

Class of 1946

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Rear Admiral Robert H. Wertheim was born and raised in Carlsbad, New Mexico, and graduated from New Mexico Military Institute. During his time at the Naval Academy, he was a leader on the varsity fencing team, which went 10-0 his First Class Year, including a win over Army.

After graduating in 1946, Wertheim served tours in destroyers in both the Pacific and Atlantic fleet and graduated at the top of his class from Electronic Materials School. He then reported to Sandia Base to work on the military applications of atomic energy and served on the Navy's first nuclear bomb assembly team.

With a degree in nuclear physics from M.I.T., Wertheim joined the new Special Projects Office and its Fleet Ballistic Missile Program. He was charged with leading the team of government and industry laboratories and contractors that undertook the design, development and production of a new nuclear re-entry system. He is credited with playing a central role in the conception, development, production and operational support of the nation's most secure and effective deterrent to nuclear war – the submarine-launched fleet ballistic missile systems, *Polaris*, *Poseidon* and *Trident*.

In 1965, Wertheim returned to the Navy Strategic Systems Project Office as technical director and director for the next 15 years. There, he guided development of naval weapons systems that enhanced national security, including the Trident I. After retirement in 1980, he served as senior vice president for science and engineering at the Lockheed Corporation and for the past 17 years has been a consultant to Science Applications International Corporation. He has served on various boards, including Chairman of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Advisory Board.

Wertheim is also an enthusiastic and generous supporter of the Naval Academy. He is a charter member of the Robert Means Thompson Society, a life member of the President's Circle and a strong supporter and contributor to the Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel at the Naval Academy. Wertheim resides in San Diego and enjoys spending time with his two children and his grandson Benjamin.