



USS Guadalcanal (CVE-60)



USS Ranger (CV-4)



Charles James Kline, Jr.
Lieutenant (JG) U.S. Navy
7 April 1943 - 1 October 1953



AD-3 Skyraider



USS Midway (CV-41)



F4U Corsair

Charles was born on 22 September 1922 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He attended grade school in Shimersville, Pennsylvania, and attended high school in both Allentown and Emmaus, Pennsylvania, graduating from the latter in 1940. He then went to work as a Machinist for Bethlehem Steel Company in Bethlehem until he enlisted in the Navy as an Aviation Cadet on 7 April 1943. He was called to active duty on 13 May 1943, and subsequently was in flight training status at Naval Aviation Training Bases in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Florida until 15 June 1945. He earned his Naval Aviator wings and commission as Ensign in the Naval Reserves on 16 January 1945 while at Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. During the time he was in flight training, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, Moravian College, and University of North Carolina, earning approximately two years of credits toward a degree. In May 1945, Charles was ordered to Bomber-Fighter Squadron VBF-98 in Los Alamitos, California. He served with the Squadron from 26 May 1945 to 15 November 1945. The Squadron deployed, successively, from San Diego, California aboard a "Jeep Carrier," Carrier Escort *USS Guadalcanal (CVE-60)*, in the Atlantic, and Attack Carrier *USS Ranger (CV-4)* in the Pacific, with Charles flying the F4U Corsair from the decks of both. He was detached from VBF-98 in November 1945, and ordered to the Naval Yard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to await release from active duty as Ensign on 20 November 1945. Charles returned home to Allentown where he married **Betty Jeannette Wetherhold** (born 15 November 1920) on 22 December 1945, and where he became a Bricklayer Apprentice for L.W. Hunsicker Company for a year before becoming a Policeman for the City of Allentown from 1947 to 1951. In 1951, he was recalled to active duty and ordered to Naval Air Station, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, in flight status from 20 April 1951 to 1 June 1951 before reporting to Attack Squadron VA-25 at Oceana, Virginia. From there he was deployed as a Lieutenant aboard Aircraft Carrier *USS Midway (CV-41)* flying the AD-3 Skyraider from December 1951 to August 1953 while conducting operations in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. On 16 December 1952, he became a member of the "Royal Order of the Blue Nose" as *USS Midway* crossed the Arctic Circle. Charles was detached from VA-25 at Oceana on 25 September 53, and once again left active duty on 1 October 1953 as Lieutenant. He returned to Allentown before relocating in April 1954, successively, to Lakeland, Florida, and Jacksonville, Florida, where he worked for the U.S. Post Office until October 1963, sometimes supplementing his Post Office income as a Bricklayer. He then moved to Emmaus, Pennsylvania, and continued working for the Post Office there until his retirement in 1985. Charles and Betty had three daughters, **Sharon Lee**, **Tracy Louise**, and **Andrea Jane** and a son, **Carter Kenneth**, who served briefly in the Navy during the Vietnam Conflict. Charles's parents were **Charles James Kline, Sr.** (8 April 1897 – 16 November 1981), who served in the Navy during World War I as a Boatswain's Mate aboard Cruiser *USS Galveston (C-17)*, and **Helen Frances Grider** (5 August 1899 – 15 December 1935). Charles's brother, **Wayne R. Kline** (11 November 1926 – 15 July 1991), served in the Navy during World War II, and his grandson, **Clint Ray Browne**, served in the Army from 2003 to 2006.