

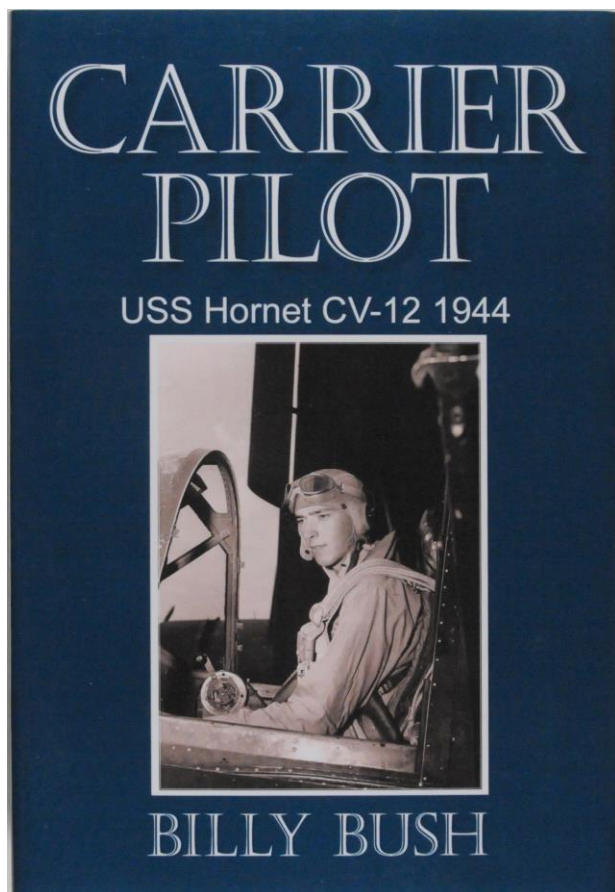
# Carrier Pilot

## USS Hornet 1944

This autobiography briefly summarizes **Billy Bush's** early childhood experiences of growing up during the depression but concentrates on events during the dramatic period of WWII in the Pacific Theater against the Japanese. Using his own diary as a basis, Billy takes us through pilot training from the basics to the intensive preparation required to fly the Navy SB2C dive-bomber.

Billy flew 67 combat missions off the USS Hornet CV-12 in mid-1944 where he and his shipmates experienced the stark, grim realities of warfare. He participated in one of the most dramatic attacks of the conflict against the Japanese aircraft carrier Zuikaku. Taking off in the late afternoon, Billy and his squadron found the carrier just as dusk was falling and put her out of action. But, the nighttime return to the Hornet was perhaps more hazardous than the attack itself. That mission earned Billy the Navy Cross (second only to the Medal of Honor).

The narrative concludes with the war's end and Billy returning to college with his bride of almost a year. He earned a Masters degree in organic chemistry and worked 32 years in the industry. He and his wife have celebrated more than 66 years of a truly successful marriage. They have two sons and four young adult grandchildren. Billy and Marge Bush now reside in Los Ranchos, New Mexico, a small community near Albuquerque, where he rides his bicycle ten miles each day to stay in shape!



The book is available in hard or soft cover.