Stop 1
They say, "whatever will be will be."
That’s especially true at minus 60 degrees.
In 1956, for Operation Deep Freeze,
This plane safely landed on a pair of skis.
It brought the first Americans to the South Pole.
They left the engines running to be ready to go.
But the plane got stuck in the ice cap,
For a moment it looked like they were trapped.
With the help of four bottles of jet assist
The airplane broke free and into the mist.
*Name it:* 

Stop 2
It's feline ancestry dates to World War 2,
with the Wildcat, the Hellcat, and the Panther, too.
It’s been on carriers, on land, and in the danger zone.
Some say it’s the best military plane ever flown.
A fighter, interceptor, and used for recon,
It has variable swept wings and "tailerons."
Important in the Navy Fighter Weapons School,
Flown by Black Aces, Tomcatters, and Pukin’ Dogs, too.
*Name it:* 

Stop 3
The Last of the Gunfighters in the queue.
And at 1000 mph, it really flew.
John Glenn made history in this single-engine power,
Flying from California to New York in less than 3.5 hours.
A favorite of the Navy and the US Marines,
It had moving stabilators, a variable-incidence wing.
In the skies over Cuba, it flew risky recon,
And it was first to take on MiG-17s in Vietnam.
*Name it:* 

Stop 4
In 1975, Major Buang-Ly
Put his family on this plane and headed out to sea.
He had never seen an aircraft carrier ‘til that day
When he happened to spot the USS Midway.
No radio, no tailhook, and no other plan,
He dropped three notes on the deck asking to land.
Midway’s Captain Chambers thought, "What the heck,"
And he ordered all the sailors to clear the deck.
Buang-Ly made his approach and safely touched down,
From that Cessna a wife and five children climbed out.
*Name it:* 

Stop 5
This Grumman twin-engine, all-weather attack,
Proved itself in Vietnam, Lebanon, and Iraq.
Its double windshield was ideal for the ride.
When it was inbound, “there was no place to hide.”
In poor visibility, other planes might be stalled,
But this sturdy aircraft could overcome all.
With a mighty payload and an impressive range,
It served in 34 years of US Navy campaigns.
*Name it:* 

Stop 6
This aircraft is above the rest,
Walk to the back to see it best.
It’s Naval Aviation’s first rotary wing
Known for flying in situations that were challenging
Coast Guard pilot Frank Erickson made history
Flying this helo into wind, snow, and sleet
An explosion on the Turner left a tragedy
And survivors needed help, an emergency
So brave, and unrelenting Erickson pushed on
Delivering plasma to survivors, the first mercy mission.
*Name it:*
Step 7
This bird sounds like a swarm of bees,
As 16 blades cut the air with ease.
With a rotodome measuring 24 feet,
These all-weather planes are the “eyes of the fleet.”
Airborne Early Warning, Command and Control
With a crew of two pilots and three NFOs.
Name it:
   ____
   ____
   ____

Stop 8
Look through the glass beyond the orange ring,
This helo was known for rescuing.
During its career it flew 54,000 missions,
Rescuing 23,000 lives in all weather conditions.
This exact one has a storied past
Braving wind and waves that were unsurpassed.
In 1987 off the Alaskan Coast,
This bird rescued a father and his 6-year-old.
And it helped rescue 60 folks in ’93,
When Tampa Bay battled the Storm of the Century.
Name it:
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____

Stop 9
This reptile is rather aggressive.
It held a world record that was quite impressive.
It took off from Australia with a seasoned crew,
Headed to DC with a kangaroo.
But the weather o’er the Pacific was a lot to take.
They had to detour to Ohio to be sure they could make it.
A 55-hour, 11,000-mile journey,
All to deliver a marsupial named Joey.
Name it:
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____

Stop 10
Used by the Air Force, Navy, and Marines,
This plane is a record setting machine.
It held 12 world records for climb rate and speed:
41,000 feet per minute and Mach 2.23.
Built as an interceptor, not for air-to-air combat,
But its innovative pilots were able to adapt.
This Big Ugly machine proved quite the thriller,
And the one on display is a MiG Killer.
Name it:
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____

Have you discovered the keys to history?
Unscramble your RECTANGLED blanks.

The first 8 letters name a mighty ship
But to see it now, you’ll have to take a dip.
Its stern plate is hanging on the wall.
Alongside one from the Forrestal.

Stops 9 and 10 solve the mystery,
This is the ship’s hull number that comes after CV.
CV: ____ ___

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