

# Class of 1949

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With World War II fought and won, California native James Watkins entered the U.S. Naval Academy's Class of 1949, part of a new generation of leaders that would fight and win the Cold War.

At the Academy, Jim mixed success on the crew team and in the classroom with ease, and was known for his ability to see humor in any situation. The *Lucky Bag* predicted the future would find Jim with "a pair of wings and a permanent home in Pasadena."

But after leaving Annapolis, Jim served aboard destroyers, cruisers and submarines. Along the way he earned a master's in mechanical engineering, and completed a reactor-engineering course at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

His broad knowledge of naval operations propelled Jim up the Navy's chain of command. As a flag officer, he served as Chief of Naval Personnel, Commander of the Sixth Fleet, Vice Chief of Naval Operations and Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet. In 1982, President Reagan tapped Jim to become Chief of Naval Operations.

After retiring from active duty in 1986, Jim was selected by President Reagan to chair the Presidential Commission on AIDS in 1987. In 1989, he joined President Bush's cabinet, serving four years as Secretary of Energy.

Since leaving the government, Jim served as president of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions until 2000. He also founded and served as president of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research until 2001.

Earlier this year, President George W. Bush appointed Jim to the Presidential Commission on Ocean Policy.

Among his proudest accomplishments—improving pay for sailors and his role in forming America's Strategic Defense policy.

He recently attended the commissioning of grandson George at Duke University, marking the third generation of Watkins men to embark on a navy career. He enjoys spending time with his wife Janet and their combined family, including ten children and ten grandchildren.

Jim Watkins' love of the sea led him to the Navy. And his talent, energy and dedication have served both the Navy and the world's oceans.