

# Class of 1958

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Charles R. Larson grew up in Nebraska, the Nation's heartland, 1,000 miles from the nearest ocean; but he was drawn east to Annapolis and the U.S. Naval Academy. As a member of the Class of 1958, his outstanding leadership traits, character and academic performance marked him early for command.

The *Lucky Bag* noted that "Chuck should be a welcome addition to the service of his choice." Among Larson's close classmates, John McCain remembers that, "Chuck was a 'squared away' Brigade Commander and Class President who received his diploma and personal congratulations from the graduation speaker President Dwight Eisenhower, while I graduated some distance behind." Despite their differences, their friendship endured.

After graduation, Larson served from the air to the depths of the sea. As an aviator, he flew missions from the carrier *USS Shangri-la* before completing nuclear power training. He served in two fleet ballistic submarines, the *USS Nathan Hale* and *USS Nathaniel Green*, before reporting as Executive Officer of the nuclear powered attack submarine *USS Bergal*. Following time at sea, he was sent to Washington where he became the first naval officer White House fellow. He also served as Naval Aide to the President of the United States for three years before returning to sea duty. As the Navigator and Executive Officer of the *USS Scalpin*, Larson was awarded a Bronze Star – the only nuclear submariner to receive such a medal in the Vietnam War.

His talent and leadership ability propelled him up the chain of command. Promoted to Rear Admiral in March 1979, Larson served in nine Flag Officer assignments, including, from 1983 to 1986, the 51<sup>st</sup> Superintendent of his *alma mater*, the U.S. Naval Academy. During this tour, he promoted efforts to build Alumni Hall and was instrumental in obtaining the necessary funds for that vision to become a reality.

Upon promotion to Vice Admiral in 1986, he served as Commander, Second Fleet, Commander, Striking Fleet Atlantic and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy and Operations. Promoted to four star rank in 1990, he became Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command.

Admiral Larson was returned to active duty in 1994 for his second tour as Superintendent of the Naval Academy. In four years, he guided the Academy's academic accreditation, established a four-year, fully integrated character education program and aided future development with the establishment of the Naval Academy Foundation, which he now ably serves as its second Chairman.

In a career marked by the highest accomplishment, Chuck is most proud of that second tour as "Supe" as he was able to assist the Academy at a critical juncture, and guide it to the next level. Admiral Larson was awarded a record seven Navy Distinguished Service Medals during his active duty career, and his accomplishments continue in both the government and private sectors. Chuck and Sally have a full family life, spending as much time as possible with their three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Admiral Chuck Larson's boundless talent and leadership ability has ably served to benefit his *alma mater*, his Navy and his Nation.