

## **1. Captain Bruce Keener III, USN 4/5/1969 – 5/7/1971**



Captain Keener the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Keener, Jr., was born and raised in Knoxville, TN. During World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and 1 ½ years later entered in June 1944, entered the U.S. Naval Academy. He graduated in June 1947, commission commissioned an Ensign, USN. Capt. Keener's first assignment was Gunnery Officer of the USS MADOX (DD-731) in San Diego. His next two tours of duty were Gunnery Officer of the USS EVANSVILLE (PF-70) and Electronics Officer of USS PHILLIPPINE SEA (CVA-47), which participated in the invasion of Inchon and earned the Korean Campaign Medal with 4 battle stars.

From 1953 to 1956, he attended the U.S. Naval Post-graduate School, Monterey, CA. He earned the degree of Master of Science in Engineering Electronics. Following graduation, he served as Executive Officer and Navigator of USS SAVAGE (DER-386) for two years.

Capt. Keener then served 2 ½ years of shore duty as Head, Sonar Evaluation Section, Key West Test and Evaluation Detachment, during which time many of the Navy's current sonar antisubmarine systems and weapons were first tested. His next tour was 2 ½ years as Executive Officer and Navigator of USS LYNDE McCORMICK (DDG-8).

Following a one year assignment as a student in the senior course at the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI, Capt. Keener served as Commanding Officer of USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16) from July 1964 to March 1966, which served continually with the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific. One year of that period being assigned as flagship of the Tonkin Gulf Anti-Air Warfare/Search-and-Rescue unit. For his service in Vietnam, he earned the Vietnam Campaign Medal with 3 battle stars and was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V".

Immediately prior to Commanding Officer of USS SEATTLE (AOE-3), Capt. Keener served almost 3 years in the Office of the CNO, as Special Assistant to Admiral David L. McDonald, CNO and subsequently as Head, National Policy Section, Strategic Plans and Policy Division. He retired September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1981. Captain Bruce Keener III passed away November 17, 2002.