

Class of 1943

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When James F. Calvert entered the Naval Academy as a member of the Class of 1943, clouds of war were already gathering on the horizon. Graduating in three years, in June 1942, Jim headed for submarine school in New London – then on to the Pacific.

Over the next two years, Jim engaged in nine war patrols, in *USS Jack* and *USS Haddo*, earning numerous decorations. He and his crewmates in *Haddo* were in Tokyo Bay in September 1945 for Japan's surrender, ending World War II. As World War II gave way to the Cold War, Jim commanded *USS Trigger*, was selected as nuclear submarine pre-commissioning officer by Admiral Hyman Rickover and commanded *USS Skate*, from 1957 to 1961. During that time, he crossed the North Pole under the Arctic Ice. A year later, he surfaced through the ice at the North Pole, becoming the first commander to do so.

After negotiating a military agreement with Great Britain and commanding Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla 8, Jim was appointed Superintendent of the Naval Academy in 1968 – the youngest in Academy history. As Superintendent, Jim developed and installed the Majors system, which replaced the lockstep curriculum that had been in place since the Academy's founding. This program is still in place today and was followed within a few years by both West Point and Colorado Springs. He also established the James Forrestal lecture series, installed the present practice of having a civilian director of athletics, and recruited Dr. Barry Talley, who has moved the Academy's glee clubs to national ranking. He initiated and completed the fundraising programs for the Dahlgren Hall hockey rink and student center and for the construction of the Robert Crown Center for sailing.

After four years as Superintendent, Jim began his last active duty tour, taking command of the U.S. First Fleet in the Pacific.

As a civilian, Jim's hard work and determination, which served him so well throughout his Navy career, was highly prized by the private sector. He served as assistant to the Chairman of Texaco and later as Chairman of Aqua-Chem.

An active supporter of his alma mater, Jim served as Chairman of the Fales Committee at the Academy from 1994 to 1998, and continues to serve as a member of the Academy's Sailing Foundation.

Vice Admiral Calvert – a daring commander whose resolute determination advanced his nation's cause in time of both war and peace.