

The Brave Commander

by Kate Wingfield

Who is Nora Wingfield Tyson? She is smart and talented and a born leader. She attended St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis, graduating in 1975. She graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1979. Later that year she attended Officer Candidate School. Then she went on to earn her Masters of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Affairs from U.S Naval War College in 1995. Vice Admiral Nora Tyson demonstrated leadership as the fearless commander of Carrier Strike Group Two, as a brave Two-Star Rear Admiral, and as the first woman to lead a U.S. Navy ship fleet.

First, Vice Admiral Tyson became the commander of Carrier Strike Group Two in 2010. A carrier strike group is a group of ships that take aircraft support out in the ocean to protect our country. Tyson was the first woman to command a U.S. Navy aircraft task group. Under her command was the *U.S.S. George H.W. Bush*, the nuclear powered flagship aircraft carrier.

Second, Tyson was promoted to Two-Star Rear Admiral. This means she continued to oversee the operations of a Carrier Strike Group, but it was a huge honor because she had demonstrated that she was highly capable. She was administered the oath of office by President George H. W. Bush himself.

Finally, Tyson was named Vice Admiral and commander of the Navy's Third Fleet making her the first woman to lead a U.S. Navy ship fleet. What this means is she was in charge of all the Navy ships in the Pacific Ocean bordering the west coast of America and including approximately fifty million square miles.

In summary, Nora Wingfield Tyson is an amazing woman who led our Navy and kept us safe. She was recognized for her incredible influence in the Navy. I'm extremely honored and proud that I can call her my cousin, too.