

Class of 1935

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When he was at the Naval Academy, Captain Slade D. Cutter was well-known as a boxer and football player. With boxing abilities that were often compared to the great Joe Louis, Cutter was heavily recruited to pursue a professional boxing career but opted instead to stay in the Navy. However, it was his kick in the 1934 Army-Navy football game that made him a legend. With the game tied 0-0, Cutter kicked the winning field goal, giving Navy its first win over rival Army in 13 years.

After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1935, Cutter went on to serve in the battleship, *Idaho*, where in addition to his division and watch-standing duties, he captained the ship's football team. Serving aboard *Idaho* piqued Cutter's interest in submarines and he decided to apply for submarine training. World War II was just beginning and Cutter would go on to serve on wartime patrols on three different submarines from nearly the first day of the war until its end. He served as executive officer of *Pompano* and later as executive officer and then commanding officer of *Sea Horse*. While in command of *Sea Horse*, Cutter was known for his aggressive pursuit of the enemy and standing in close to deliver torpedoes on enemy shipping and naval forces. Under Cutter's command, *Sea Horse* was credited with sinking 23 Japanese ships. For his patrols on *Sea Horse*, Cutter was awarded four Navy Crosses. At the end of World War II, Cutter took command of *Requin* and was on that submarine when the war ended.

After the war, Cutter commanded Submarine Division 32 and Submarine Squadron Six. In 1956, he returned to the Naval Academy to serve as athletic director and was instrumental in the construction of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. In 1962, Cutter was elected as a charter member of the National College Football Hall of Fame.

After a succession of excellent billets including command of the oiler *Neosho* and the cruiser *Northampton*, his sixth command at sea, he served in key Washington assignments and was commanding officer of the Naval Training Center at Great Lakes. He retired from active duty in 1965. Cutter and his wife, Ruth, reside in Annapolis.

To this day, Cutter declares his command of *Sea Horse* to be his proudest accomplishment, praising his crew as brave and talented men who got the job done.