

REASON

ADMIRAL JOSEPH PAUL REASON '65, USN (RET.)

Paul came to the Naval Academy from nearby Washington, DC, the son of a Howard University professor and high school science teacher, after spending his freshman year at Swarthmore, sophomore at Lincoln and junior at Howard University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science and married his wife, Dianne Fowler, in the Chapel three days after. He set his sights on the nuclear propulsion program for surface ships. Even after his initial contentious meeting with Vice Admiral Rickover '22 in 1964, the next day, he found his name ranked third on the list of those accepted. Southeast Asia was his first deployment onboard the newly commissioned TRUXTUN (DLGN 35). After earning a Master of Science in 1970 at the Naval Postgraduate School, he returned to the region

again in 1971 on ENTERPRISE. In 1976, he was assigned to the White House as the naval aide to the President, having been selected by Jimmy Carter '47. The sea called him back in 1979, serving as executive officer of MISSISSIPPI (CGN 40), commanding officer of COONTZ (DDG 40) then commanding officer of the nuclear powered guided missile cruiser BAINBRIDGE. From 1986-88 as a brand new rear admiral and first flag officer in his class, Reason was commander of Naval Base Seattle, responsible for all naval activities in Washington, Oregon and Alaska, then commanded Cruiser-Destroyer Group One, while concurrently leading Battle Group Romeo to and from the Persian Gulf. In 1991, he received his third star and assumed command of the Naval Surface Force of the U.S.

Atlantic Fleet. After a tour as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy and Operations, he became the first African-American 4-star admiral in 1996, and assumed command of the Atlantic Fleet, about half of the Navy.

After his retirement in 1999, Reason served as president, then vice-chairman of Metro Machine Corp. for six years. Formerly he served as a director of Wal-Mart and chaired the board at the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation. Currently he is a director at Amgen, Norfolk Southern and Todd Shipyards. In addition, he chairs the Oak Ridge Associated Universities Foundation and serves on the Naval Studies Board of the National Academy of Sciences.



**“It is a signal honor to be
chosen a Distinguished
Graduate of the Academy.”**