

VADM George W. Emery USN (Ret.) '63  
(by Dick Nelson '64)

Today's Exemplary Graduate has been an over-achiever throughout his impressive career. For those who wonder what can be done with a U.S. Naval Academy education, this life story is an excellent example. This graduate was not only one of the Navy's top submariners of his era, but a subject matter expert on submarine warfare; a recognized scholar; an important naval historian; a corporate executive; and an advisor to top government officials on nuclear power. His contributions to our national security will be his enduring legacy.

Born in Maine, George W. Emery was appointed to the Naval Academy by Senator Margaret Chase Smith and graduated with distinction with the Class of 1963. He attended graduate programs at the University of Delaware and George Washington University, and served on five nuclear submarines, commanding USS Groton (SSN 694) and USS Ohio (SSBN 726) (Gold crew). He surfaced at the North Pole while Engineer Officer aboard USS Hammerhead (SSN 663), and circumnavigated the globe submerged while commanding USS Groton (SSN 694).

Additional assignments included division officer in USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619) (Blue crew); instructor and division director at Naval Nuclear Power School, Bainbridge, Maryland; Naval Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, US Atlantic Fleet; Division of Naval Reactors, Department of Energy, Washington, DC; Executive Officer USS Glenard P. Lipscomb (SSN 685); Chief of Staff to Commander Carrier Group Seven (USS Kitty Hawk and USS Constellation Battle Groups); Deputy Director, Strike and Amphibious Warfare (OP-74); Executive Assistant and Naval Aide to the Undersecretary of the Navy, and subsequently to the Secretary of the Navy.

Following selection to flag rank, Vice Admiral Emery joined the office of the Chief of Naval Personnel first as Director Total Programming and Manpower Division, and subsequently as Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Military Personnel Policy and Career Progression. Prior to his appointment to command US and Allied submarine forces in the Atlantic, Vice Admiral Emery commanded West Coast Pacific Fleet attack submarines and facilities as Commander Submarine Group Five.

Vice Admiral Emery was appointed 24th Commander of the Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet and Commander Submarine Allied Command Atlantic by President Clinton in August 1993.

Admiral Emery's decorations include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (five awards), Meritorious Service Medal (five awards) and several other individual, unit, and service awards.

Retiring from Naval service in July 1996, VADM Emery joined Raytheon Company as Executive Vice President, then President, of Raytheon Technical Services Company. In 2000, Emery and his wife Patricia returned to Maine. The Admiral is the General Chair of the annual Submarine Technology Symposium jointly sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics

Laboratory and the Naval Submarine League, and a member of the Board of Directors of Sauer USA of Stevensville, Maryland and First Support Services Inc. of Dallas, Texas. He is a Trustee of the USS Constitution Museum and a Director of the Naval Submarine League. From 2001 to 2006 Admiral Emery served on, and subsequently chaired, the Senior Advisory Group to the Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory. He was a member of the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History from 1997 to 2006.

Vice Admiral Emery is the author of *Historical Manuscripts in the Navy Department Library*, Washington, DC: Naval Historical Center, 1994, which was subsequently expanded into the *List of Historical Manuscripts in the Navy Department Library*. He is a contributor to several published works related to the history of the US Navy including "America's Naval Heritage: A Catalog of Early Imprints From the Navy Department Library," Washington, DC: Naval Historical Center, 2000; "U.S. Navy: A Complete History," Washington, DC: Naval Historical Foundation, 2003; and "Leadership Embodied: The Secrets to Success of the Most Effective Navy and Marine Corps Leaders," Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Recent projects for the Navy Department Library include two detailed finding aids: "The George Henry Preble Collection" at the Navy Department Library (2006) and "The Rodgers Family Collection" at the Navy Department Library (2007). His latest work, "In Their Own Words: A New Look at the Naval War of 1812," was published by the Naval Historical Foundation in 2013.

VADM Emery is married to the former Patricia Lillian Kershaw of Sanford, Maine. Their son Robert, a former U.S. Army Apache helicopter pilot and squadron commander, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughters Elizabeth Ann and Natalie reside in Ashburn, Virginia.