

John J. McMullen

Dr. John J. McMullen

Distinguished Graduates Award—2000



Class of 1940

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With his country on the brink of war, John J. McMullen entered the Naval Academy's Class of 1940. In his four years at the Academy, John excelled in football, lacrosse, wrestling and swimming. His *Lucky Bag* prophecy correctly predicted John would be a winner in any undertaking, because of his ideals and courage.

John served in both the Atlantic and the Pacific during World War Two, with assignments aboard the carrier *USS Yorktown* and later, the destroyer *USS Stack*.

In 1942, the young ensign received two commendations for heroic performance—first for saving the life of a downed fighter pilot—and later for saving his ship after a collision.

Following the war John continued his education, earning a Master's in naval construction and engineering from MIT and a Doctorate from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, learning a new culture and writing his dissertation in German.

Back in civilian life, John returned to his native New Jersey to take over his father's ship repair business, and later, he formed his own marine engineering firm, John J. McMullen Associates, building it into a major naval architectural firm.

John's lifelong love of sports led him to ownership positions in professional baseball and hockey. In 1982, he engineered a deal to acquire and move the Colorado Rockies of the National Hockey League to his home state, where they became the New Jersey Devils. He and his team scored the ultimate triumph in 1995, and again five years later, winning the Stanley Cup.

John served as a Presidential Appointee to the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors from 1970-72 and currently serves as a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation's Board of Directors.

John enjoys keeping up with friends, old and new, and spending time with his family—wife Jacqueline, their three children and their families.

But one thing hasn't changed since his Academy days—John J. McMullen continues to look ahead, to whatever challenge and adventure tomorrow might bring.