

Matthew John BOUTERSE II born in Pensacola, Florida, 9 June 1914

Educated in Florida schools: Attended University of Florida 1932-1934, Graduated (AB) Stetson University, Deland Florida 1936. Attended Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Penn. 1936-1938. Graduated (B.D.) Southern Baptist Theol. Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, 1940.

Student Pastor Eau Gallie Florida Baptist Church; St. Cloud Florida Baptist Church; Orange City Florida Congregational-Community Church

Pastor, Carlisle, Kentucky, First Baptist Church 1940-1941

Entered Regular Navy as Chaplain December 1941

Married Virginia Lee Hargis of Umatilla, Florida 1938. Children: Curtis Carlisle, b. Carlisle, Kentucky, 1941; Linda Lee, b. Cleveland, Tennessee, 1942; William Hargis, b. Pensacola, Florida, 1947; Mark John, b. Port Hueneme, California, 1950; David Howard, b. Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, 1955.

Permanent Address upon retirement: 532 S. Horne, Oceanside, California

As Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Carlisle, Kentucky, Chaplain Bouterse saw most of the young men of the community, called to active duty with the National Guard during the summer of 1941. He volunteered his services to the Navy as a Chaplain and on 8 December, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, received notification from the Navy to report for active duty.

He reported in January 1942 to Great Lakes Naval Training Center and shortly thereafter was given the first of many seagoing assignments, the Heavy Cruiser, USS ASTORIA in the Pacific. Saw first action against the Japanese at Battle of Midway in June 1942. ASTORIA covered landing of First Marine Division at Guadalcanal and on August 9th engaged Japanese task force in First Battle of Savo Island at which time the ASTORIA, along with 3 other cruisers was sunk. Chaplain Bouterse received the Purple Heart from Admiral Halsey for wounds sustained in this action. He was evacuated to the U.S. and given another ship in October, the USS PINKNEY, an evacuation transport. The PINKNEY operated for the next 2 years in the same South Pacific area, Guadalcanal, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Hebrides and New Zealand, landing American and allied troops and caring for battle casualties and evacuating them to rear areas.

Appointed Chaplain of the Officers Indoctrination School and Tactical Radar School at Hollywood, Florida. Chaplain Bouterse also served as Chaplain of the Coast Guard Base at Port Everglades during the years 1945 and 1946, following which he was sent to sea again on a troop transport USS GENERAL BROOKE, operating in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian Oceans.

Upon the decommissioning of the BROOKE, Chaplain Bouterse served two years as the only Chaplain of the U.S. Naval Hospital at Pensacola, Florida. In 1948 he returned to sea in the Pacific aboard the aircraft carrier USS VALLEY FORGE.

With the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 he was made Chaplain of the Construction Battalion Center at Port Hueneme, California and assisted in the revitalization and expansion of Navy Seabee units called to service in the Pacific.

Upon the reopening of Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Sanford, Florida, he was assigned there and commenced construction of a base chapel, but before it could be completed, was again on the move. This time to Naples, Italy, where he served on the staff of Commander in Chief of the NATO forces of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. During this time Chaplain Bouterse organized a large Sunday School and a chapel program ashore in Naples, and assisted in the founding of the Christian Servicemen's Center which is still in operation there.

From 1953 to 1955 he was stationed at Clarksville Base, an activity of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Command and worked with Army and Air Force as well as Naval personnel.

Returning once again to sea in the Pacific he became squadron Chaplain of Amphibious Squadron THREE, a force of 23 ships operating from San Diego to Australia and engaged in amphibious training in Korea, the Philippines, Japan and on the U.S. West Coast and Hawaii.

In 1957, assigned to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, Chaplain Bouterse worked for the next three years as pastor for two thousand Marine and Navy families aboard the base. During this time, a complete chapel program was organized and buildings and equipment obtained. The Sunday School became the largest military Sunday School on the west coast and social and recreational activities were organized. Day nursery, well baby clinic, scouting, Y Indian guides, Teen club and other social clubs were maintained, as well as the regular week day and Sunday religious services, pastoral home visitation and counseling service.

In 1961 Chaplain Bouterse was assigned to the repair ship USS MARKAB (AR 23) serving the Pacific Fleet from Subic Bay, P.I., to San Francisco, and served aboard for the next 2 years.

He was retired after 22 years service, in December 1963.