

Class of 1935

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Eugene B. Fluckey was born in Washington, D.C., near the heart of his country's seat of government. From an early age he was determined to serve his country, and entered the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1935.

At the U.S. Naval Academy he excelled in athletics—he always seemed to have several athletic uniforms in his closet. The *Lucky Bag* recalled that Gene, as he was known, was an excellent roommate because he could always be depended on to supply good books and great conversation.

After graduation, Ensign Fluckey served in both surface ships and submarines, and qualified for submarine command as World War Two loomed. During the early part of the war he served in the *USS Bonita*. After additional training at Annapolis and New London, Connecticut, he returned to the Pacific and took command of the *USS Barb*. What followed was a legendary performance as he completed five incredible war patrols. Under his command, the *Barb* sank more tonnage than any other U.S. submarine in World War II.

In January 1945, in Namquan Harbor on the coast of China, Commander Fluckey and his crew launched a daring and devastating attack on more than 30 enemy ships, earning him the Congressional Medal of Honor. For his patrols in *Barb*, Admiral Fluckey was also awarded four Navy Crosses, a feat unequaled by any living American.

Later, Admiral Fluckey returned to his hometown, working directly with the Secretary of the Navy, and then serving as personal aide to Chief of Naval Operations Chester Nimitz. He returned to submarines, commanding Submarine Division 52, submarine tender *USS Sperry*, and Submarine Squadron 5, among other assignments.

In 1956 Gene was assigned as head of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy. During that tour he also spearheaded the campaign to raise 2.2 million dollars to build the Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium—a highly successful campaign, which realized its goal before construction began.

Promoted to Rear Admiral in 1960, Gene took command of Amphibious Group 4. He later commanded the South Atlantic Amity Force, the Shipyard appraisal group, and Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Back in Washington he served as President of the Board of Inspections and Survey and as Assistant Chief of Naval Operations/Director of Naval Intelligence. Admiral Fluckey then served in Lisbon as the NATO Commander of the Iberian Atlantic Group, from which he retired in 1972.

Reflecting back on his distinguished career, Gene says his most significant accomplishment was that no one under his command ever received a purple heart. In retirement, Gene remains actively involved with his alma mater, and sponsors the Barb Trophy, presented each year to the winner of the varsity squash tournament.

Gene and Margaret live in Annapolis and enjoy spending time with their