

Class of 1934

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Victor H. Krulak arrived at the U.S. Naval Academy in the summer of 1930, at the tender age of 16. Tipping the scales at 121 pounds, Victor quickly acquired the name “Brute,” from his fellow midshipmen...a name that would stick for the rest of his long career. At the Academy, he earned three varsity letters for crew, serving as captain of the crew team his first class year.

Three years after graduation, First Lieutenant Krulak befriended a Japanese officer, who allowed him to witness the Japanese invasion at Liuho where he observed a new amphibious boat – with a square bow ramp that could be dropped on the shore allowing men and vehicles to disembark. Later, he worked with New Orleans boat maker Andrew Higgins to fit an existing boat with a ramped bow and create the first LCPV.

LCVPs had already proved to be vital in a number of World War II battles when Lieutenant Colonel Krulak led 900 Marines in a raid against 5,000 at Choiseul, diverting attention from the main landing force at Bougainville. Though seriously wounded, he continued to lead the operation. Other battles, other wounds, other examples of courage and leadership followed, along with numerous decorations.

Rapid promotion also followed. By the 1960s, with America fighting in Vietnam, Lieutenant General Krulak served as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. His courage on the battlefield was matched by his intellectual prowess. He is the father of vertical envelopment and the Combined Action Company Concept for the U.S. Marines.

His book, *“First to Fight: An Inside View of the U. S. Marine Corps,”* is still widely read around the world. As a civilian, he served as President and Editorial Policy Director of Copley World News Service for 11 years.

Through the years, he has remained committed to his classmates and his alma mater, serving as Chairman of the Academy’s Board of Visitors for four years.

Lieutenant General Victor Krulak – an innovative mind and a warrior’s spirit – has dedicated a lifetime to the service of his country.