

EDNEY

ADMIRAL LEON A. EDNEY '57, USN (RET.)

A son of Massachusetts, Leon “Bud” Edney ventured to Northeastern University for a year before deciding to head to the Naval Academy. He was designated a naval aviator in 1958, flying tours with Air Antisubmarine Squadrons 27 and 24 for his first four years of sea duty.

After earning a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University in 1963, he reported to the Pentagon as special assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Research and Development. In 1965 he returned to flying, assigned to Attack Squadron 164 for two back to back deployments in Vietnam, followed by two years as a flight instructor introducing the A-7 attack aircraft to the fleet. He returned to a desk in 1970 when assigned to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Western Hemisphere Plans Officer. In 1970-71, he was selected as a White House Fellow, serving as special assistant to the Secretary of Transportation.

He headed back to the fleet in 1971 as executive officer of Attack Squadron 27 and assumed command the following year. He commanded Carrier Airwing Two attached to RANGER (CVA 61) from 1974-75, followed by tours as commanding officer of PONCHATOULA (AO 148) in 1976 and Chief of Staff Cruiser Destroyer Group Five in 1977. Edney assumed Command of USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) 1980-81.

Edney returned to Annapolis as Commandant of Midshipmen in 1981 where he was promoted to the rank of Commodore. In 1984, he was commander of Carrier Strike Group One. From 1986-90 Edney returned to the Pentagon as director of Aviation Programs, director of Program Appraisals, chief of Naval Personnel and vice chief of Naval Operations. His final active duty tour was as commander of U.S. Atlantic Command and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic.

Following retirement in 1992, he worked for the Loral Corporation, became the first Distinguished Chair of Leadership at the Naval Academy and served on multiple corporate and non-profit boards. He is currently a Capstone Senior Fellow for the National Defense University.

Admiral Edney completed more than 350 combat missions, 1,000 carrier landings and 5,600 flight hours. He has been awarded the Defense and Navy Distinguished Service medals, Legion of Merit with two gold stars, Distinguished Flying Cross with four gold stars, Bronze Star, the Individual Air Medal with silver star, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with gold star and other unit citations.



“Being nominated and selected to be a Distinguished Graduate of the Academy is a humbling and great honor.”