

Class of 1947

Class of 1947

Oklahoma native William Crowe entered the Naval Academy Class of 1947 with a strong interest in international politics. The *Lucky Bag* described Bill as “smooth in his ability to convince everyone he was right,” helping him earn debating and oratory honors. After a stint on the White House Staff, Bill earned advanced degrees from Stanford and Princeton.

In the submarine service, he took command of the *USS Trout*. In the 1960s, Bill went to Vietnam as a senior advisor to the South Vietnamese Navy.

Back home in 1971, Rear Admiral Crowe held a series of strategic posts and military commands culminating in his selection in 1985 by President Reagan to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

There was almost no job Bill didn’t hold—including, actor—as he made a cameo appearance on the hit TV series “*Cheers*.”

In 1989, following 47 years of service to his country, Admiral Crowe retired from active duty, but his days of service were far from over.

In 1993, he was appointed Chairman of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. A year later, he was appointed as the United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James, the United Kingdom.

Looking back, he considers the development of a trusting friendship with his Soviet counterpart, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, one of his proudest accomplishments.

Today, Bill shares his knowledge and years of insight with future naval officers, holding an endowed Chair at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Bill and his wife Shirley live in Alexandria, Virginia, and spend as much time as possible with their three children and their families.

Admiral William Crowe—a wise leader and role model—is passing on his wisdom to the next generation.