteorological sounding rocket.

In June 1960 he was assigned to the Office of Naval Research Branch, London and was attached to the International Institute for Meteorology at the University of Stockholm, Sweden. While at the University of Stockholm he carried out advanced study and research and was awarded the degree of *Filosafie Licentiat* in Meteorology in October 1963.

From May 1963 until September 1964 he served with the Office of Naval Weather Service; then he became the Naval member of the Joint Meteorological Satellite Program Office, Headquarters, USAF, Washington DC In November 1965, he moved to the Office of the Secretary of Defense as Chief Environmental Sciences Division in the Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

He was awarded the Joint Services Commendation Medal for his services in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. After leaving OSD he served as Commanding Officer, Fleet Weather Central Rota, Spain from August 1967 to June 1969. From July 1969 to July 1970 he was Commanding Officer of the Fleet Weather Central, Pearl Harbor. In August 1970 he reported to the Fleet Numerical Weather Central at Monterey, California, and in November of the year he became its Commanding Officer.

Captain Houston reported to Washington DC for duty as the Commander, Naval Weather Service Command in June, 1974 with additional duty as the Assistant Oceanographer of the Navy for Environmental Prediction Services. After the Naval Weather Service Command was abolished, by higher authority, Captain Houston was appointed to the position of Director of Naval Oceanography and Meteorology, in February, 1976. Captain Houston retired on March 31, 1976.

Captain Houston has the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal w/1 gold star, Good Conduct Award, American Theater, Asiatic/Pacific with two battle stars, World War II Victory Medal, Navy European Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one star, Naval Weather Service Overall Performance Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation with combat distinguishing device "V", Meritorious Service Medal.

He was married to the former Miss Jean LeZotte of Eagle Rock, California for 64 years until her death in 2009. Captain Houston had three daughters, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.