

Brigadier General William E. Carlson (USA/Ret)
2007 WPHS Alumni Circle of Distinction

Bill Carlson was born in Goldenrod, Florida in 1929. He graduated from Winter Park High School in 1947.

At ten years of age, he saved a woman from drowning and as a result of his heroic action, he was appointed as a page in the Congress of the United States. At the age of 12, he was the youngest page in Congress. He was present on December 8, 1941, when President Roosevelt addressed Congress and WWII was declared.

Bill attended the University of Florida, from which he graduated in 1951 and received a commission, through ROTC, in the US Army. He was called immediately to duty in the Korean War. In 1952, he was assigned to C Battery, 96th FA Battalion and served as a Forward Observer and later as Battery Executive Officer. After the Korean War, he served as Battery Commander. Bill also served in Vietnam as Battalion Commander of the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery, the direct support artillery battalion of the Seventh Cavalry, First Cavalry Div, Air Mobile. In 1972 he was assigned as the Assistant Division Commander of the 7th Infantry Div at Ft Ord CA. He served one tour on the Army General Staff in the Pentagon and three tours with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Among his military schooling he attended the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk and the Naval College at Newport RI. He received his Master's Degree in International Affairs from George Washington University in 1969. General Carlson's final military assignment was Deputy US Military representative to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium.

General Carlson has received 29 awards and decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. After retirement he has been active in civic affairs in Orange County Florida and his community. He served as vice-chairman of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge memorial Committee in Orlando Florida.

Bill is married to Nancy and has been for 44 years. They have three children and three grandchildren