Thomas H. Moorer
Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, USN (Ret.)
Class of 1933
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Distinguished Graduates Award—1999

Thomas H. Moorer entered the Naval Academy in the turbulent year of 1929. While at the Academy he excelled in sports, playing football for three years. His fellow midshipmen observed that Tom was a determined lineman who "always made the going tough for the opposition," a trait that would serve him well in the future. Noting that determination, his *Lucky Bag* prophecy said, "Tom will surely be a credit to his profession."

After graduation, Tom was assigned to fighter squadrons based on the carriers *Lexington*, *Langley* and *Enterprise*. Lieutenant Moorer was serving with a patrol squadron at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked in 1941.

Over the next four years he earned commendations as he flew missions in both the Pacific and Atlantic. Post-war assignments included the Strategic Bombing Survey in Japan, and Project Officer for development of the Sidewinder missile.

Following a rapid series of promotions, Rear Admiral Moorer assumed command of the Seventh Fleet, and, in 1964, became Commander of the Pacific fleet. Taking command of the Atlantic Fleet the next year, Thomas Moorer became the only man to command both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.

As Chief of Naval Operations in 1967, he guided the Navy during the height of the Vietnam War. In 1970, he was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the first naval officer to hold that post since Admiral Arthur W. Radford.

After retiring as JCS Chairman in 1974, Tom has remained active in the affairs of both government and business, serving on numerous corporate boards and taking a leading role in developing the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. He also continues to lend enthusiastic support to his alma mater. Above all his professional accomplishments, Tom considers his family his proudest achievement—his wife Carrie, his four children and their families.

Through wars and crises, Thomas Moorer has provided "tough going" indeed for America's opponents, his steady hand on the helm a source of strength in turbulent times.