UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

THRIVING AS LEADERS AWARD

Recognizing and celebrating the achievements and service of those Association members who are 'Thriving as Leaders' in and out of uniform across the wide spectrum of human endeavor.

2026 RECIPIENTS

ALUMNI OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT (PROFESSIONAL)



WILLIAM "BILL" PEACOCK '81

Bill Peacock is Executive Vice President and Chief of Operations at Cleveland Clinic, where he oversees the facilities, systems and support services that enable patient care, research and education across the enterprise. A retired Navy Civil Engineer Corps captain, he brought decades of operational, engineering and command experience to Cleveland Clinic and has played a central role in the organization's continuing transformation and expansion. His leadership exemplifies the successful application of Naval Academy preparation and naval service to one of the nation's most consequential health care organizations.



ADM LUIS POLAR '87

ADM Luis Polar served as Commander General of the Peruvian Navy from 2023 through 2025, becoming one of the very few international graduates of the Naval Academy to rise to command his nation's navy. During his tenure, he advanced major operational, shipbuilding, infrastructure, medical and international-engagement initiatives while leading approximately 31,500 officers and enlisted personnel. In 2026, he was selected as one of the U.S. Naval War College's Distinguished International Fellows, continuing his work to strengthen maritime partnerships and regional security cooperation.



HALEY CARTER '06

Haley Carter is President of Soccer Operations for the Washington Spirit and one of the most accomplished executives in professional women's soccer. Carter distinguished herself through her advocacy for members of the Afghanistan women's national team while serving as the team's assistant coach. Serving as Vice President of Soccer Operations and Sporting Director for the Orlando Pride, she helped build the organization that captured both the 2024 National Women's Soccer League Shield and the 2024 NWSL Championship. Carter is a former professional goalkeeper, Marine Corps officer, coach and attorney.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE



STEPHEN "STEVE" COMISKEY '69

Steve Comiskey has provided sustained volunteer leadership to the Class of 1969 and to the broader Naval Academy alumni community for more than five decades. As a longtime class president and chair of the USNA Council of Class Presidents, he has helped lead initiatives supporting the Naval Academy, midshipmen, superintendents, and successive generations of alumni – including the Alumni Mentoring Program, the Michelson Lecture, USS Constitution Gavels and Sounding Boards, and numerous other enduring Class of 1969 gifts and sponsorships. His leadership has strengthened midshipmen programs, alumni engagement, mentorship and the bonds connecting graduates to one another and to the Academy.



DENNIS OTOSHI '78

Retiring from military service, Dennis Otoshi completed a nursing degree and volunteered with the American Red Cross. In March 2022, he begged to get on a supply train into Ukraine while much of the population was fleeing the war. He has served 3 1/2 years with the Ukrainian Red Cross, without pay, around Kyiv and frontline areas. In the carnage and rubble, he rescues and treats casualties, transporting those requiring further care. Comforting and counseling the injured has been another critical skill. Returning to the states for jury duty and visiting family, he also helped the recovery effort after Maui's wildfires. His dedicated service exemplifies great courage, compassion, and the Naval Academy ethos of service above self.



LINDA "POSTIE" POSTENRIEDER '82

Linda Postenrieder has devoted decades of volunteer leadership to strengthening connections among Naval Academy alumnae and the wider alumni community. As president of USNA Women, she has helped expand community, mentorship, recognition and professional-development opportunities while leading efforts commemorating 50 years of women at the Naval Academy. Her service builds on earlier leadership as a Blue and Gold Officer, chapter officer and president, and member of the USNA Alumni Association Board of Trustees.



BILL ELLIOTT P'00

Following the death of their son, ENS John R. Elliott '00, Bill and Muriel Elliott established the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers to prevent other families from experiencing a similar tragedy. Their advocacy contributed to enactment of John's Law and helped the HERO Campaign grow into a multistate movement involving law-enforcement agencies, schools, colleges, hospitality businesses, professional sports organizations and community partners. The Elliotts and the Campaign have also supported the Naval Academy's Character Capstone Seminars, helping prepare generations of midshipmen for the ethical responsibilities of commissioned service.

ALUMNI OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT (PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE)



WILLARD "BILLY" HURLEY III '04

Billy Hurley III captured the 2016 Quicken Loans National at Congressional Country Club, becoming the first service academy graduate to win a PGA TOUR event. Before beginning his professional golf career, he completed five years of active naval service, including duty at sea, and had represented the United States in both the Palmer Cup and Walker Cup. He has continued serving military families through the Billy Hurley III Foundation while remaining closely connected to Navy golf and the Naval Academy community.

ALUMNI OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT (AMATEUR ATHLETE)



ALEC CUTLER '88

Alec Cutler skippered Hedgehog to consecutive J/70 Corinthian World Championships in 2025 and 2026. Sailing with fellow Naval Academy alumni Charles Pucciariello '89, Keith Davids '90 and Brad Rodi '93 during the 2026 championship in Marseille, the team prevailed against an 88-boat international field and won by a 10-point margin. Their achievement reflects elite amateur competition, enduring teamwork and friendships forged through Navy sailing.