Brigadier General Victor H. Strahm was an American hero, an “ace” among World War I fighter pilots with five aerial victories and helped usher in the modern era of aviation.

In 1915, Strahm graduated from Western Kentucky State Normal School where his father, Franz Joseph Strahm, was Director of Music. When World War I began, Strahm enlisted in the U.S. Army Flight Training Program and earned his wings in October 1917.

During 10 months in France, Strahm, who was attached to the 91st Aero Observation Squadron, was credited with five victories and three probable victories. He was awarded the U.S. Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, U.S. Silver Star, French Croix de Guerre with Gold and Silver Palms, British Distinguished Flying Cross and Italian Gold Medal for Valor.

After the war, he flew as a stunt pilot in several war movies, participated in National Air Races and was chief test pilot at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio.

At the beginning of World War II, Strahm was a Chief Planner for the U.S. Ninth Air Force and was promoted to Brigadier General in 1942. Strahm was one of the principal planners in preparations for the air support for the D-Day landings at Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Strahm received the U.S. Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Polish Legion of Honor Commendation, Companion of the British Empire, French Legion of Honor, World War II Victory Medal Commendation, European-African-Middle East Theatre Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon and Asian-Pacific Theatre Ribbon with two stars.

Following WWII, Strahm helped organize the Strategic Air Command and served as commander of the 33rd Air Division at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City and as base commander at Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, La. He died on May 11, 1957.