

VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT F. DUNN '51, USN (RET.)

Born in Chicago, Vice Admiral Robert F. Dunn '51, USN (Ret.), continued his high school rowing career by lettering in crew at the Naval Academy, where he also served as an associate editor for the *Lucky Bag*.

Immediately after graduation he joined NICHOLAS in the Sea of Japan during the Korean War. After flight training, Admiral Dunn served in a number of aviation units flying the AD Skyraider, the A-4 Skyhawk, the F-4 Phantom and several other aircraft. His 9,000 hours of flying time include 255 combat missions during the Vietnam War and 934 carrier landings, the last made in a single-place F/A-18 on his 60th birthday. Along the way, he earned two Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, four Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Medal with four gold stars and 28 bronze stars and four

Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V" and seven stars.

After Vietnam, Admiral Dunn commanded an air wing in the Mediterranean, served as the Sixth Fleet operations officer, then commanded MOUNT WHITNEY and SARATOGA. While he was in SARATOGA the ship won a number of unprecedented awards. As a flag officer he commanded the Naval Safety Center and a carrier group and was Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command, Chief of Naval Reserve and Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, ending his 38-year career as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare.

Along with sea duty and flying, Admiral Dunn also earned a master's degree at the Naval Postgraduate School and worked in the Polaris missile program. Toward the end of his career he received the Gray Eagle Award, recognizing him as the senior naval aviator on active duty.

"His career both in the Navy and in 'retirement' where he has continued to devote his time, talent and intellect to important national security issues should be a positive role model for midshipmen for years to come."

—Rear Admiral Robert H. Wertheim '46, USN (Ret.)
2005 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient



He was also the last member of the Class of 1951 to retire.

In retirement, he has served as an aerospace consultant, media commentator, author, deputy chairman of the NASA Aerospace Advisory Panel and Smithsonian Air and Space Museum Ramsey Fellow. He was also a member of several Federal Aviation Administration advisory boards, chairman of a GSA Blue Ribbon Panel examining safety in non-Department of Defense government flight operations and president of the Association of Naval Aviation and the Naval Historical Foundation (NHF). During his tenure as president, the NHF raised funds and arranged for the construction of a Cold War Gallery at the National Museum of the United States Navy in the Washington Navy Yard.

Admiral Dunn has been and continues to be an active Alumni Association volunteer as a past class president and chairman of the *Alumni Association Plan*

2020 Committee. He has lent his expertise and leadership to a wide variety of Naval Academy endeavors including the development of the class arches at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium and, along with the rest of his class, the development of collections at the Naval Academy Museum. His efforts were key to the establishment of the annual Captain Edward L. Beach Jr. Award to the graduating midshipman who contributes most to naval history. In addition, the Vice Admiral Dunn Naval History Award is presented each year to the winner of a nationwide NROTC naval history essay contest.

Admiral Dunn also demonstrates personal generosity toward the Naval Academy Foundation and Naval Academy Athletic Association and is a long-time President's Circle donor.

He and his wife, Claire, reside in Alexandria, VA.