

DUNN

MR. DAVID J. DUNN '55

David Dunn and his brother were raised by their mother in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, beginning his storied career as a \$1-a-day paperboy. Before he entered the Academy, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1947 and worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Three years later he was called to active duty during the Korean War. He entered the Naval Academy via the Naval Academy Prep School in 1951, had H. Ross Perot '53 as his battalion commander and graduated in 1955 as a Marine Second Lieutenant with a degree in engineering. When his tour of duty ended in 1959, he attended Harvard Business School earning his Master of Business Administration with “high distinction” in 1961. He received an “Alumni Achievement” award from Harvard Business School in 1998.

Dunn began his business career with the prominent venture capital firm J.H. Whitney & Company in the 1960s, and after eight years decided to strike out on his own with the help of the famed Bass Brothers of Texas. His first investment was seven Honeywell engineers with a design for a mini-computer. They launched Prime Computer in 1972. His new firm, Idanta Partners, was on the map. Another standout among the investments Idanta made was the seed capital for Iomega in 1980, producers of the famous Zip drive.

He still manages Idanta's investments from an office near his home in San Diego, CA. However, Dunn is most known these days for his educational support of underprivileged children from low-income New York City homes. He believes he was offered incredible help with his education and

wants to do the same for others. He pays the tuition of 150 inner-city students each year to attend private high schools in New York City through Student Sponsor Partners. He also has financed a permanent fund that supports four underprivileged undergraduate students at Harvard University each year.

He has been very generous at the Academy as well, starting with recommending the formation of our Foundation to then-Superintendent Admiral Charles Larson '58, USN (Ret.). Dunn also suggested and funded the position of Minority Affairs Counselor for Admissions, established the Class of 1955 Endowed Faculty Chair in Middle East Studies and the Class of 1955 Honor Scholarship.



“Being designated a Distinguished Graduate is the highest honor of my life.”