

Class of 1942

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John W. Crawford, Jr., entered the Naval Academy Class of 1942 as the world stood on the brink of war. Jack, as he was known to friends at the Academy, was a dedicated student, graduating fourth in his class.

As a midshipman, Jack excelled in lacrosse, but, as a New Hampshire native, his passion was skiing. The *Lucky Bag* called Jack “a clear thinker” who was able to concentrate on the job at hand, and possessing an inherent thoroughness that instills confidence in his associates.

Twelve days after Pearl Harbor, Jack left the Academy and went to war, beginning his 22-year active duty career. As a line officer aboard the *USS Yorktown*, he took part in the Battle of Midway and saw other action throughout the Pacific theater.

Following the war, Jack continued his education at MIT, earning a master's in naval construction and engineering, while also serving as an Engineering Duty Officer at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. In 1949, Jack joined the staff of Admiral Hyman Rickover, playing a key role in development of the Navy's nuclear program.

Captain John Crawford retired from active duty in 1963 to become manager of manufacturing for Murray Manufacturing. But it wasn't long before his country again asked for his expertise. Joining the Atomic Energy Commission in 1965, he served as assistant director for all non-naval reactor work. He held senior positions at the Department of Energy, including Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy. At a time when Nuclear Energy came under intense public scrutiny, Jack worked effectively to protect and strengthen the Navy's atomic program.

In both his military and civilian careers, Jack always emphasized a disciplined engineering approach that enhanced both the military and civilian nuclear programs.

His support of the Naval Academy is wide-ranging. He served as a Blue and Gold officer and arranged an area lacrosse clinic involving Navy coaches and players.

Jack lives in Maryland with his wife Betty and enjoys spending time with his four adult children, Elizabeth, Mary, Carol and Jack.

John W. Crawford, Jr., came of age with nuclear power and has left his mark, helping to create a stronger Navy and a stronger nation.