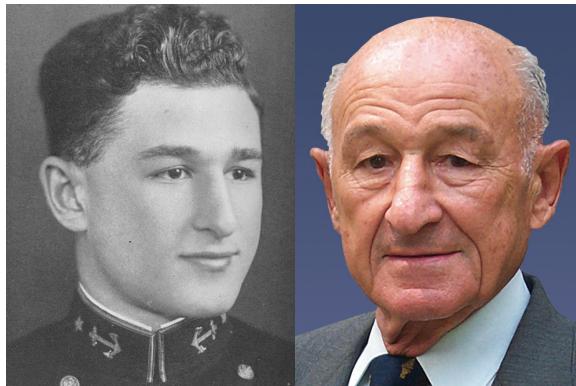


REAR ADMIRAL MAURICE H. RINDSKOPF, USN (RET.)

Distinguished Graduate Award—2007



Class of 1938

Maurice Herbert Rindskopf was born in Brooklyn, New York, as America entered World War I. As he entered the U.S. Naval Academy with the incoming Class of 1938, Europe again faced war. He excelled in academics as well as sports, playing on the National Championship Lacrosse team of 1938. The *Lucky Bag* noted that “Mike” had never played lacrosse before arriving at Annapolis, and his mastery of the sport “shows his will to succeed and his wish to tackle something new.”

After graduation, Rear Admiral Rindskopf served in the surface fleet aboard USS Colorado (BB 45), but had his sights set on becoming a submariner. He graduated Submarine School in the top five percent of his class. He went to the commissioning team of USS Drum (SS 228), serving in numerous capacities to include torpedo and gunnery officer, executive officer and navigator. He participated in every one of more than 1,000 dives the submarine conducted. After nine war patrols, he became the fourth commanding officer of USS Drum at the age of 26—the youngest in his class to command a fleet submarine—and

completed two more war patrols. Involved in firing 125 torpedoes which sank 15 ships and damaged 11 more, USS Drum was eighth in ship tonnage destroyed. On one occasion, after receiving word of the nearby presence of a Japanese ship, the young commander donned a yellow aloha shirt as the Drum pursued, attacked and sank the enemy vessel. Aloha shirts became a tradition for the crew to wear when the submarine was on the hunt, as he instilled in his shipmates a contagious and exemplary will to win. Admiral Rindskopf considers his time aboard USS Drum as the most meaningful tour of his career. His bravery and skill earned him the Navy Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star and other wartime decorations.

Following the war, he assisted in the development of modern submarine fire control and tactics. This progress made the submarine the premier antisubmarine warfare platform throughout the Cold War. He commanded two submarine flotillas and pioneered the concept of hydrofoil craft as he directed Harbor Defense for the Navy. Admiral Rindskopf brought operational submarine experience to the field of intelligence, serving as director of Naval Intelligence and assistant chief of staff for Intelligence for Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, earning the Legion of Merit for his performance. In his last tour, he established the Office of the Deep Submergence Program, which sponsored all deep diving submersibles and enhanced the Navy's knowledge of the oceans.

Active in business and national security issues during his retirement, Admiral Rindskopf was a founding member of the national Naval Submarine League. Living in Annapolis, not far from the Yard, he has been a tireless supporter of his alma mater and has served as President of the Class of 1938 for 14 years. He is an active leader of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, serving as a Trustee, and helping to establish the Council of Class Presidents. In 1984, Admiral Rindskopf, along with his classmates, endowed a Leadership Forum which continues today with his participation, benefiting not only the Brigade of Midshipmen, but seven military colleges and 17 universities.

Admiral Rindskopf is married to the former Sylvia Lubow of New London, Connecticut. In April 2007, they will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary. They have one grandchild and two great-grandchildren. Admiral Rindskopf is a man of enormous talent, energy and determination whose prowess beneath the sea and contributions above it has helped to preserve this country's freedom.