

Dear Visitor,

Welcome aboard the greatest warship in the universe, USS Constellation. As you tour "America's Flagship," I'm certain you will see why I'm proud to serve as her Commanding Officer. The crew's pride and professionalism shows throughout the ship. Feel free to ask any questions along the way. The crew will be more than happy to answer them. Connie sailors are proud of their ship and are more than willing to show her to you. - Enjoy your visit.

Warmest regards,



G. E. Rud



Captain Gilman E. Rud

Captain "Gil" Rud is a native of Portland, North Dakota. Graduating from North Dakota State University with a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Economics, he attended Aviation Officer Candidate School receiving his commission in August 1967. He earned his Wings of Gold in December 1968 at Beeville, Texas.

Assigned as a light attack pilot, subsequent carrier aviation flying tours included: VA-216, VA-215, CVW-14, VA-97, VA-147 and command of VA-192 -- "The World Famous Golden Dragons". Captain Rud is a veteran of the Vietnam War having flown combat missions while attached to VA-215 and VA-97.

Significant tours ashore have included: instructor pilot with VA-122, the west coast A-7 Corsair II replacement training squadron; Officer Program Director at Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, Texas and Head of the Aviation Junior Officer Assignment Branch, Naval Military Personnel Command. From November 1985 through November 1988, Captain Rud was the commanding officer and flight leader of the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels. As Blue Angel Number One, he flew in more than 200 air shows and was responsible for transitioning the squadron from the A-4 Skyhawk to the F/A-18 Hornet.

From August 1989 through February 1991, Captain Rud served as Commanding Officer, USS WABASH (AOR 5). During his tenure, the USS WABASH steamed more than 55,000 miles conducting 284 underway replenishments. From March 1991 to February 1993, Captain Rud served as Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff for Joint Task Force FIVE, the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Command's counterdrug task force. In May 93, Captain Rud assumed command of USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64).

Captain Rud is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia. He has accumulated more than 5,600 flight hours and 775 carrier landings. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with Bronze Star, five Strike/Flight Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal and numerous other unit and service awards.

Captain Rud is married to the former Barbara Carroll of Montgomery, Louisiana. They have three children: Valerie, a Lieutenant junior grade in the Navy, Ryan, a junior at the University of California at Berkeley and Sally, a high school student.