

Chief Warrant Officer Cowles “Wally” Waldron

Bellport High School Class Of 1965



Chief Warrant Officer Waldron IV served in the Brookhaven Fire Department and Brookhaven Ambulance Company. Warrant Officer Waldron was a member of Rotary International and a staunch supporter of Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck in Center Moriches.

In 1967 Cowles Waldron enlisted in the U.S. Army and in 1969 re-enlisted to fly Cobra helicopters. His first tour of duty was in Vietnam was in 1970. During his first tour he earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses awarded for extraordinary heroism while flying missions. He later received the Bronze Star after he was shot down and grounded in the midst of heavy fighting. Immobilized with wounds Warrant Officer Waldron was awarded a Purple Heart and when he returned to his unit was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service and three Air Medals for valorous action in combat missions.

By the time Warrant Officer Waldron completed his second tour in Vietnam he had been shot down three times and blown out of his tent by a mortar blast. He also accumulated three Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, 26 Air Medals and a Silver Star awarded for gallantry in action against an armed enemy while serving with Republic of Vietnam Army. Chief Warrant Officer Waldron finished his military career as a Chief Warrant Officer IV serving as an instructor in the flight transition gunnery course.