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## History of the College of the Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit

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# **History of the College of the Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit**

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On Behalf of the  
Holy Cross O'Callahan Society

## **Authors**

Captain Brendan J. O'Donnell, USN (Ret)  
Midshipmen Battalion Commander 1970-71

Lieutenant Colonel Susan Dooley, USMC (Ret)  
Midshipmen Battalion Commander 1981  
Women Veterans Article

Major Jay E. Burzak, USMC (Ret)  
Marine Officer Instructor 1982-85  
Marine Officer Instructor (MOI) Article

## Introduction

The Holy Cross Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Unit reached its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July 2021 and, to commemorate this event, the Holy Cross O'Callahan Society has updated the history of the Unit that was prepared for the Unit's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and revised twice. The O'Callahan Society grew out of the vision of Reverend John E. Brooks, S. J., President of the College of the Holy Cross 1970-94, who invited several graduates of the NROTC Unit to meet in the early 1990s and discuss how NROTC alumni could support the NROTC Unit. From these discussions, the O'Callahan Committee was chartered in 1994 and later evolved to the O'Callahan Society.

The O'Callahan Society is named for Reverend Joseph T. O'Callahan, S. J. who served on the Holy Cross faculty before and after World War II and also served as a Navy Chaplain during the war. He received the Medal of Honor for his actions on USS Franklin (CV-13) in 1945 after the ship was hit by Japanese bombs and was the first Chaplain so honored since the Civil War. Father O'Callahan died in 1964 and is buried on the Holy Cross campus but his example lives on and has inspired thousands of Holy Cross NROTC Midshipmen who have gone on to serve as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

This history begins with an overview of the Unit and includes several appendices that provide data on the Unit's graduates, those killed on active duty, awards for combat heroism; and amplifying information on key transition points in the Unit's history: the Vietnam War crisis in 1970 and 1971, the introduction of women to the Unit, the transition from a Holy Cross-only Unit to one based on the Worcester Consortium for Higher Education, the Peace Dividend years of the 1990s, the role of the Marine Officer Instructor, the value of a liberal arts education, and the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020-2021.

Principal sources for this history follow. Additional sources used in specific sections of the history are listed in the section.

1. Holy Cross NROTC Annual Reports in the Navy Archives at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington D. C. Years covered: 1945-47, 1966-99, 2001-11, and 2014.
2. Unit Books: four 3-inch, 3-ring binders in the NROTC Administrative Office, Carlin Hall, Holy Cross. Half of the material covers 2000 and later.
3. NROTC papers in the Holy Cross Archives in Dinand Library. Four boxes of folders and papers covering admissions processes, President's Reviews, and other topics.
4. "Thy Honored Name – A History of the College of the Holy Cross 1843-1994" by Anthony J. Kuzniewski, S. J., 1999, Catholic University of America Press
5. "Navy Unit Surfaces at Holy Cross During World War II" by Karen Tsiantas, May 6, 1987
6. "Colleges and Universities in World War II" by V. R. Cardozier, 1993, Praeger Publishers, Westport CT
7. "History of AFROTC Detachment 340", Worcester Polytechnic Institute website, <https://www.wpi.edu/academics/departments/air-force-aerospace-studies/about/detachment-history.html>

## Overview of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit

### The First Twenty-Five Years: 1941-66

#### The Dominant Years

In May 1941, with World War II raging in Europe and more than a year and a half old, the Department of the Navy announced that the College of the Holy Cross was to be among eight colleges and universities to be added to the existing 19 Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Units. The NROTC program had been created fifteen years earlier to ensure commissioned Naval Service officers were available to meet unforeseen national emergencies. Crucial roles in establishing an NROTC Unit at Holy Cross were played by David I. Walsh (Class of 1893, U. S. Senator from Massachusetts (1919-25, 1926-47), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs (1935-43, 1945-47), and former Massachusetts Governor (1914-16)) and Representative John W. McCormack from Boston, House Majority Leader 1940-47.

The NROTC unit was established at the College of the Holy Cross on July 14, 1941 with the arrival of Captain C. Julian Wheeler as the Unit's first commanding officer and, on September 27, the first class of 115 NROTC freshmen was enrolled. The NROTC midshipmen represented a quarter of the 402 students in the freshman class and another 101 freshmen had applied for the program but not been accepted. By coincidence, the NROTC offices for Captain Wheeler were placed in the basement of Wheeler Hall and a rifle range was constructed in the basement of Carlin Hall with the armory underneath the chapel.



*Captain J. Wheeler and Staff 1942*

The reaction of the Holy Cross student body to the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and to the American declarations of war on the Axis powers was overwhelming. So many brave young men volunteered to serve in the U. S. Armed Forces that the College closed some residence halls and had serious concerns about its future. Some slight relief was obtained from the Navy V-7 Program (which allowed recent college graduates to continue academic studies as Naval Reservists) and from enlarging the NROTC Unit but, by mid-1942, this only amounted to 80 and 200+ students respectively. However, in 1943, the Navy provided essential support by including Holy Cross among the 131 colleges and universities (out of over 1600 applicants) designated to participate in the V-12 Navy College Training Program to educate Navy and Marine Corps officers for the duration of the war. Holy Cross' presence among the 8% of colleges that successfully applied for a V-12 program was also very likely due to the influence of Senator Walsh and Representative McCormack. By the end of the war, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit and the accompanying Navy 'V' programs claimed most of the student body.



*Navy V-12 Group 1944*

During the ensuing years of World War II, Holy Cross alumni and faculty served their country in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. Of the almost four thousand members of the Crusader community who served in that conflict, one hundred and nine lost their lives. Their names are inscribed on two commemorative scrolls in Saint Joseph's Chapel, alongside those honoring similar sacrifices in World War I, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

In February 1944, 48 members of the first class of NROTC graduates were commissioned as Ensigns and, although they saw a considerable amount of combat, they all survived the war. One

hundred eighteen Ensigns and one Second Lieutenant were commissioned in 1945, 103 Ensigns and 8 Second Lieutenants in 1946, and 36 Ensigns and 10 Second Lieutenants in 1947. These classes completed the NROTC and V-12 students who had been enrolled during the course of the war.



*NROTC Review*

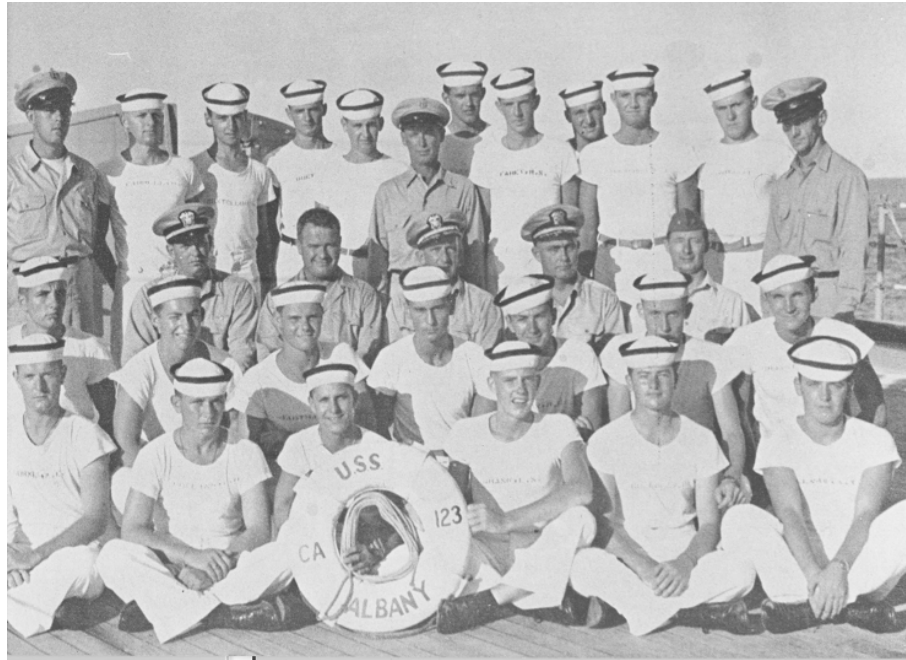
On September 1, 1945, as the war ended, the Holy Cross Navy Unit had 363 trainees on campus. In February 1946, the unit began to de-mobilize and transferred: 60 students to V-6 (Volunteer Reserve) program at Great Lakes, 29 students to other NROTC Units, 16 students to separation, and two to Boston. On March 1, the Unit received 102 students for the V-5 (Naval Aviation Cadet) program but, on June 27, 70 NROTC and 80 V-5 students were transferred for separation and seven V-5 students transferred to various Naval Air Stations to await flight training. On July 1, 1946, the wartime Navy Unit was de-activated, leaving just the NROTC Unit.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) also had a wartime Navy Unit which enrolled a total of 767 students during the war (609 V-12, 158 V-5) of whom:

- 266 were commissioned Ensign
- 303 transferred to other colleges
- 158 were sent to sea duty as enlisted personnel due to low grades
- 33 were discharged for medical or disciplinary causes
- 7 were de-mobilized

On July 15, 1946, the WPI Navy Unit was decommissioned.

Because of the accelerated programs during the war, no trainees were left to commission in 1948 and only four Second Lieutenants were commissioned in 1949. By 1950, the College and the Naval ROTC Unit were settling into a peacetime posture, dominated by the Cold War, but this was short-lived and ended when North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. The 1950 class of 25 Ensigns and 3 Second Lieutenants increased to 36 Ensigns and 9 Second Lieutenants in 1951, and 67 Ensigns and 6 Second Lieutenants in 1952 in order to meet wartime personnel requirements.



*NROTC Cruise 1947*

In April 1951, the Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit was joined by an Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) Unit as Holy Cross became one of 62 schools that year to establish an AFROTC Unit. By October, 267 freshmen had enrolled in the Air Force Unit which, together with the 322 students in the Navy ROTC Unit, represented almost one-third of the Holy Cross student body of approximately 1800 students.

The 17-year period from 1950 to 1966 was dominated by the Korean War, the Cold War with the Soviet Union, the beginning of the Vietnam War (1964-66) and numerous smaller conflicts and crises. Commissioning class size in this period varied from 28 in 1950 to 78 in 1960, with an overall total of 914 (752 Ensigns and 162 Second Lieutenants) for an average of almost 54 officers per year. In addition, the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) commissioned at least another 114 Marine officers in this period. In 1966, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was the 15<sup>th</sup> largest of the 52 NROTC units in the nation, commissioned the third highest number of officers, and commissioned the highest number of Marine officers. Its Air Force counterpart was equally successful and, in 1962, boasted the fourth largest cadet enrollment of the more than 140 Air Force ROTC Units across the nation.

The 1242 officers commissioned in the first 25 years of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit represented 51% of the total graduates from the program and incurred two-thirds of the known active duty deaths for Holy Cross NROTC graduates.

## The Second Twenty-Five Years: 1967-1991

### The Struggle to Exist

The Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit began its second twenty-five years in a very strong position as one of the largest NROTC Units in the nation, despite the relatively small size of the school. However, public support for the war in Vietnam which had been strong when the military responded to the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964 and when the Marines landed at Da Nang in 1965 was beginning to wane as American casualties mounted and as military manpower requirements forced greater reliance on the military draft. Ultimately, 18 former Holy Cross students (six of whom graduated from the NROTC Unit) would die in Vietnam, ten of them in 1967 and 1968.



*President's Review 1968*

1968 was one of the most turbulent years in American history. In January, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese launched the Tet Offensive which significantly escalated the level of combat, increased American casualties, and convinced millions of Americans that the war was not worth the cost. Nearly simultaneously, North Korea captured the intelligence vessel, USS Pueblo, beginning a nearly year-long captivity for the crew. At the end of March, President Johnson announced he would not run for re-election and in May, talks began in Paris with North Vietnamese and Viet Cong representatives to negotiate an end to the Vietnam War. In April, Martin Luther King was assassinated and Robert F. Kennedy's assassination followed in June.

Other powerful forces had been building during the 1960s and included the push for full civil rights for black Americans and other minorities and a growing interest in equal rights for women. The King assassination triggered riots and demonstrations across the country and the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August was also plagued by riots. To many, it seemed as if American society was coming apart.



In this atmosphere, Richard Nixon became President and initially reduced tension by pursuing 'Vietnamization' of the war which reduced American manpower requirements (and casualties) and by shifting the draft to a lottery system in December 1969 which effectively insulated nearly one-half of the draft-eligible population from being drafted (the highest number drafted from the first lottery was 195 of 366). However, the President's approval of a military incursion into Cambodia that began on April 30, 1970 led to mass demonstrations that resulted in the shooting of four students at Kent State University and in more than 400 colleges and universities across the nation shutting down, including Holy Cross.

Starting at least by 1967, there had been ongoing discussions at Holy Cross over whether ROTC had a place on campus and occasionally these discussions had escalated to student referendums on the issue and to demonstrations when military recruiters visited the campus. Other colleges began to terminate their ROTC programs and, in February 1970, an Ad Hoc Committee on ROTC was formed by the Holy Cross Faculty-Student Assembly and began deliberations. Although these actions were not to be ignored, there was not a feeling that ROTC at Holy Cross was seriously threatened until the Cambodian incursion and subsequent protests. One result of these protests was a comprehensive review of the Holy Cross NROTC program that is described in Appendix D.

Alone among New England colleges, Holy Cross retained its NROTC program (and its Air Force counterpart) along with full credit for most courses. However, having survived the most serious threat to its existence, NROTC enrollment suffered and a real possibility began to develop that the Navy would drop the Unit. In the four years from 1967-70, the strength of the Unit was shown in the 177 officers who were commissioned in the Navy and Marine Corps, an average of 44 per year. However, in the ten years from 1971-80, the total of commissioned officers dropped to 201, an average of only 20 per year.



*Drill Team in D. C., Cherry Blossom Parade 1971*

In part, this drop was due to the reduction in the size of the Navy and Marine Corps after the Vietnam War but, on March 4, 1975, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was placed on probation by the Navy, a status that lasted for three years. By this time, the Navy was placing increased emphasis on graduating more NROTC officers with a technical education and, by 1978, was stipulating that 80% of line officer graduates have majors in mathematics, chemistry, physics, or engineering. In April 1977, the Navy included Holy Cross in a review of fifteen NROTC Units for possible dis-establishment because of low enrollment and the lack of an engineering school.

The Holy Cross Air Force ROTC Unit was under similar pressure in this time period. It, too, was placed on probation on 10 March 1976 for low enrollment, removed on 18 April 1977, again placed on probation in 1978, and removed on 10 May 1979.

Meanwhile, other forces were at work that would affect enrollment in the Unit. For many years, Holy Cross had been studying a shift from a century and a quarter as an all-male school to becoming a co-educational school and this change was made in the Fall of 1972. This change is discussed in more detail in Appendix E.

A second change was opening NROTC enrollment to students at other schools in the Worcester area. The Worcester Consortium for Higher Education, Inc. was formally organized in 1969 with the President of the College of the Holy Cross as the first chairperson. In late 1970, even as the Naval and Air Force ROTC Units were engaged with various College departments and committees over the allocation of credit to their courses, the NROTC Commanding Officer requested permission to enroll students from the Worcester Consortium in the Holy Cross NROTC Unit. This began a torturous twelve-year process to open the Unit to College Program (formerly Contract) and scholarship students that is described in Appendix F.

The Class of 1976 was a landmark class in the history of the Holy Cross NROTC (even though at ten officers it was the smallest class in 27 years) because it contained both the first woman commissioned through the Unit (who was also the nation's first woman Marine Option scholarship student) and the first officer commissioned from a Worcester Consortium school (Assumption College).

In March 1978, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was removed from probation and by January 1979, it had enrolled ten scholarship students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and included other students from Clark University, Assumption College, and Worcester State. As the military buildup of President Regan's administration took hold in the early 1980s, Holy Cross NROTC officer output increased so that in the eight years from 1984-91, the Unit commissioned 295 officers, an average of 37 officers per year. In 1986, the Unit commissioned the fifth largest class of the nation's 64 NROTC programs and the officer total in 1987 was even higher.

In 1973, Holy Cross Air Force ROTC began cross-enrolling students from other schools in the Worcester Consortium and by the end of the decade this influx had alleviated their problem of low enrollment. However, on 12 April 1982, Holy Cross declined a request from WPI to set up separate AFROTC facilities at WPI so that WPI students would not have to commute to Holy Cross and on 16 April, the Regional Commandant for Air Force ROTC met with Holy Cross leaders to support the WPI request. At the time, the Air Force ROTC goal was to award 90-95%

of scholarships to engineering students and this goal was primarily met by WPI students. Ultimately, it was this pressure to commission technically educated officers that led the Air Force to re-locate the Worcester AFROTC Unit from Holy Cross to WPI in the Spring of 1990.

In 1991, Holy Cross NROTC and AFROTC graduates contributed to the overwhelming American military performance in Operation Desert Storm, the end of the Warsaw Pact, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and victory in the Cold War.

### **The Third Twenty-Five Years: 1991-2016**

#### **New Challenges**

The American triumphs in 1991 sparked a public desire to reduce military expenditures and claim a 'Peace Dividend.' As a result, during the 1990s, active duty military personnel declined by a third, Navy personnel dropped by 35%, and Marine Corps personnel dropped by 12%. These significant force reductions entailed a comparable reduction in officer requirements.

On March 22, 1991, the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) Advisory Committee anticipated these reductions and announced a series of ROTC consolidations and eliminations that are reviewed in Appendix G on the 'Peace Dividend.' The 1992 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) mandated that all officers commissioned after September 1996 must enter active duty with a "reserve" commission and then pass through the augmentation process before receiving admission to the "regular" officer corps. This change was intended to ensure all officers desiring to make the military a career competed through the augmentation process.

In 1993 and 1994, the House Appropriations Committee challenged the Military Services on the cost of educating ROTC students at private institutions and that too is reviewed in the 'Peace Dividend' article. Finally, the military's preference for technically-educated officers as opposed to those with liberal arts education which initially became a factor in the 1960s, continued through the third twenty-five-year period.



*Flag Ceremony 1997*

The strength of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit, now including cross-enrollments from schools in the Worcester Consortium, continued although the number of schools with students in the Unit dropped. Clark University was dropped from the program in the 1991 consolidation and the last student from Assumption College was commissioned in 1994, leaving only Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and Worcester State University (WSU) as Consortium members of the Unit. While the Unit had commissioned 295 officers in the eight years 1984-91 (an average of 37 per year), the reduced military of the 1990s received just 166 officers in the ten years 1992-2001 (an average of almost 17 per year).



*NROTC Review 2001*

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 galvanized public support for the military but President G. W. Bush chose to conduct Operations Enduring Freedom [Afghanistan] and Iraqi Freedom with minimal force structure growth so Holy Cross NROTC officer commissionings in the eight years 2002-09 were 174 (an average of 22 per year). America's longest war wore down the U. S. military and public support which led President Obama to reduce the American military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan while Congress implemented a ten-year budget reduction plan. As part of these force structure and budget reductions, Holy Cross NROTC commissionings for the seven years 2010-16 declined to 85 or an average of 12 per year.

One significant change for active duty military officers during the war on terror was the Congressional decision in the 2005 NDAA to designate all active duty officers as "regulars", thus reversing the decision in the 1992 NDAA to commission all officers as Reserves. Beginning in 2006, all NROTC scholarship and College Program students as well as academy graduates have received regular commissions.

The elimination of the military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy for gay men and lesbian women in 2011 eliminated the last barrier to NROTC among some colleges that had abandoned it in the

1970s and Holy Cross assisted Yale and Brown in restoring NROTC. A Yale division of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was set up in 2012 and Yale was re-established as an independent NROTC Unit in the summer of 2016. Brown students began cross-enrollment in the Holy Cross NROTC Unit in the Fall of 2016 and participate in the same manner as WPI and WSU students. It should be noted that in the aftermath of widespread NROTC Unit closings in the 1970s (especially in New England), the Navy countered by expanding the Massachusetts Institute of Technology NROTC Unit from an Engineering Duty Officer-only program to an unrestricted program by at least 1981 and by establishing a replacement Unit at Boston University by 1983.

The decades-old tension between technical or liberal arts education for ROTC officers surfaced in 2009 when the Navy restricted 85% of its NROTC scholarships to students in 44 technical majors and again in 2014 when the Navy considered reducing the scholarship stipend for liberal arts majors. A joint letter from two retired Holy Cross NROTC graduates, Vice Admirals Costello and Daly, brought the matter to the attention of the senior civilian leadership of the Department of the Navy. The plan to reduce the scholarship stipend for liberal arts majors was subsequently shelved although the 85% set-aside for technical majors continues. The value of a liberal arts education is discussed in Appendix I but this is an issue that never goes away.

### **The Start of the Fourth Twenty-Five Years: 2016-2021**

#### **Return to Great Power Competition and Social Unrest**

In 2014, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin E. Dempsey, outlined the principal threats to America as “2+2+2+1”: two global powers (Russia, China), two regional powers (Iran, North Korea), two trans-national actors (terrorism, organized crime), and one overarching issue – cyber. In 2021, this is still a good summary of the threats.

For about twenty years after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States was the only super-power in the world. However, Russia demonstrated a sophisticated blend of military, para-military, electronic, and information warfare in its attack on Ukraine in 2014 and its annexation of the Crimea peninsula. It has also resumed aggressive air and naval operations and is an expert practitioner of dis-information. China has become an economic and industrial juggernaut and operates an enormous network of computer hackers targeting government, military, educational, and industrial entities around the world. China exercises its new-found economic power both peacefully, such as its “Belt and Road” initiative to improve infrastructure in almost 70 countries around the world, and not so peacefully in its island-building program in the South China Sea, its suppression of dissent in Hong Kong, and its threats against Taiwan.

Iran is a principal sponsor of international terrorism, especially in Iraq, and continues to develop nuclear weapons to counter the twin ‘Satans’ of the United States and Israel. North Korea has long been a closed, despotic country and President Trump’s early attempts to reach out and establish friendlier relations joined the trash heap of similar efforts over the past 60+ years.

Although the power of terrorist organizations such as Al Qaida and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) was greatly reduced in the twenty years following 9/11, President Biden’s decision to remove US combat forces from Afghanistan by September 2021 and from Iraq by the end of

2021, was followed by the collapse of the Afghanistan government in mid-August and raised questions about the ability of the current Iraq government to survive.

The US military is actively involved in counter-drug operations in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Caribbean against an increasingly sophisticated opponent that now operates submersible water craft. Cyber warfare, which includes all forms of electronic, computer, and information warfare, both offensive and defensive, pervades everything else the US military does and is progressing at a breathtaking pace of development.

In addition to cyber developments, several other rapidly evolving technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, hypersonic vehicles, directed energy, quantum computing, and others only dimly apparent at this time promise a revolution in military weaponry akin to the developments of the 1970s and 1980s that were so powerfully demonstrated in Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

The impact of all these forces on the Holy Cross NROTC Unit has been to slightly increase commissionings for the five years 2017-21 to 73 or an average of about 15 per year. Of seemingly greater impact on the Unit has been the outbreak of the deadly COVID-19 Pandemic and the extreme measures that have been necessary to control the spread of the disease that are discussed in Appendix J. At this time, it is still not certain what the long-term impact of the virus will be on everything from education to military operations.

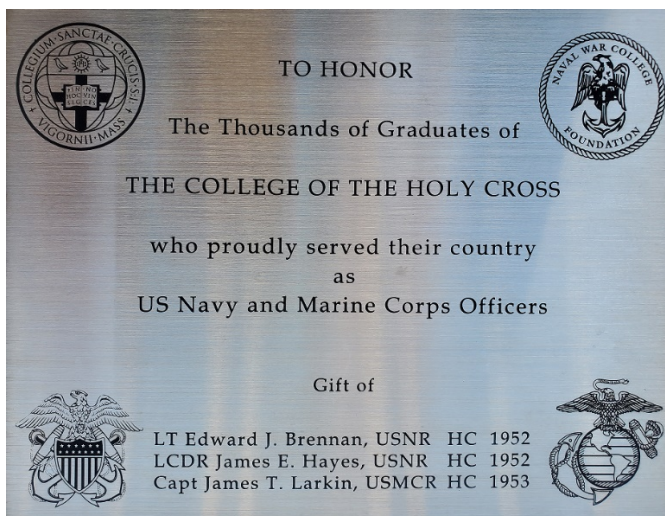
Lastly, the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 while being arrested by Minneapolis police officers led to nation-wide protests on a scale not seen since the 1960s. The nation is still struggling to find a balance between protecting the lives and property of its citizens while avoiding police brutality and the excessive use of force. More fundamentally, the nation is also addressing lingering racism by a thorough re-examination of our society and history. Again, the challenge is finding a balance between glorifying the United States as the greatest country the world has ever known and ensuring that all citizens benefit from the rights and freedoms our great country embraces. No other nation in the world blends the variety of races, nationalities, and ethnic groups that populate the United States.

## Summary

The 80 years of NROTC at Holy Cross coincided with America's rise to pre-eminence in the modern world. After the horrific conflict of World War II, America spent 45 years in a Cold War with the Soviet Union. The 1990s were a decade of relative peace after Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm but the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 launched a 20-year war whose outcome is still uncertain. As America proceeds through the next 25 years, the rise of China, the resurgence of Russia, regional issues with North Korea and Iran, the continuing war on terror, the menace of organized crime, and the ongoing struggle to ensure full equality among all segments of American society all pose formidable challenges to the nation.

The nearly 2,100 Holy Cross graduates and 370 graduates of cross-enrolled schools who have been commissioned through the Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit (along with thousands of others commissioned through Platoon Leaders Class, Officer Candidate School, and WWII "V" programs) have made major contributions to the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the nation, whether they stayed on active duty, continued to serve in the Reserves, or assumed leadership positions in industry, the professions, government, or civic affairs. To illustrate the varied leadership provided by Holy Cross NROTC alumni, two of the Navy Memorial's four "Lone Sailor" awards in 2015 went to Holy Cross NROTC graduates: J. William Middendorf '45, Secretary of the Navy 1974-77, and Robert S. Morrison '63, former Chairman of PepsiCo and 1965 recipient of the Silver Star as a First Lieutenant in Vietnam.

One unexpected consequence of the NROTC Program "to meet unforeseen national emergencies" was the number of Holy Cross NROTC graduates who made the military a career and retired as Commanders, Captains, or Admirals in the Navy or Lieutenant Colonels, Colonels, or Generals in the Marine Corps. Although statistics for career officers among Holy Cross NROTC graduates are not available, rough estimates place that number at more than 200. In addition, possibly half as many stayed in the Navy or Marine Corps Reserves after completing their active duty obligated service and retired at similarly high rank.



Holy Cross Memorial, McCarty Little Hall, Naval War College, Newport RI

## **Appendix A. Holy Cross NROTC Unit and PLC Graduates 1944-2021**

### Additional Sources:

- Some Holy Cross yearbooks and some NROTC “Knight Watch” yearbooks
- In 2004, a list of Holy Cross graduates by class year was prepared and submitted to the Navy Archives. This report was subsequently updated and corrected by the author of this history.

Table 1 provides the best estimate available of the number of Navy Ensigns and Marine Corps Second Lieutenants commissioned through the Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit and the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) Program from 1944 through 2021. Beginning in 1976, the table breaks out commissionings by college within the Worcester Consortium.

A supporting spreadsheet for Table 1 (not attached) has an additional column that identifies observed inconsistencies between the 2004 Report and other sources. The 1945-47 differences between the Annual Reports and the 2004 Report are significant and both Table 1 and the spreadsheet reflect the numbers in the Annual Reports.

The major causes of errors in all sources appear to be:

- Delayed commissioning: if a commission was delayed for physical reasons, academics, or completion of a summer training cruise, the subject officer was handled inconsistently. Some were listed with their class, some were listed separately, and some were not listed at all.
- Marine Corps PLC graduates. Although not officially part of the NROTC Unit, some graduates were listed with their NROTC counterparts, skewing the number of Marine commissions.

The best estimate at this time is that, through 2021, the Unit has commissioned 2458 officers: 2070 Navy and 388 Marines. In addition, at least 130 Marine officers have been commissioned through the Holy Cross PLC Program.

Table 2 lists 17 flag and general officers who graduated from the Holy Cross NROTC Unit or Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class

Another notable graduate from the Holy Cross NROTC is J. William Middendorf from the Class of 1945 who later served as Secretary of the Navy 1974-77.



**Table 1. Holy Cross NROTC and PLC Commissioning Statistics 1944-2021**

<u>Year</u>	<u>ENS</u>	<u>2LT</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>PLC</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>WPI</u>	<u>WSU</u>	<u>Clark</u>	<u>Assm</u>	<u>BU/ CNE</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>1944-47</u>	<u>305</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>81</u>		<u>324</u>						<u>324</u>
<u>1948</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>						<u>0</u>
<u>1949</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>4</u>						<u>4</u>
<u>1950-66</u>	<u>752</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>914</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>914</u>						<u>914</u>
<u>1967-70</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>177</u>						<u>177</u>
<u>1971-80</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>4</u>			<u>2</u>		<u>201</u>
<u>1981-83</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>15</u>		<u>32</u>	<u>10</u>		<u>3</u>			<u>45</u>
<u>1984-91</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>37</u>		<u>153</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>295</u>
<u>1992- 2001</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>166</u>
<u>2002-09</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>22</u>		<u>108</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>26</u>				<u>174</u>
<u>2010-16</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>9</u>				<u>85</u>
<u>2017-21</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>8</u>			<u>3</u>	<u>73</u>
<b><u>Totals</u></b>	<b><u>2070</u></b>	<b><u>388</u></b>	<b><u>2458</u></b>	<b><u>32</u></b>	<b><u>130</u></b>	<b><u>2089</u></b>	<b><u>266</u></b>	<b><u>67</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>	<b><u>19</u></b>	<b><u>6</u></b>	<b><u>2458</u></b>

**Table 2. Holy Cross NROTC and PLC Graduates Who Attained Flag or General Rank**

<b>Name and Rank</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Service</b>	
LTGEN David M. Twomey	HC	50	USMC	PLC
LTGEN Bernard E. Trainor	HC	51	USMC	
RADM David P. Donohue	HC	53	USN	
BGEN Michael P. Downs	HC	61	USMC	
BGEN John P. Brickley	HC	61	USMC	PLC
RADM Robert P. Hickey	HC	64	USN	
BGEN Matthew F. Broderick	WSC	68	USMC	PLC
RADM Thomas W. Steffens	HC	69	USN	
RADM John B. Foley	HC	69	USN	
VADM Barry M. Costello	HC	73	USN	
BGEN Kevin M. Sandkuhler	HC	75	USMC	
RADM William J. McCarthy	HC	76	USN	
VADM Peter H. Daly	HC	77	USN	
RDML Arnold O. Lotring	HC	78	USN	
VADM Bruce E. MacDonald	HC	78	USN	
LTGEN Christopher J. Mahoney	HC	87	USMC	
RADM Nancy S. Lacore	HC	90	USNR	

## Appendix B. The Supreme Sacrifice

### Holy Cross NROTC Unit and PLC Active Duty Deaths 1944-2021

#### Additional Sources:

- Memorial plaques in St. Joseph Chapel (WWII and later)
- Memorial plaque in the NROTC Unit Wardroom (post-WWII)
- “Vietnam and Holy Cross: A Timeline” by Jack O’Connell ’81
- Memorials in O’Callahan Society Annual Dinner Programs
- Online research for identified individuals

The College’s focus is on people who attended Holy Cross and died in combat. The focus of this history is on people who were commissioned through the Holy Cross NROTC Unit (including Worcester Consortium schools) and the PLC Program and who died on active duty from any cause.

For World War II, it appears that none of the personnel on the St. Joseph Chapel memorial plaques were NROTC graduates. The first NROTC Class was commissioned in February 1944 and, although members of this class saw considerable combat, none of their names are on the memorial plaques. A member of that first class, Francis McCabe, was later a Class Agent and wrote a letter in 1991 that is in the Unit Books confirming that no one in his 1944 commissioning class died on active duty or, to his knowledge, was wounded in the war.

For the post-WWII period, 34 individuals who died on active duty have been identified from the various sources: 17 NROTC graduates, 2 PLC graduates, and 15 non-NROTC students (although two of the non-NROTC students each spent a year in the NROTC before being dis-enrolled). Apparently, no active duty combat deaths occurred among Classes 1945-48.

Of the 17 NROTC Unit and 2 PLC graduate deaths (Table 3), 10 were in combat (including both PLCs) and 9 were non-combat; of the 15 non-NROTC student deaths, 13 were in combat and 2 were non-combat.

#### Other NROTC Unit and PLC graduate death statistics:

Service:	10 Navy, 9 Marine Corps
School:	16 Holy Cross, 3 Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Warfare Specialty:	aviation 10, infantry 5, SEAL/UDT 2, submarine 1, unassigned 1

**Table 3. Holy Cross NROTC Unit and PLC Active Duty Deaths 1944-2021**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
1947	David W. Walsh	USMC	MAJ	Quantico	29-Nov-60	Heart attack
1949	James F. McGoey	USMC	1LT	1st MARDIV, HQ Btn	2-Sep-51	KIA, "Punchbowl" Korea
1951	Edward D. Murphy	USN	LTJG	UDT Team 5	26-Feb-53	As UDT, premature detonation during ice demolition test in Bering Sea off St. Lawrence Island AK
1951	Robert E. Delaney	USMC	CPT	VMF-334	25-Mar-57	Flight operations at NAS Cubi Point, Philippines
1955	Joseph M. Loughran (PLC)	USMC	MAJ	3rd Btn, 26th Marines	2-May-68	KIA, during search and destroy operation in Quang Tri Province near Khe Sanh
1961	Frank J. Malinski	USN	LTJG	USS Thresher (SSN-593)	10-Apr-63	Loss of sub during dive while on sea trials
1962	Lawrence J. Celmer	USMC	CPT	Co. L, 3rd Btn, 7th Marines	18-Mar-67	KIA, Quang Ngai Province
1964	Richard R. Kane	USMC	CPT	VMCJ-1	12-Sep-67	Photographer on RF-4B that disappeared in Quang Nam Province
1964	Michael W. Doyle	USN	LCDR	VF-161, USS Midway	25-Aug-72	KIA, near Hanoi in F-4 when shot down on his 250th combat mission; possibly died as POW

1965	Thomas E. Gilliam	USN	LTJG	HAL-3	22-Aug-67	KIA, as co-pilot during UH-1 helo attack on sampans, Kien Hoa Province
1965	John J. Burke	USMC	CPT	HMM-364	5-Feb-68	KIA, when CH-46 helo shot down in Thua Thien Province
1966	Richard G. Morin	USMC	CPT	VMFA-314	20-Dec-68	MIA as F-4 RIO on night bombing mission over Laos
1967	John E. Martin	USN	LTJG	VP-31	6-Mar-69	P-3 crash at NAS Lemoore CA due to excessive sink rate on 2nd landing from instrument approach
1968	Michael P. Quinn (PLC)	USMCR	2LT	Co. H, 2nd Btn, 7th Marines	29-Aug-69	KIA, on patrol, south of Danang, Quang Nam Province
1970	John M. O'Sullivan	USN	LTJG	VR-24	17-Jan-72	Co-pilot on C-1 that crashed into Mt. Etna, Sicily in a thunderstorm
1979	Matthew J. Corry	USN	ENS	n/a	7-Jun-79	Died in car accident 6 days after commissioning
1981 WPI	Mark R. Caldwell	USN	LTJG	VR-24	24-Nov-83	Lost in mid-air collision with two C-1s in Mediterranean
1987 WPI	John P. Connors	USN	LTJG	SEAL Team 4	19-Dec-89	KIA, Operation Just Cause in Panama
1987 WPI	Daniel J. Duggan	USN	ENS	n/a	3-Mar-90	Died in motorcycle accident in Pensacola

## Appendix C. Heroism in Combat

### College of the Holy Cross and Worcester Polytechnic Institute Students and Faculty Who Earned Combat Decorations

#### MEDAL OF HONOR

#### World War II

##### 1. First Lieutenant John V. Power, HC '41

**Posthumous**



**Date:** 1 February 1944

**Unit:** Platoon Leader, Third Battalion,  
24<sup>th</sup> Marines, Fourth Marine Division

**Circumstances:**

- Landing and Battle of Namur Island, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands
- Severely wounded while setting a demolition charge on a pillbox, he attacked a second pillbox and was killed.

**Other:** buried St. John Cemetery, Worcester MA

##### 2. Captain (then Lieutenant Commander) Father Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J., HC Faculty



**Date:** 19 March 1945

**Unit:** Chaplain, USS Franklin (CV-13)

**Circumstances:**

- Enemy aircraft attack near Kobe, Japan
- Amid fires, explosions, smoke, and raining debris, he ministered to the wounded and dying of all faiths, organized and led firefighting crews on the flight deck, directed the jettisoning of live ammunition and the flooding of a magazine, and manned a hose to cool hot, armed bombs on the flight deck.

• This was the first Medal of Honor awarded to a chaplain in any Service.

**Other:** died 18 March 1964; buried College of the Holy Cross campus, Worcester MA

## Vietnam War

### 3. Captain (then Lieutenant Commander) Thomas G. Kelley, HC '60



**Date:** 15 June 1969

**Unit:** Commander, River Assault Division  
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**Circumstances:**

- Ong Muong Canal, Kien Hoa Province, Vietnam
- While extracting a company of U. S. Army infantry, one of eight river assault craft in the division experienced a mechanical failure just as the Division was attacked from the other side of the canal. Placing his craft between the damaged craft and enemy fire, he was severely wounded but continued to direct his Division until the enemy attack was silenced and the Division withdrew to safety.

## NAVY CROSS

### World War II

- 1. Lieutenant Commander Edward R. J. Griffin, HC '18** **Posthumous**
  - a. Date: 7-28 December 1941
  - b. Unit: Mine Division Nine
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Defense of Manila Bay, Philippines
    - Conducted minelaying, minesweeping, and night patrols to intercept enemy landing parties while under attack by enemy aircraft
  - b. Other: captured 6 May 1942 with the fall of Corregidor.
    - Died in captivity; according to National Archives records, he died in the sinking of the *Enoura Maru* by USS Hornet aircraft on 9 January 1945.
  
- 2. Second Lieutenant Martin J. O'Brien, HC '41** **Posthumous**
  - a. Date: 22 July 1944
  - b. Unit: Platoon Leader, Second Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Asan-Adelup Beachhead, Guam, Marianas Islands
    - Mortally wounded by heavy enemy fire while capturing the crest of Chonito Ridge overlooking the beachhead.
  - d. Other: buried St. John Cemetery, Worcester MA
  
- 3. Lieutenant Edward W. Larkin, Jr., HC '41** **Posthumous**
  - a. Date: 19 October 1944
  - b. Unit: Flight Leader, Torpedo Squadron 13 on USS Franklin (CV-13)
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Led air attack on enemy vessels in Manila Bay that sank a tanker.
    - LT Larkin did not return from this mission and was declared MIA and later KIA (later found crashed on island)
  - d. Other:
    - Received a Distinguished Flying Cross for action over the Bonin Islands on 4 August 1944.
    - Buried: Ft. William McKinley (Manila American Cemetery), Philippines
  
- 4. Lieutenant Commander (then Lieutenant) Willard T. Gove, WPI '40**
  - a. Date: 27 October 1944
  - b. Unit: Flight Leader, Fighter Squadron 13 on USS Franklin (CV-13)
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Attacked and damaged an enemy heavy cruiser near the Philippines.
  - d. Other:
    - Had been shot down 6 July 1944 near Guam and recovered the next day.
    - As a Reservist on 15 September 1948, he survived ditching a Corsair off the coast of Cape Cod when the engine failed.
    - Died: 30 November 2003; buried Arlington National Cemetery

## **SILVER STAR**

### **World War II**

- 1. Lieutenant Commander (then Lieutenant Junior Grade) John E. McInerny, Jr., HC '37**
  - a. Date: 26 October 1942
  - b. Unit: Flight Leader, Torpedo Squadron 8 on USS Hornet (CV-8)
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Battle of Santa Cruz Islands
    - Led attack that hit an enemy heavy cruiser
  - d. Other:
    - USS Hornet was attacked and abandoned the same day
    - Remained in Naval Reserve until at least 1955
    - Died: 6 July 1986
  
- 2. First Lieutenant Robert A. Herron, HC '42** **Posthumous**
  - a. Date: 7 November 1943
  - b. Unit: Battalion Liaison Officer, First Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines, Third Marine Division
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Koromokina River Area, Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands
    - In an attack on an entrenched enemy, assumed command of a rifle platoon, conducted a successful reconnaissance, and was mortally wounded in the subsequent attack which destroyed the enemy position.
  - d. Other: buried: Fort William McKinley (Manila American Cemetery), Philippines
  
- 3. Private First Class George J. Fox, HC '40**
  - a. Date: 20-22 November 1943
  - b. Unit: Company K, Third Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines, Second Marine Division
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Tarawa, Gilbert Islands
    - Sustained daring over several days during numerous assaults on enemy dugouts, pillboxes, and bombproof shelters.
  - d. Other:
    - Received two Purple Hearts during the war
    - 30 years Tax Title Officer for Worcester MA
    - Died: 29 July 2010; buried St. John Cemetery, Worcester MA
  
- 4. Second Lieutenant Thomas J. Alberghini, HC '43**
  - a. Date: 21 July 1944
  - b. Unit: Company A, First Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Marines, First Marine Brigade
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Agat Village, Guam, Marianas Islands
    - Wounded during assault inland from beachhead and didn't leave until ordered to after his unit was dug-in.



- d. Other:
    - Received two Purple Hearts during the war
    - Second and Third Team Football All-American at Holy Cross
    - 1957-82: High School Athletic Director, Montgomery County MD
    - Died: 26 November 2013; buried Arlington National Cemetery
- 5. Lieutenant Colonel (then Captain) Anthony A. Akstin, HC '41**
- a. Date: 23 July 1944
  - b. Unit: Commanding Officer, Company K, Third Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines, Third Marine Division
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Ridge beyond Chonito Cliff, Guam, Marianas Islands
    - Led successful attack on the ridge and was seriously wounded in attacking and silencing the next set of positions.
  - d. Other:
    - Career Marine
    - Died: 1 March 1985; buried Arlington National Cemetery
- 6. First Lieutenant Silas J. 'Moose' Titus, HC '40**
- a. Date: 24 July 1944
  - b. Unit: Company G, Second Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Marines, Fourth Marine Division
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Tinian, Marianas Islands
    - Exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to direct evacuation of wounded.
  - d. Other:
    - Received at least one Purple Heart during the war
    - Second Team Football All-American at Holy Cross
    - 1940: played on Pittsburgh Steelers team
    - Stock broker and owner Titus Vending Corporation
    - Died: 17 February 1989; buried Mt. Lebanon Cemetery PA
- 7. Lieutenant Junior Grade Edmund L. 'Big Ed' McNamara, HC '43**
- a. Date: 26 January 1945
  - b. Unit: Patrol Torpedo Boat Commander
  - c. Circumstances:
    - Daylight strike in Southwest Pacific Area
    - Led close range sweep by patrol craft and coordinated air support that destroyed many enemy vessels.
  - d. Other:
    - 18 December 1944: rescued 23 US soldiers and 73 guerillas while under intense enemy fire.
    - 1945: member of NY Giants and Pittsburgh Steelers football teams
    - 1945-62: FBI
    - 1962-72: Police Commissioner of Boston.
    - Died: 20 February 2000; buried Holyhood Cemetery, Brookline MA

**8. Captain Philip J. Mylod, HC '42**

- a. Date: 16 April 1945
- b. Unit: Executive Officer, Company I, Third Battalion, 29<sup>th</sup> Marines, Sixth Marine Division
- c. Circumstances:
  - Mount Yaetake, Okinawa Shima, Ryukyu Islands
  - Led attack on a ridge that destroyed four hostile artillery pieces and permitted capture of Motobu Peninsula.
- d. Other:
  - Received Purple Heart during the war
  - Served in NJ State Attorney General and Passaic County Prosecutor offices before joining father's private legal practice
  - 1987-2014: Permanent Deacon, Diocese of Trenton NJ
  - Died: 5 August 2014; buried Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Bloomfield NJ

**Korean War**

**9. First Lieutenant Paul V. Mullaney, HC '42**

- a. Date: 3 November 1950
- b. Unit: Platoon Leader, Infantry company, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines
- c. Circumstances:
  - Chosin Reservoir campaign, Korea.
  - Wounded in attack that captured an enemy position and successfully repelled a counter-attack.
- d. Other:
  - WWII service as a Marine Sergeant on Tinian and Guam
  - Received three Purple Hearts in Korea
  - 1963-65: Worcester Mayor
  - 1978-91: Worcester County District Court Judge
  - Died: 1 November 2017; buried: St. John Cemetery, Worcester MA

**10. Colonel (then First Lieutenant) Robert E. Parrott, HC '46 NROTC**

- a. Date: 28 November – 3 December 1950
- b. Unit: Commanding Officer, K Battery, Fourth Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines,
- c. Circumstances:
  - Yudam-ni, west of Chosin Reservoir, Korea.
  - Halted enemy attack with artillery fire and was subsequently wounded fighting off a ground attack.
  - Medal not presented until March 1997
- d. Other:
  - Career Marine; commanded 12<sup>th</sup> Marines
  - Originally commissioned as Ensign in June 1946
  - Died: 24 October 2019; buried Arlington National Cemetery

**11. Lieutenant Colonel (then First Lieutenant) Harold D. Fredericks, HC '47 NROTC**

- a. Date: 3 December 1950
- b. Unit: Platoon Commander, Company H, Third Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines,
- c. Circumstances:
  - Sinhung-ni, east of Chosin Reservoir, Korea.
  - Led successful assault over open, frozen terrain against left flank of enemy-held ridge.
- d. Other:
  - Career Marine; commanded First Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines in Vietnam
  - Died: 28 June 2009; buried Mount Union Cemetery, Philomath OR

**12. First Lieutenant James J. F. McGoey, HC '49 NROTC                      Posthumous**

- a. Date: 18 June 1951
- b. Unit: Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, First Division  
Liaison Officer, Third Battalion, First Korean Marine Corps Regiment
- c. Circumstances:
  - During attack, rescued a wounded Korean Marine under heavy enemy fire.
- d. Other:
  - KIA 2 September 1951 at the Punchbowl, Korea.
  - Buried: Calvary Cemetery, Queens NY

**13. Second Lieutenant William K. Joyce, Jr., HC '51 NROTC**

- a. Date: 6-7 September 1952
- b. Unit: Company E, Second Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, First Marine Division
- c. Circumstances:
  - Led defense of an outpost in Korea that inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and hurled back their attack.
- d. Other:
  - Subsequent career as Foreign Service Officer in State Department
  - Died: 21 July 2020.
  - Buried: Holy Childhood of Jesus Cemetery, Harbor Springs MI

## Vietnam War

### 14. Captain (then First Lieutenant) Robert S. Morrison, HC '63 NROTC

- a. Date: 18 August 1965
- b. Unit: Platoon Leader, Company H, Second Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, Third Marine Division
- c. Circumstances:
  - Operation Starlite, Chu Lai, Vietnam.
  - Wounded in an attack on an enemy position, he continued to direct his force until a helicopter landing zone was reached and the wounded were evacuated.
- d. Other:
  - Joined Kraft in 1983; President of General Foods USA (1991-94), CEO of Kraft Foods, Inc. (1994-97), CEO of Quaker Oats (1997-2001), and Chairman of PepsiCo Beverages and Food North America (2001-03)
  - Member of the Holy Cross Board of Trustees
  - 2015 recipient of Navy Memorial Lone Sailor Award

### 15. Rear Admiral (then Lieutenant Junior Grade) Robert P. Hickey, Jr., HC '64 NROTC

- a. Date: 26 October 1967
- b. Unit: F-4 pilot in VF-143 on USS Constellation (CVA-64)
- c. Circumstances:
  - Strike against Van Dien Army Barracks, North Vietnam.
  - Shot down one MIG-21
- d. Other:
  - Career Naval Officer
  - 228 combat missions (221 F-4, 7 F-14); 1036 carrier traps
  - Commanded VF-2, CVW-11, USS Roanoke (AOR-7), USS Ranger (CV-61), and Carrier Group 7

### 16. Commander (then Lieutenant) Timothy B. Sullivan, HC '65 NROTC

- a. Date: 14 November 1967 – 14 March 1973
- b. Unit: F4-B Radar Intercept Officer (RIO) in VF-151 on USS Coral Sea (CVA-43)
- c. Circumstances:
  - Shot down 14 November 1967 and imprisoned 5 years and 4 months.
  - Awarded for resistance as POW.
- d. Other:
  - 1983-94: Officer in Charge (OIC) of Navy Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School in Brunswick ME

**17. Brigadier General (then Captain) Michael P. Downs, HC '61 NROTC**

- a. Date: 3, 4, 7 February 1968
- b. Unit: Commanding Officer, Company F, Second Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines, First Marine Division
- c. Circumstances:
  - Operation Hue City, Thua Thien Province, Vietnam.
  - In multiple engagements, after being wounded in the first engagement, maneuvered his unit to overrun a number of enemy fortifications.
- d. Other:
  - Career Marine
  - 2000-2007: Director Marine Corps Exchange as retired officer
  - 2007-2010+: Director, Personal and Family Readiness Division, HQ USMC

**18. First Lieutenant Timothy J. Shorten, HC '64**

**Posthumous**

- a. Date: 18 March 1968
- b. Unit: Executive Officer, Company H, Second Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, Ninth Amphibious Brigade
- c. Circumstances:
  - Vinh Quan Thuong Village, Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.
  - Coordinated attack on the heavily fortified village and single-handedly captured a bunker.
- d. Other: KIA 31 March 1968; buried Long Island National Cem., Farmingdale NY

**19. Second Lieutenant Richard D. Porrello, HC '68 PLC (two awards)**

- a. Date: 28 February 1969
- b. Unit: Platoon Leader, Company C, First Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, Third Marine Division
- c. Circumstances:
  - Enemy-held hill near Khe Sanh, Vietnam.
  - During attack, rescued two wounded Marines, then captured the objective and eliminated enemy positions.
- d. Date: 1 March 1969
- e. Unit: Platoon Leader, Company C, First Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, Third Marine Division
- f. Circumstances:
  - Hill 484 near Khe Sanh, Vietnam.
  - Severely wounded in attack that silenced enemy fire.

**20. Second Lieutenant Robert P. Kimener, HC '67**

- a. Date: 26 June 1970
- b. Unit: Platoon Leader, Company B, First Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, First Marine Division
- c. Circumstances:
  - Reinforced a squad ambushed by North Vietnamese Army soldiers in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam and, after evacuating casualties by helicopter, led a bold assault that forced the enemy to retreat.
  - Returning to base, the Company command post was attacked by North Vietnamese Army sappers and he disregarded hostile fire to organize the defense and defeat two large enemy forces.

**Operation Just Cause (Panama)**

**21. Lieutenant Junior Grade John P. Connors, WPI '87 NROTC Posthumous**

- a. Date: 20 December 1989
- b. Unit: Assistant Platoon Commander, Bravo Platoon, SEAL Team Four
- c. Circumstances:
  - Paitilla Airfield, Panama.
  - Mortally wounded by enemy fire during attack on the airfield.
- d. Other: buried Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Arlington MA

## **Appendix D. The Existential Crisis 1970-71**

### **Additional Sources:**

- Personal files of Captain Brendan J. O'Donnell, USN (Retired)
- 1970 and 1971 NROTC Annual Reports in the Navy Archives at the Washington Navy Yard. These two years are two of the three thickest folders in the Archives.
- Limited correspondence between Father Brooks and Captain Moore in the Holy Cross Archives in Dinand Library
- "The Jesuit Priest and The Naval Officer" – introductory remarks at the 2011 O'Callahan Society Dinner by Mr. Lester Paquin
- "Holy Cross and the ROTC 1969-71: A Stronger Bond Through Sensible Change" by an un-named author (possibly Captain Harry R. Moore)
- November 30, 1993 letter from Captain Richard A. Schnorf, USN (Ret) to Captain Timothy P. Winters, USN, Professor of Naval Science, College of the Holy Cross

This crisis can be divided into three phases:

1. May 1970: The "Days of Rage" in response to the U. S. incursion into Cambodia on April 30 and the shooting deaths of four Kent State University students by Ohio National Guard troops on 4 May.
2. May-Oct 1970: The decision on whether to keep ROTC at Holy Cross beginning with the accelerated tasking of the Ad Hoc Committee on ROTC by the College President, Father Raymond J, Swords, S. J., and ending with the vote by the Faculty-Student Assembly in October.
3. Oct 1970 – Mar 1971: Decision on allocation of academic credit to ROTC courses.

### **Prelude**

During the second half of the 1960s, disenchantment with the Vietnam War and frustration with the military draft rose steadily on college campuses. The Tet Offensive in January 1968, President Johnson's subsequent decision to pursue a negotiated settlement to the war, and the My Lai massacre by American soldiers that became public in November 1969, eliminated almost all support for the war among college students. President Nixon's authorization of the U. S. military incursion into Cambodia beginning April 30, 1970 ignited concern that the war was expanding and, when four students at Kent State University were killed by Ohio National Guard troops during a protest on May 4, over 400 colleges and universities shut down.

### **Days of Rage at Holy Cross**

On Monday, May 4, the Holy Cross faculty voted to suspend normal academic activities. On Tuesday, May 5, several discussion groups were held to discuss the Vietnam War, the capitalist system, racism, and political prisoners and there were various rumors that meetings or discussions would address the issue of ROTC on campus.

Discussions with the NROTC Unit staff and among the midshipmen led to a decision to observe strict restraint and avoid a confrontation. Midshipmen battalion leaders were very much influenced by an incident that had occurred at Harvard University in April 1969. The Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) had occupied a Harvard administration building to protest the Vietnam War and the Harvard President mis-read the negative reaction to the occupation into thinking that he could evict the occupiers without consequence. However, once he unleashed the police on the occupiers, the opinion of the faculty and students immediately turned against the administration and led to a shutdown of the University. Holy Cross midshipmen leaders did not want to repeat this mistake and put out the word to the battalion to let the situation calm down.

At one of the evening discussion groups, at about 10:45 PM, a leader of the Revolutionary Student Union (RSU - the Holy Cross equivalent of the SDS) announced there were plainclothes policemen on campus and a brief confrontation occurred near the Air Force ROTC Building (now the Millard Art Center). Attention quickly shifted to the Air Force ROTC Building amid assertions that more police were in the building. Father Swords appeared and insisted there were no police in the building but an inspection by one of the Deans revealed the presence of one. The policeman quickly left the campus but Father Swords' credibility was damaged. A heavy rainfall and unseasonably cold temperatures ended the confrontation.

On Wednesday, May 6, the Air Force removed its files from its building as a precaution and the College asked the NROTC staff to remove weapons and ammunition from the NROTC armory



in O'Kane Hall which was accomplished without incident. A discussion of ROTC began at 8 PM in Hogan Ballroom but, by 10:30 PM, the RSU had given up hope that anything substantive would come from the discussion and they shifted the scene of action to the Air Force ROTC Building. One of the faculty proposed that part of the Building be converted to a Peace Center but then, an RSU student threw a rock through the window. Immediately, 30-40 non-violent, anti-war students formed a human chain to block occupation of the building. The strategy of the ROTC students, to avoid physical confrontation with their opponents, had produced a schism among the various anti-war and anti-ROTC factions. Father John E. Brooks, S. J., the Dean of the College (who was present at the Air Force ROTC Building), announced that

Father Swords would meet with the protestors in the Hogan Ballroom where, by 1:30 AM, fatigue and continuing unseasonably cold weather ended the day's activities.



The next day, the midshipmen reported on the previous night's activities to the Unit staff and, during this meeting, one of the Deans called Captain Edward F. Hayes, the Commander of the NROTC Unit, to ask that the midshipmen officers' swords also be removed from campus. Captain Hayes refused, saying that the next request would be to remove pencils with sharp points. The consensus among the midshipmen was that we had earned a great deal of respect in the past two days but that our support was more anti-RSU than pro-ROTC.

On Friday, May 8, Father Swords released a letter tasking the Ad Hoc Committee on ROTC (a sub-committee of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC)) to submit their report as soon as possible. The Ad Hoc Committee had actually started meeting in February but, on May 31, they responded to Father Brooks that it would be mid-September before their report would be ready.

On Monday, May 11, the faculty voted to continue the strike and Captain Hayes retired at an off-campus ceremony. On Wednesday, May 13, the midshipmen were notified that the annual President's Review was cancelled. The Midshipmen Battalion Commander protested this cancellation in a letter to Father Swords and was granted a meeting with Father Swords on June 1. On both May 6 and June 1, Father Swords, who had had the longest tenure of any Holy Cross President, was visibly worn down. By any measure, his tenure was exceptionally distinguished but no one anticipated how controversial and stressful his last year would be.

It is worth noting that the relatively small size of the Holy Cross student body makes for a well-acquainted student body. Students with a wide range of political beliefs took the same classes, participated in the same extra-curricular activities, and lived on the same dormitory corridors. While students might be fundamentally and vehemently opposed to each other on a particular topic such as ROTC, they knew each other and at least respected the sincerity of their opponents.

### **The Decision to Keep ROTC**

On July 1, 1970, Father Brooks succeeded Father Swords as President of the College and, in August, Captain Harry R. Moore assumed Command of the Naval ROTC Unit. Because of Father Brooks' prior service as College Dean, he was somewhat of a known quantity but his greatness as a leader still lay in the future.

Captain Moore was unknown and there was concern among the midshipmen that his active duty service might prejudice him against the 'ivory tower' intellectuals he would encounter at Holy Cross. However, Captain Moore also had diplomatic experience as Naval Attaché to Pakistan and was a scholar in his own right as the author of the textbook "A Navigation Compendium." He would prove to be the right man at the right time in the right position.

The College's Ad Hoc Committee on ROTC (consisting of two faculty members, one Trustee, and two students) labored through the summer in response to Father Swords' May 8 mandate. In mid-September, the Committee released a majority report and a minority report:

1. The majority report from one faculty member and both students concluded that ROTC should be phased out over three years as a symbolic moral protest of distorted national priorities.

2. The minority report from the Trustee and second faculty member found the aims and goals of Holy Cross and the presence of ROTC not to be mutually exclusive and called for retention of these programs with some modifications.

On September 23, Captain Moore addressed the midshipmen battalion for the first time and covered a variety of topics including the Ad Hoc Committee reports, pledging to do his best for the educational interest of the midshipmen.

The midshipmen leaders assessed the likely attitudes of various groups toward ROTC as follows:

1. Trustees: almost certain to support retention of ROTC, even if opposed by the faculty and students.
2. Alumni: strong supporters of ROTC because of the high percentage who were ROTC graduates and the even higher percentage with military service.
3. Administration: likely to support ROTC for both philosophical and practical reasons.
4. Jesuits: likely to support ROTC because of the longstanding relationship, particularly with the Navy. However, at this time, the midshipmen were not aware of the deep reservoir of gratitude among the Jesuits toward the Navy for keeping the College functioning during World War II.
5. Lay Faculty: likely to oppose retention of ROTC.
6. Students: nearly evenly split. However, most students came from middle class, Catholic families whose parents had played some role in the American victory in World War II.

Based on this assessment, the midshipmen concluded that the generally centrist beliefs of the student body could work to the advantage of ROTC if the student vote was truly representative. The Inter-House Congress scheduled a student vote for September 30 and October 1 that would offer three options: support the majority report, support the minority report, or support neither. The Navy midshipmen and Air Force cadets organized down to the level of dormitory corridors, posted and distributed flyers advocating support for the minority report, and engaged in extensive personal contact with friends and fellow students. Supplemented by position papers distributed through campus mail and an information table in the Campus Center, this “get-out-the-vote” campaign emphasized not letting a small minority of students dictate to everyone.

The results were all that could have been hoped for: with a turnout of 55% of the student body, by far the largest turnout in memory, 55% of voters supported the minority report, 38% supported the majority report, and 7% (a mixture of pro- and anti-ROTC) supported neither. Shortly after the results were announced, the RSU, through the Chairman of the Inter-House Congress, requested a public forum with ROTC advocates to be held immediately before the scheduled Faculty-Student Assembly vote on October 5. The midshipmen declined.

On October 5, each faculty member received a letter from the midshipmen outlining some of the recent changes in NROTC policies, courses, and activities. The agenda for that day’s Faculty-Student Assembly vote, however, proved to be too ambitious and the vote on ROTC was deferred to a special meeting the following week on October 12. On October 12, each faculty member received another letter from the midshipmen urging participation at the meeting. The meeting was broadcast on campus radio and opened with statements from ROTC opponents but

they could not find common ground on language to eliminate ROTC and their position gradually collapsed. At that point, Father Brooks, as Chairman of the Assembly, began to recognize pro-ROTC speakers, particularly Jesuits, and momentum shifted, culminating with 89 members voting against the ROTC Committee's majority report, 60 voting for it, and 5 abstaining. ROTC would remain at Holy Cross. The Educational Policy Committee was directed to formulate recommendations for changes to ROTC and to report back to the Assembly in December.

Later that day, two notes were received from Jesuits, one stating that without the Navy, there would be no Holy Cross because the College was saved from closing in World War II by the Navy ROTC and V-12 programs. The second note, from the legendary Father Hart, explained: "...Some of my ROTC friends died in the war. ROTC is one of our great activities. Congratulations – God Bless the Air Force + Navy ROTC Units."

### **The Decision on Academic Credit for ROTC**



*Captain Harry R. Moore*

Captain Moore had been at the College less than two months before the Faculty-Student Assembly vote and, although he had already forged strong personal relationships with Father Brooks and with the Acting Dean, Father Joseph R. Fahey, S. J., he was only beginning to know (and be known by) the faculty. In the next phase, his personal characteristics and intellect made themselves felt and anecdotes began to appear that revealed the great respect he was earning from the faculty. On October 19, Father Fahey on behalf of the EPC formally requested that the Naval and Air Force ROTC Units provide a great deal of specific information on their academic courses. Captain Moore replied to the EPC request with all of the supporting material on October 23 and the Naval and Air Force Unit Commanders and representative midshipmen and cadets were scheduled to meet separately with the EPC on November 6.

The midshipmen and cadet representatives spent two weeks preparing for this meeting by studying the material assembled by the Holy Cross ROTC Units, collecting other pertinent material, and brainstorming likely questions. The final midshipmen preparation meeting included a session with Captain Moore and the Executive Officer to ensure a consistent message.

The midshipmen met separately with the EPC in a session that was scheduled for 30 minutes but went 50 and, after similar meetings with the Air Force cadets and with the Naval and Air Force Unit Commanders, the EPC decided to re-submit the ROTC courses to individual departments for evaluation. The evaluations extensively involved the staffs of both ROTC Units and delayed the final EPC report until March 1971 when the EPC recommended full academic credit for NROTC courses except for the first semester of freshman year and a deferred decision on one of the Marine Option courses. The Holy Cross NROTC Unit had survived the eleven-month challenge to its existence nearly intact.

In individual letters to the midshipmen representatives to the EPC on November 10, Father Brooks thanked them for their “extremely positive contribution,” “very fine impression,” “very articulate and well-reasoned responses,” and “wonderfully beneficial service.”

In a March 5, 1971 letter to Father Brooks, Captain Moore thanked Fathers Brooks and Fahey “for the fairness with which the NROTC problem has been treated at Holy Cross” and for their “kind and impartial treatment.” In his March 8 response, Father Brooks stated that Holy Cross was very fortunate to have Captain Moore as Commander of the NROTC Unit because of his experience, openness, and ability to articulate issues. In 2009 remarks to the O’ Callahan Society, Father Brooks stated “...that the retention of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was preserved primarily in those troubled days and weeks by the dedicated labor, attention to detail, compelling arguments, patience and persistence of Captain Moore. Without his dedicated commitment and hard work, there would be no NROTC Unit on the Holy Cross campus...”

In perhaps the best assessment of the core principles of the College of the Holy Cross, Father Fahey told the NROTC seniors at their Spring 1971 Dining-In that Holy Cross had the last NROTC Unit in New England and earlier that academic year had published a nationally acclaimed booklet on the Berrigan brothers (prominent anti-war activists). He thought that range of activity represented the intellectual balance that the College ought to be providing.

## Appendix E. Women Veterans from Holy Cross and the NROTC Unit

After Holy Cross went coeducational in 1972, it didn't take long for Holy Cross alumna to be commissioned into the military. Captain Margaret Simoneau, '75 USPHS (Ret) is the earliest woman graduate with commissioned military service. Though she was not a member of the NROTC Unit, she was commissioned a Navy Ensign in 1983, transferred to the US Public Health Service in 1989, and retired in 2013 after 30 years on active duty. As with Captain Simoneau, not all women who served were commissioned from the NROTC Unit. Well over 100 Holy Cross alumnae have entered the Navy, Coast Guard, Army, and Air Force either through the NROTC and AFROTC Units at Holy Cross, or through Officer Candidate School.

Holy Cross President, Father John E. Brooks, championed the coeducation of Holy Cross, as well as of the NROTC Unit, and the entry of women into the NROTC Battalion shadowed the integration of the Service Academies. LtCol Kelly (McAvoy) Neilson USMCR (Ret) was the first woman in the United States to earn a Marine Corps scholarship and she was the first woman commissioned from the Holy Cross NROTC Unit (as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 1976). She later attended the O'Callahan Society dinners in both 2011 when Father Brooks was recognized with the Outstanding Civilian Service award for his steadfast support of ROTC at Holy Cross, and in 2017 when the commissioning of the 100<sup>th</sup> woman from the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was highlighted. LtCol (McAvoy) Neilson was closely followed by Col Karen (Filiault) Hubbard USMCR (Ret) who was commissioned in 1978.



*Midshipman McAvoy Swearing In – September 1973*

The numbers of women entering the unit increased steadily although the number of women commissioned varied from year to year. Between 1976 and 2021, 113 women were commissioned from the NROTC Unit, of which 14 were 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants in the Marine Corps.

While the number of women increased in the services, there was also an expansion of the types of billets opened to women which improved promotion possibilities. In the Navy, unrestricted line opportunities opened up and, as that occurred, the number of women in traditional billets dropped, while the number in non-traditional billets increased.

Milestones in the integration of women into the Navy included:

- 1973: women officers with civilian husbands could receive housing allowances at the “With Dependents” rate.
- 1975: women were no longer involuntarily discharged for becoming pregnant.
- 1978: women were assigned to the repair ship Vulcan (AR-5)
- by 1982: women officers were assigned to over 30 ships and enlisted women were assigned to 20 ships ((primarily repair ships and tenders). This allowed women officers to enter the surface warfare and special operations communities.

Though opportunities increased, the number of women in different communities was restricted. Ceilings were set on the number of women in Surface Warfare, Aviation, the Supply Corps, Chaplain Corps and the Civil Engineering Corps. Between 1972 and 1982, the Sea Services dealt with numerous issues: unplanned pregnancies, shipboard assignments of dual military couples, co-location of dual military couples, assignment of women to ships, whether women could be assigned to aircraft, etc. Fifty years later, these are routine and “not even considered.”

In 1981, women Marines were still bound to traditional billets of administration (50%) while less than one-quarter were in logistics and supply. The rest of the women were divided evenly across other job descriptions with the exclusion of combat arms and pilots which were still closed occupations. In 1980, females going through Marine Corps Officer Candidate School had to wear make-up and were given a class on how to wear make-up from a Mary Kay representative. In 1981 at The Basic School, the female 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants couldn't wear camouflage on their faces or take any position that was considered an offensive position – they were only allowed to take defensive positions. In the 1990's a generation of women entered the services with no idea of what was impossible a mere 10 years earlier. Both men and women in the services didn't know a Navy without women stationed aboard ships.

Desert Shield and Desert Storm (1990-1991) were a test for all the services and Navy women served in a variety of roles in the combat area. For example, a Navy Cargo Handling Battalion from Alameda CA included Barbara (Lintermann) Thibadeau '81 who had earned her PhD in Organizational Management and later worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in TN. She ran the night shift in theater after being called up as a reservist. This was the midshipman of whom one of the NROTC staff said: her “give a sh\*\* factor was nil”. She had served her four years as a Supply Officer and continued as a reservist for the next 20+ years. She wished she had been a part of the Cargo Handling Battalion from the beginning of her service because it was a “blast,” even when she was sheltered in the interior of the ship they were offloading during a Scud attack.

There are several reasons one applies for a Navy ROTC scholarship: for several women in the NROTC unit, it was an opportunity to afford a Holy Cross education; for some, military service was a family tradition; and for others, it was a combination of both. CDR Kara (Jacobson) Dallman USNR (Ret) '87 was the daughter of Harry Jacobson, commissioned as an Ensign in 1953 from the NROTC Unit.

CDR Mary Kathryn Devine, commissioned in 2001, was led to the Unit by her family values as her family had served in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps during WWII, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War. The NROTC scholarship was also critical to her being able to earn a Holy Cross education. Since commissioning, CDR Devine has been a Surface Warfare Officer, a Naval War College graduate, and in 2019, became the first woman graduate from the Holy Cross NROTC Unit to command a surface combatant: USS Bainbridge (DDG-96).

Holy Cross alumnae have served in the Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard and some of those commissioned from the NROTC unit include:

LtCol Susan (Goddard) Dooley USMC (Ret) '81 is the Director of Admissions at the Naval Postgraduate School. In her position, she unknowingly worked with LCDR Trisha (Fyfe) Cronau '00 and LT Shelby Nikitin '04, while both were detailers at the Bureau of Personnel.

CDR Kara Dallman USN (Ret) '87 served as the Senior Director for Operations of the unique non-profit United Through Reading. She received the Sanctae Crucis award in 2013.

CAPT Karen A. Tsiantas, USN (Ret) '87 served 27 years in the Navy.

RADM Nancy (Stewart) LaCore '90 earned her wings in 1993 and went on to serve in the Reserves after leaving active duty in 2000. She served multiple command tours while in the operational reserve forces including a stint in Afghanistan in 2012. CAPT LaCore completed a Valor Run dedicated to the 160 women lost in Iraq and Afghanistan, running 160 miles in 160 hours in 2014. In 2017, she commanded Camp Limonnier in Djibouti and in 2018, she became the first woman graduate from the Holy Cross NROTC Unit to be promoted to Rear Admiral.

Lisa (Taylor) Trainor '96 served on the USS Tarawa after graduation. She later earned her law degree, is a lawyer in the Department of Justice, and earned the Sanctae Crucis award in 2012.

ENS Kara Hartling WPI '04 was chosen for a highly selective Immediate Graduate Education Program and earned her MS in Systems Engineering from Naval Postgraduate School in 2005.

CDR Shelby Nikitin '04 reported to USS Thomas Hudner (DDG-116) as Executive Officer in 2020 and is scheduled to assume command of the ship in Spring 2022.

LT Joanna Bridge, WPI '07, was one of approximately 30 ROTC students from all Services across the country commissioned by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in the White House East Room with President George W. Bush present. A qualified Surface Nuclear Power Officer, she also served as a Navy program manager.



*Ensign Bridge Commissioning (behind President Bush right shoulder)*

Some of those commissioned through sources other than the NROTC unit:

CDR Bernadette M. Semple USN (Ret) '82, served as the deputy director of C4 Systems with the Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa. Previously she served as a commanding officer of the Naval Communications Security Material System and the chief Pacific Command representative in Guam. CDR Semple was also a College of the Holy Cross trustee.

Nancy Petit MD '82 attended the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and then served as a Navy doctor. She is currently an OB/GYN in Wilmington DE.

CAPT Gail Kulisch, USCG (Ret) '83 served in a variety of USCG billets during her 28 years in the Coast Guard; these billets included Commanding Officer of the USCG Cape Cross, and Commanding Officer of the USCG Atlantic Strike Team.

Colonel Diane M. Ryan '88 served 29 years in the Army including as a professor at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY; with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division during Desert Storm; and with the 1st Cavalry Division in Baghdad, Iraq.

In 2013, while speaking at the annual President's Review, Susan Dooley '81 realized the young women in the Battalion formation in front of her were now able to fly combat airplanes, serve aboard combat ships, and command ships, squadrons, and wings. And they wouldn't be required to learn how to put on make-up.



## Appendix F. Transition to a Consortium

The Worcester Consortium for Higher Education, Inc. was formally organized in 1969 with Father Raymond J. Swords, President of the College of the Holy Cross, as the first chairperson. In late 1970, while the Naval and Air Force ROTC Units were still engaged in extensive discussions with various College departments and committees over the allocation of credit to their courses, Captain Harry R. Moore of the Naval Unit requested permission to enroll students from the Worcester Consortium in the Holy Cross NROTC Unit.

On January 15, 1971, Father Fahey, Acting Dean of the College, notified Captain Moore that Father Brooks (who had replaced Father Swords as President of the College in July 1970) had refused permission to enroll Consortium students in NROTC due to concerns about additional anti-ROTC protests and the lack of disciplinary authority over non-Holy Cross students.

In a report on March 5, 1971, the NROTC Unit listed 124 midshipmen, including 27 seniors in the Class of 1971. However, by June, five seniors had been dis-enrolled for physical, academic, or conscientious objector reasons and one of the Navy officers who was actually commissioned was medically discharged upon reporting for flight training. Thus, only 22 officers in this class were commissioned and only 21 actually served as officers. In 1966, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit had commissioned the third largest class of the 52 NROTC Units and the largest group of Marine officers. From 1967-70, Holy Cross commissioned 177 Navy and Marine Corps officers, an average of 44 per year. However, the turmoil of the late 1960s and early 1970s and the reduced staffing needs of the post-Vietnam Navy and Marine Corps were now taking a toll on enrollment and Captain Moore could see the need to expand his pool of potential recruits.

On December 29, 1971, Captain Moore renewed his request to cross-register students from Worcester Consortium schools. In accordance with then-existing Navy policy, these would be Contract NROTC students, not scholarship students, and the President and Dean of Holy Cross would have final approval over cross-registered students. Contract students were commissioned in the Navy Reserve and had a two-year active duty commitment. Like Marine Option students, they were not required to take calculus and physics, but were advised that if they wished to be competitive for a Professor of Naval Science scholarship, they should take these courses. On February 14, 1972, Father Fahey notified Captain Moore of Father Brooks' approval of the cross registration of Contract NROTC students with the following conditions:

- Holy Cross President to approve all non-Holy Cross Contract student enrollments
- No formal agreements to be made with any other school but Father Brooks would personally notify the other schools
- No active recruiting at other schools permitted

In the Fall of 1972, permission was granted to NROTC Unit staff to interview students from Worcester Consortium schools and the first non-Holy Cross students were accepted for NROTC. On September 14, 1972, Father Brooks notified the Presidents of Assumption, Clark, WPI, and Worcester State that the Air Force ROTC was authorizing scholarships for cross-enrolled students and on April 10, 1973, the Chief of Naval Operations solicited input from NROTC schools about a similar expansion of ROTC scholarships to students at nearby schools. Internal Holy Cross records indicate Holy Cross opposed this expansion for NROTC.

On May 3, 1974, Captain Richard A. Schnorf, Captain Moore's successor as NROTC Commanding Officer, asked Father Fahey for a modification of the cross-registration agreement to permit active recruiting of Contract students at other schools. On July 8, 1974, Father Brooks (in a letter from Father Fahey) approved physical visits to other Consortium campuses and verbal presentations (but no printed material) in order to recruit Contract NROTC students. Father Fahey stipulated that the Administration did not want a "numbers" competition between the Naval and Air Force Units if it meant a great influx of non-Holy Cross students.

Despite these efforts to expand the pool of potential recruits for the Naval and Air Force Units, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was placed on probation on March 4, 1975 for not having 17-20 juniors (the Unit had 10). Continuing the decline in commissioned officers that began in 1971, the five classes from 1971 through 1975 commissioned 109 officers or an average of about 22 per year. On March 10, 1976, the Holy Cross Air Force ROTC Unit joined the Naval Unit on probation and for the same reason – an insufficient number of juniors.

In 1976, the introduction of students from Worcester Consortium schools began to be slowly felt. On April 12, MIDN 1/C Kenneth Spaulding from Assumption College was presented the Award for the Commander of the Winning Company in the NROTC Competition at the President's Review and in May, he was commissioned an Ensign. Kenneth Spaulding appears to have been the first non-Holy Cross student commissioned through the Holy Cross NROTC.

In 1978, Holy Cross learned that in April 1977, its NROTC Unit was one of fifteen Units that had been considered by the Navy for dis-establishment due to lack of an engineering school and low productivity. The Navy had established a requirement that 80% of line officer graduates have majors in mathematics, chemistry, physics, or engineering which was obviously a challenge for a liberal arts college. On January 25, 1978, the President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) asked Father Brooks to add a WPI division to the Holy Cross NROTC Unit and, on January 31, 1978, Captain Thomas R. Overdorf, Captain Schnorf's successor, notified Father Fahey that a proposed transfer of NROTC space to the Department of Psychology would entail the loss of the armory and issue room in O'Kane Hall. Without replacement, the loss of the issue room and armory "will constitute a hardship...to the point where we may no longer be... a viable unit under the terms of the current contract."

Throughout the months of February and March 1978, discussions among the Administrations of Holy Cross and WPI and the Holy Cross NROTC Unit, refined the terms under which WPI students would be actively recruited for NROTC but an NROTC branch office would not be opened on the WPI campus. On March 9, 1978, Captain Overdorf notified the WPI President that Navy policy had been changed to permit NROTC scholarship students to "...attend other than the host institution, so long as the recipient can actively participate in Navy training through a cross-enrollment agreement."

In the midst of these discussions, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was removed from three years on probation on March 7, 1978. However, on March 30, Father Fahey cautioned Captain Overdorf that proposed changes with WPI that might add 60 students to the NROTC Unit constituted "substantive changes" to current NROTC policies. In his response of April 18, Captain Overdorf noted that the midshipmen battalion had been reduced to 83 students and that attrition in the

freshmen and sophomore classes might put the Unit back on probation in a year and trigger Department of Defense action to dis-establish the Unit. He also noted that the loss of space was still an unresolved issue.

The Holy Cross, NROTC Unit, and Navy Archives do not contain any more documents addressing these issues but they must have been successfully resolved because on January 8, 1979, the next Holy Cross NROTC Commanding Officer, Captain John R. Wheeler, notified the Naval Recruiting Command that the Unit included ten WPI students on full scholarship and other students from Clark, Assumption, and Worcester State College. It is not clear on what basis scholarship students from WPI were participating in the Unit because the Educational Service Agreement (ESA) N00612-81-G-0036 executed between Trustees of the College of the Holy Cross and the Regional Contracting Department, Naval Supply Center, Charleston, South Carolina on September 30, 1981 had no provisions for scholarship students at other schools.

That deficiency was corrected on April 27, 1982 when ESA N00612-81-G-0036 Modification P00001 was signed to add Paragraph 10 on Cross-Enrollments: "If otherwise qualified, a student at an institution that does not have a unit of the NROTC is eligible to be a member of a unit at a nearby college provided such cross-enrollment is approved by both institutions. However, in the case of scholarship students, payment of tuition, fees, books, etc., will be paid by the Navy to the NROTC host institution. Local arrangements must be made by the professor of naval science for transfer of funds from the host school to the school at which the student is enrolled." With this contract modification, it appears that all legal obstacles to participation in the Holy Cross NROTC program by scholarship students at other schools in the Worcester Consortium had been removed, although, in practice, such participation may have been in place since the Fall of 1978.

However, all controversies regarding the consortium were not ended by the contract modification and, on July 28, 1982, Father Brooks met with the WPI President to discuss teaching ROTC courses on the WPI campus. Father Brooks tasked the Holy Cross Vice President on August 5 to discuss the issue with the WPI Dean but WPI applied to the Chief of Naval Education and Training for its own Naval ROTC Unit on July 28, 1983. This request was rejected.

Two unforeseen consequences of the involvement of other institutions in the Holy Cross NROTC program were increased scrutiny of course credit and instructor qualifications. By the early 1980s, credit for several NROTC courses including weapons, engineering, navigation, and Marine Option, was being challenged by various College Curriculum Committees which eventually resulted in only three NROTC courses retaining credit. By 2016, the number of accredited courses had increased to five. Insistence that NROTC instructors have at least a Master's degree meant that by 1983, only the Commanding and Executive Officers of the Unit could teach accredited courses. This situation was corrected by a compromise that permitted NROTC instructors to teach as long as they were enrolled in a Master's degree program.

The full opening of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit to students from schools in the Worcester Consortium restored the Unit to health and, by July 7, 1986, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit commissioned the 5<sup>th</sup> largest class of the 64 NROTC Units in the nation. In addition to the four schools listed by Captain Wheeler in his January 1979 memo (WPI, Clark, Assumption, Worcester State), Central New England College participated in the NROTC program 1984-86.

Clark University was dropped by the Navy in 1991 in the post-Cold War drawdown known as the ‘Peace Dividend’ and Assumption’s last NROTC student was commissioned in 1994.

The elimination of the military’s “Don’t ask, don’t tell” policy for gay men and lesbian women in 2011 eliminated the last barrier to NROTC among some colleges that had abandoned it in the 1970s and a Yale University division of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was set up in 2012. Yale was re-established as an independent NROTC Unit in the summer of 2016 and Brown University students were cross-enrolled in the Holy Cross NROTC College Program beginning in the Fall of 2016. In 2021, the Holy Cross NROTC Cross-Enrollment program consists of Holy Cross, WPI, Worcester State University, and Brown University.

#### Current Consortium Members



#### Previous Consortium Members



## Appendix G. The Peace Dividend

In January and February 1991, the U. S. military overwhelmed the Iraqi Army (at the time the fourth largest in the world) in Operation Desert Storm in one of the most one-sided military victories in history. On 1 July 1991, the Warsaw Pact that had bound the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) to seven eastern European Communist states was formally ended. In December 1991, the USSR itself dissolved, thus bringing to an end the Cold War which had dominated world politics since the end of World War II.

This string of victories left the U. S. as the world's only superpower and, in the euphoria that followed, the nation demanded a sharp reduction in military force structure and cost that was popularly termed the "Peace Dividend." From 1990 until 2000, the U. S. Navy declined from 579,417 personnel to 373,193 – a 35% reduction – while the Marine Corps dropped from 196,652 to 173,321 – a 12% reduction.

Reduced personnel requirements and a drop in the public's perceived need for military forces, led to a sharp reduction in the need for Navy and Marine Corps officers. From 1986-1990, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit commissioned 211 officers for an average of 42 per year. However, in 1991, officer commissionings dropped to 20 and the 166 total number of commissionings in the ten years from 1991 to 2000 produced an annual average that was even lower.

These reductions were anticipated in a meeting of the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) Advisory Committee on 22 March 1991. CNET projected that NROTC commissions would be reduced from nearly 2100 in FY89 to 1250 in FY94 and NROTC scholarships would be reduced from 7833 in FY86 to 5398 in FY94. Total NROTC officer staffing would drop from 347 in FY90 to 298 in FY 94 and total NROTC enlisted staffing would drop from 206 to 176. In reaction to these projected reductions, the Secretary of the Navy had already made the following decisions:

- Five of 66 NROTC Units would be closed by FY96 (Texas Tech University and the Universities of Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, and Utah although in 2016, only Texas Tech appeared to have been closed)
- 16 NROTC Units would be combined into 8 Consortia by FY92 (not including existing Consortia like Worcester but adding Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, North Carolina Research Triangle, and Mississippi River)
- 68 of 124 cross-town agreements would not be renewed (including Clark University)

In 1986, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit (by then based on the Worcester Consortium) commissioned the fifth largest class of Navy and Marine Corps officers in the nation and the health of the Unit apparently insulated it from more serious cuts in 1991. In addition to the departure of Clark University from the NROTC Consortium, Assumption College also decided at about the same time to leave the Unit and the last officer from Assumption College was commissioned in 1994.

The next challenge to the NROTC Unit from the Peace Dividend came on September 22, 1993 when the House Appropriations Committee in its Report on the FY94 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill proposed limiting the stipend for ROTC scholarships at private institutions to

the cost of a similar scholarship at the most expensive public institution in the same state. Each Military Service was required to submit a report assessing the impact of this change by March 1, 1994.

On April 12, 1994, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) provided talking points to members for discussion with Congressional Representatives about the negative impacts of the proposed ROTC scholarship caps on private institutions. These talking points noted that some of the largest ROTC Units were at private institutions, that restricting private institutions would set back efforts to include more women and minorities, and that eleven of the previous fifteen winners of the Army's MacArthur Award for best ROTC program had been independent colleges.

The Navy report that was submitted to the House Appropriations Committee included a table for each state that listed the tuition costs for each participating college and highlighted the lowest costing college. For Massachusetts, the table listed eight schools with Worcester State College (now Worcester State University – WSU) offering the lowest tuition at \$3,353 and with Holy Cross the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest at \$16,743 (WPI and Boston College were the second and third lowest respectively).

Very likely, it was this challenge to the cost of training officers at Holy Cross combined with the sharp reduction in the need for officers that prompted Father John E. Brooks, S. J., the President of the College, to invite several local alumni who were NROTC graduates to meet and discuss additional financial support for NROTC students. This initiative eventually led to the formation of the O'Callahan Committee in June 1994.

Another challenge faced by the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was the increasing requirement for technically educated officers to employ the technically sophisticated ships, submarines, aircraft, and other systems used in the Navy. This issue had actually surfaced by at least the late 1960s and was an element contributing to the expansion of NROTC to the Worcester Consortium in the 1970s. Schools such as Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) helped meet the Navy and Marine Corps need for technical education. This issue was also a significant point of contention between Holy Cross and the Air Force in the 1970s and 1980s and ultimately resulted in the transfer of the Holy Cross Air Force ROTC Unit to WPI in 1990.

Differing philosophies on the value of liberal arts versus technical education for officer candidates in ROTC produce a never-ending discussion that occasionally reaches a critical point, most recently in 2014. To date, the balance between Holy Cross, WPI, and WSU students in the Holy Cross NROTC Unit has satisfied Navy and Marine Corps interests.

## **Appendix H. Role, Duties, and Responsibilities of the Marine Officer Instructor (MOI)**

When Jay E. Burzak served as MOI 1982-85, the position was a major's billet and had been for decades. This placed the MOI essentially third in command at the unit.

When serving in my first year as MOI at Holy Cross I received a letter from a junior officer from the greater Boston area who was contemplating requesting MOI duty and wanted to know what it entailed. I wish I could locate a copy of my response. In the days prior to the personal computer, copies of such things were archived on green flimsy carbon copies. Lest you think it was the stone ages it was only the mid 1980's.

As I recall, I outlined the functional duties. The obvious was instructor for, at the time, fully accredited college courses in Amphibious Operations, History of Warfare, Leadership Seminar as well as backstopping National Security Policy, Sea Power & Maritime Affairs, and even Naval Orientation. As a Tank Officer, the Executive Officer also had me covering Naval Engineering & Ship Systems relating to internal combustion engines. The college required a relevant advanced degree and vetting by the Dean to maintain accreditation, as well as that the classes be open to the entire student body. My degrees were in history and international relations from Marquette and Catholic University of America, respectively.

Then there were the military skills training responsibilities. First among these was Battalion staff advisor. Also included was physical fitness training for the Marine Options (MOs), any other interested Midshipmen, and the occasional candidate of other commissioning programs such as Platoon Leaders Class. With the able aid of the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, an experienced Staff Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) often with a Drill Instructor background, it encompassed oversight for Color Guard, Drill Team, Rifle, and Pistol Teams. This went beyond instructing marching for the Battalion, but included close order drill, manual of arms for rifle (yes, we had a complement of de-militarized 1903 Springfield rifles for the entire Battalion), sword manual for billet holders, and new to my tenure, sailing, in which the Navy certified me as an instructor during preliminary staff training conducted at the Naval Academy.

More important were mentoring responsibilities, specifically, the MOs but also a class cohort. Not only did it require academic counselling (including corresponding/meeting with concerned parents), but personal counselling, Bull Dog preparation to include map and compass land navigation, and familiarization with the then service rifle, the M16A1, borrowed from the local reserve center for that purpose. Additionally picked up were faculty sponsorship for extracurricular activities such as the Semper Fidelis Society, flag football, and plank holder to the college's Symposium on War & Peace.

Then there were the ceremonial coordination responsibilities. President's Review, Commissioning, and any others that may arise, such as the inauguration of a Joint ROTC Cotillion and VIP visits. For example, in 1991, the then MOI, Major Joseph Dunford, was tasked with organizing the ceremony commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit. Major Dunford became General Dunford and served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (2015-19). Of course, there were less-ceremonial events like the Physical Fitness Test (PFT), annual field meet, and the infamous Spaghetti Dinner.

Summer assignment in my case was to Naval Science Institute, Naval Station Newport RI as Military Training Instructor for side-loading Midshipmen candidates into the NROTC program, backfilling Freshman and Sophomore attrition. Other MOIs pulled assignments such as series officer to Bull Dog or various segments of cruise or warfare specialty familiarization training for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Midshipmen. All of the above is what the NROTC Professor of Naval Science (PNS) and Chief of Naval Education and Training expected, not to mention the Dean of Students.



*General Dunford as Major and MOI*

Why the Marine Corps assigned any MOI was made clear by the General Officer, Head of Manpower who personally in-briefed each MOI prior to assuming their duties and emphasized that they were there to represent the interests of the Corps to recruit, procure, screen, train, and retain qualified Marine Officer candidates. All of the above listed responsibilities were tools in the toolbox for achieving that end. Essentially, a MOI was role model and proxy for Manpower and the Commandant to be the final arbiter to recommend any Midshipman wanting a Marine commission. The weight of that task was serious and heavy with the realization of what that would mean for the legacy of the officer corps, not to mention the petitioning candidate. How one handled this was the measure not of just the PNS's fitness report comments but of those of the report's reviewing officer's, Manpower himself.

Things have changed since that day. Over the past decade and a-half focus may have shifted a bit to the more practical over the more esoteric. Gone for the most part is the accreditation for the courses across NROTC units. Gone are the requirements for manual of arms and the sword. Gone are rifle and pistol teams. The billet is now a Captain's and he, and yes, /or she, needn't possess an advanced degree, in fact many take the opportunity of the posting to fit one in, if so motivated. Many may be returning from combat tours or are on their way to another. Some, only themselves having been commissioned four years prior to assuming the duties, are closer in age to their charges and perhaps relate better to the cultural transition being embarked upon.

What is new is the freshman indoctrination plebe week at Newport and coordinating more robust field training exercises in preparation for Bull Dog. The bifurcated staff responsibilities of geographically dispersed units including Yale and now Brown, impact greatly on the range of the MOI's principal mission. Today's MOIs are as dedicated, focused, and busy as ever.



The critical backbone mission of mentoring remains salient with even greater urgency as the time from graduation to the battlefield has diminished. The goal, the prime responsibility to be the final arbiter, to validate a succeeding generation of Marine Officers, has never been more critical. The future is always unknown yet the needs of the Corps and country are constant. Just as the Marine Corps finds its companies widely dispersed on the modern battlefield, so too is the MOI dispersed. Today's MOIs are ever "on the bounce."

I left the unit after three years to enter Foreign Area Officer language training in Mandarin Chinese that opened the wonders of Marco Polo to this humble Marine and, later, transitioned to the intelligence military occupational specialty. I do not recall the name of the junior officer who made inquiry. Who knows, it just may have been a future MOI or even a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Semper Fi

## Appendix I. The Value of a Liberal Arts Education

### Additional Sources:

- 2012 Memorial of Father John E. Brooks by Commander William A. Dempsey, USNR (Ret), Holy Cross NROTC '63, Chairman Emeritus of the O'Callahan Society
- May 5, 2014 letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (M&RA) by Vice Admirals (Ret) Barry M. Costello '73 and Peter H. Daly '77
- 1969 Holy Cross NROTC *Knight Watch*

As the American military has become more technologically sophisticated, there has been an accompanying pressure to ensure that new officers have a technical background which is usually defined as mathematics, science (specifically physics and chemistry), and engineering.

An early illustration of this pressure is shown in the Holy Cross NROTC yearbook, *Knight Watch*, in 1969. One senior's picture in his Marine Corps uniform after two years in the Marine Option Program lists his rank as Ensign, USNR. The reason for this contradiction lies with his major – Physics. The Navy nuclear power program learned they had an ROTC student majoring in physics and reached out very late in the assignment process to capture him

Father John E. Brooks, S. J., World War II Army veteran and President of Holy Cross 1970-94, was a vocal advocate for the value of a liberal arts education for those serving in the Armed Forces. At the O'Callahan Society's meeting on October 19, 2009, he noted that, as President of Holy Cross, he was one of four college presidents serving on an Air Force ROTC advisory panel. During their discussions, he would acknowledge the need for young officers who had the technical skills to operate today's sophisticated weapons but would then argue "year after year", there is a "comparable need for military officers well-versed in the liberal arts – young men and women who have ... the basic mental habits, intellectual skills, qualities of mind and judgment – all commonly referred to by philosophers and our sacred authors as wisdom."

He summarized a liberal arts education as one "not nurtured by job training, but by experiencing and coming to an understanding of literature, history, the arts, cultures, languages and religion, and, he concluded "Not every military officer needs such an education, but in my judgment it is essential to the welfare of our nation that numbered among the leadership in our Armed Forces must be officers and decision makers whose minds and souls have been enriched and formed by a strong liberal arts education."

However, despite Father Brooks' best efforts, the Air Force's desire for a greater number of technically educated officers was at the root of their decision to re-locate the Air Force ROTC Unit from Holy Cross to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1990.

The Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit faced a similar crisis in April 1977 when the Unit was one of fifteen considered for dis-establishment by the Navy because of low enrollment and lack of an engineering school. The expansion of the Unit through cross-enrollments with other colleges that are members of the Worcester Consortium for Higher Education alleviated both problems.

In 2009, the tension between liberal arts and technical studies surfaced again when the Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) issued an instruction requiring 85% of NROTC scholarships be awarded to students in one of 44 specified technical majors (eight 'Tier 1' and 36 'Tier 2') leaving only 15% for liberal arts majors. In 2014, the Navy considered further reducing the scholarship stipend for liberal arts majors.

In a May 5, 2014 comment submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, two graduates of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit who had retired at the rank of Vice Admiral (Barry M. Costello '73 and Peter H. Daly '77) argued that "...Liberal Arts Institutions with excellent academic reputations and longstanding, strongly supportive relationships with the Naval Service will no longer be part of the program." The Admirals further argued that, for officer education, "Central to success are qualities to work well with people, to write effectively, and to be able to speak coherently on a wide variety of subjects in social circles based on an appreciation of our rich literature and history – elements of a Liberal Arts education." In a Navy and Marine Corps that place much greater emphasis on diversity, the Admirals pointed out that "...the diversity of thought produced at the 164 institutions of higher learning the NROTC program represents" would be imperiled by the new policy.

The arguments of the Holy Cross Admirals and others succeeded in staving off the scholarship stipend reduction for liberal arts majors but the Navy retains the requirement that 85% of NROTC scholarships be limited to specified technical majors. As the Admirals point out, there is more to officer leadership than technical background and, over the 80 years of the Holy Cross NROTC, nearly 2,100 Holy Cross graduates and nearly 400 graduates from other colleges in the Worcester Consortium have provided outstanding leadership from the most junior levels to Fleet Command and, most importantly, have excelled in the crucible of combat.

## Appendix J. COVID-19

In late 2019, the People's Republic of China reported an outbreak of a flu-like illness in the city of Wuhan that was designated Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Because of modern China's extensive economic and tourism ties, the virus spread rapidly throughout the world and hit Europe particularly hard at the beginning.

The first US infection was identified on January 20, 2020 and the first US death was recorded on February 29, 2020, although subsequent analysis confirmed that some earlier deaths in February were due to COVID-19. The virus spread exceptionally quickly, reminiscent of the Swine Flu epidemic of 2010-2011 which in just one year, infected almost 61 million Americans – 20 % of the US population. However, COVID-19 was much deadlier than Swine Flu, which, according to the US Center for Disease Control (CDC), killed about 12,500 Americans in a year. Statistics compiled by Johns Hopkins University showed that, in the eighteen months from March 2020 to August 2021, COVID-19 killed more than 640,000 Americans, a total exceeded only by the 1918 Flu Pandemic among the deadliest events in US history.

Recognizing the rapid transmission and deadliness of COVID-19, the Holy Cross Administration, along with many other government and educational officials, reacted quickly with drastic measures to attempt to control the spread of the virus. On March 12, 2020, Holy Cross closed the school and ordered students to vacate dormitories while the College worked to shift its courses to online formats. At the same time, particularly in the east and northeast, many businesses were ordered closed, particularly in the tourism, entertainment, dining, and hotel industries. Airline and automobile traffic plummeted and Americans learned to deal with quarantine, face masks, and 'social distancing.'

The Holy Cross NROTC Unit, following the direction of the College, shifted its Spring 2020 classes and training activities online. Weekly midshipmen training events took the form of 'laboratories', each addressing a different topic. Scheduled events such as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of Father O'Callahan's Medal of Honor actions on March 19 and the annual Presidents Review were cancelled. The 2020 Commissioning ceremony was held online with each First Class Midshipman at a different location but sworn in by the same officer (RADM Shoshana S. Chatfield, President of the Naval War College). The impact on the more junior classes was perhaps even greater because all summer training cruises were cancelled. Of note, the most visible face of the Federal Government in this crisis was Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a 1962 graduate of Holy Cross. In recognition of his impact, Holy Cross midshipmen initiated a petition to invite him to be the 2020 Commencement speaker and he accepted.

While the College had hoped to resume at least some classes on-campus for the Fall Semester, this was not to be. Instead, the Fall Semester saw a continuation of online classes and weekly training laboratories. The annual O'Callahan Society Dinner with its history of prominent speakers was replaced by a video-teleconference with one of the College's most distinguished alumnae, Rear Admiral Nancy Lacore, the first woman graduate of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit to become an Admiral and then Chief of Staff at US Naval Forces Europe-Africa. Drawing on experience gained in the Spring semester, the Unit staff and Midshipman Battalion proved adept at using the forced reliance on virtual training to schedule important speakers who otherwise

would not have been able to appear in person. In addition to Admiral Lacore, the highlight of the semester was a November session with General James N. Mattis, former Secretary of Defense and former Commander of US Central Command.

As 2020 progressed, attempts around the nation to loosen quarantine restrictions and re-start schools and businesses seemed invariably to lead to resurgence of the virus and re-tightening of restrictions. This was particularly true in the 2020 holiday period when infection rates in some states reached four times the peaks experienced in the previous Spring and summer.

As deaths and infections skyrocketed, however, the first glimmers of hope for an end to the pandemic began to appear. In one of the fastest vaccine development efforts in history, the Food and Drug Administration authorized two vaccines for emergency use in the US in December and, by the end of the month, the US had contracted for 400 million doses (enough for 200 million people) to be delivered by July. In February 2021, an additional 200 million doses were on placed on contract for the US and a third vaccine received emergency use authorization.

In late January 2021, Holy Cross students, faculty, and staff at last returned to campus for the first time in almost a year, although with numerous changes. Nearly 2,000 students chose to return (the remainder continued their education virtually) and changes included:

- Social distancing through an arrival managed over the course of two weeks, smaller class sizes, and fewer on-campus residents;
- Frequent COVID-19 testing;
- Visible changes such as face masks, plexiglass dividers, hand sanitizer stations, markers in public places to guide social distancing, and consolidated and reconfigured dining facilities;
- Behind-the-scenes changes such as installation of HEPA filters in many classrooms, reassessments of maximum capacity limits for elevators, buildings and flex spaces, additional nursing staff, a third-party testing company to manage the high volume of testing, isolation and quarantine spaces (including rooms at a local hotel), volunteer staff to trace contacts, and student health ambassadors to communicate regulations and best practices to the student body.

Similar changes were made at the other participating Holy Cross NROTC Schools so that, at last, all 51 midshipmen in the Battalion were able to gather. The seventeen 4<sup>th</sup> Class midshipmen in particular were able to complete new student orientation in February, be issued uniforms, and be sworn in.

Even though most students and all midshipmen were on campus for the semester, many events of the Winter Homecoming in February were held virtually, including a meeting of the O'Callahan Society. Captain Carlin, the Unit Commanding Officer, provided an update on the status of the Unit and Vice Admiral Peter Daly, US Navy (Retired), the CEO of the US Naval Institute and a 1977 graduate of Holy Cross, spoke about the current operations and challenges facing the Navy and Marine Corps.



*4<sup>th</sup> Class Mids Sworn-In with Face Masks & Social Distance, 2/2/2021*

Throughout the semester, visitors to the campus other than students, faculty, and staff were severely restricted and most gatherings and ceremonies were either cancelled (NROTC Presidents Review in April) or held virtually (class reunions in June).

Simultaneously however, vaccinations proceeded rapidly throughout the United States so that, in mid-May, CDC removed the requirement to wear masks for fully vaccinated people. These improvements allowed Holy Cross to cautiously hold Commencement and Commissioning in May as in-person events, although still observing strict protocols on masks and social distance. Similarly, the Navy resumed summer training cruises for 2021.

By the end of August 2021, CDC reported that more than 205 million Americans (over 60% of the population) had received at least the first of two vaccine doses and 85% of them had been fully vaccinated. Unfortunately, the appearance of even more infectious mutations in the COVID-19 virus raised questions about when the pandemic might really end and there was also a question about whether annual re-vaccinations would be needed, as is the case with more ‘routine’ forms of the flu. Across the nation, air travel, tourism, the hospitality industry (hotels and restaurants), and other lines of business continued to experience large reductions in volume that slowed the economic recovery of the country.

In the long term, it remains to be seen what the impact of COVID-19 on Navy and Marine Corps performance will be. In this regard, one of Admiral Lacore’s comments in October has particular application to the problem facing the Unit and the country: “You can’t teach leadership remotely.”

## Appendix K. Holy Cross NROTC Commanding Officers and College Presidents

<b>NROTC Commanding Officers</b>	<b>Holy Cross Presidents</b>
Capt Julian C. Wheeler 1941-1942	Joseph R N Maxwell S.J. 1939-1945
Capt Guy E. David 1942-1944	
Capt Fredrick C Sachse 1944-1945	William J Healy S.J. 1945-1948
Capt Emory P. Hyland 1945-1947	
Capt Edward J Burke 1947-1950	John A. O'Brien S.J. 1948-1954
Capt James A. Glick 1950-1955	William A Donaghy 1954-1960
Capt Harry H McIlanney 1955-1958	
Capt Prentis K Will 1958-1960	Raymond J Swords S.J. 1960-1970
Capt Charles W Kinsella 1960-1962	
Capt Paul C Rooney 1962-1965	
Capt Edward R Hayes 1965-1970	
Capt Harry R Moore 1970-1972	John E Brooks S.J. 1970-1994
Capt Richard A. Schnorf 1972-1975	
Capt William R Overdorf 1975-1978	
Capt John R Wheeler 1978-1981	
Capt Edward F Jardine 1981-1985	
Capt R S Badgett 1985-1989	
Capt Bernard L Patterson III 1989-1991	
Capt Tim Winters 1991-1994	Gerard Reedy S.J. 1994-1999
Capt William S Boniface 1994-1998	
Capt Daniel J Brennock 1998-2001	Michael J McFarland S.J. 2001-2011
Capt Terence P Labrecque 2001-2003	
Capt Gerald K Stair 2003-2005	
Capt Robert McNaught 2005-2009	
Capt Ronald Harrell 2009-2012	Philip Boroughs S.J. 2011-2021
Capt Calvin Slocumb 2013-2014	
Capt Vernon Kemper 2014-2016	
Capt Mark Edward 2016-2018	
Capt Larry G. McCullen 2018-2020	
Capt Marvin Carlin 2020-	Mr. Vincent D. Rougeau 2021-

# **History and Activities of the O'Callahan Society Supporting the College of the Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit**

**August 2021**

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On Behalf of the  
Holy Cross O'Callahan Society

## **Authors**

Commander Bill Dempsey '63, USNR (Ret)  
Chairman Emeritus, O'Callahan Society

Mr. Lester W. Paquin  
O'Callahan Society Board and Executive Committee

Mr. James F. Delehaunty '67  
Co-Chair, O'Callahan Society



## **Introduction**

The O'Callahan Society was inspired by the Reverend John E. Brooks, S.J., President of the College of the Holy Cross 1970-94.

The O'Callahan Society was formed as an affinity group of the Holy Cross Alumni Office. Its 1,500 members are predominantly, but not exclusively, alumni of the College's NROTC Program. In its charter, the Society traces its beginnings to 1994 when Father Brooks formally established the Father Joseph T. O'Callahan, S. J., Scholarship Committee.

These items follow:

1. A tribute to Fr. Brooks, authored by William Dempsey, a founding member of the O'Callahan Scholarship Committee and the Committee's Chairman for its duration. Mr. Dempsey was also the first Chairman of the O'Callahan Society. This reminiscence was printed in the program book for the Society's 2012 dinner, which took place two months after the death of Fr. Brooks.
2. A tribute to Fr. Brooks by Lester Paquin, also a founding member of the O'Callahan Scholarship Committee and a former member of the Society's Executive Board, delivered from the podium at the Society's 2012 dinner.
3. The text of prepared remarks by the Rev. John E. Brooks, S.J., delivered to the first meeting of the O'Callahan Society in October, 2009. They continue to inspire the Society.
4. The text of the first Captain Harry R. Moore Award presented to Father Brooks in 2011.
5. Brief biography of Father O'Callahan and photos of his display in the College's Science Library.
6. Memorials to First Lieutenant John Power and Lieutenant Junior Grade Frank Malinski by Lester Paquin. The O'Callahan Society presents annual scholarships in honor of these two Holy Cross alumni.
7. Tribute to Honorable Paul Mullaney by Lester Paquin as an example of tributes sponsored by the O'Callahan Society.
8. O'Callahan Society Fundraising
9. O'Callahan Society Timeline.

## The Beginning of the O'Callahan Society

The roots of the O'Callahan Society may be traced to the early '90s when Jim Delehaunty, USN '67, Jack Nugent, USN '68, I and others met with Father John E. Brooks, S. J., then President, to consider that the declining enrollment of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit might lead to its 'disestablishment'. As a result of our discussion, the College formally recognized the Father Joseph T. O'Callahan NROTC Committee in a letter signed by Father Brooks on June 30, 1994. Our goals were (and remain) to assist the NROTC Unit and to "*honor the memory of Father Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J.*", Medal of Honor recipient and Holy Cross professor.

At that time, I was aware that Holy Cross was among the few liberal arts schools that retained ROTC units during the turbulent 70s, that, in the same period, the College had 'gone co-ed' and had also begun a committed, continuing effort to increase ethnic and racial diversity on campus. I was also aware that since the 1970s, the College of the Holy Cross had achieved an enviable reputation as one of the nation's finest liberal arts colleges and as a financially sound, well run institution.

What I did not appreciate, in 1994, was the extent to which the extraordinary leadership of Father Brooks, first as Dean of the College and then as President played in these accomplishments. Of course, his skills as a knowledgeable, innovative and effective administrator must be acknowledged as being crucial to his success in placing the College on a firm financial basis and achieving greater intellectual stature. However, I do not believe these characteristics fully explain the man and his life. We must also consider his sense of social justice, his true Christian spirit, and his humble confidence.

To me, Father Brooks was a true visionary who understood that one of the few constants in the human experience is 'change'. Because he recognized that change is inevitable, he was able to consider alternatives confronting an evolving society in a calm, rational manner and to make decisions he thought would be best for '*the long-term good of the College*'. (Father Markey's Homily at Father Brooks' funeral, July 9, 2012; emphasis added.)

His ability to use change to meet the needs of the College (and the nation) may be seen in his approaches to the issues of racial diversity, co-education and the military on campus.

*Racial and Ethnic Diversity.* In 1968, the year that Martin Luther King was murdered, Holy Cross had only a handful of African American students. That same year, Father Brooks, recognizing that neither the college nor the country would be well served by maintaining the status quo, embarked on an ambitious program to attract African Americans. Today, twenty-five percent of the student population is made up of minorities. Notable graduates from that community include: Clarence Thomas, '71, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Edward P. Jones, '72, 2004 Pulitzer Prize recipient for fiction, and Ed Jenkins, Jr, Class of 1972 and member of the 1972 Miami Dolphins Super Bowl Champions.

Of Father Brooks' work to effect this transition, Diane Brady, in her book *Fraternity* says "*Even among the Jesuits, a progressive, intellectual and typically outspoken order ..., John Brooks stood out.*" She goes on to say "*While many of the professors and priests at Holy Cross*

welcomed change, few were as relentless as Brooks in pushing for it.” (Source: New York Times, July 4, 2012)

Because he embraced change for social justice and constitutional equality, Holy Cross is now a college which welcomes and vigorously seeks diversity among its students, its faculty and its administration.

*Bringing Women on Campus.* The winds of change which moved Father Brooks to promote greater minority presence on campus also convinced him that women should be included in the student body in particular and the College in general.

In a 1997 interview, he said of changes in our society since the 70s: “*We were in a rapidly changing culture in terms of women’s experience. It was clear that women were getting into the job market, and they were going to be very influential. Our tradition at Holy Cross is to educate leaders who will have an influence on society and change the culture. More and more, those leaders are women.*” Of course, Father Brooks and the administration encountered resistance from alumni and others. However, as the experience of women on campus helped the College grow intellectually and otherwise, that resistance has faded. Today, women comprise over fifty percent of the student body.

In that same 1997 interview, Father Brooks said: “*The single best decision I made at Holy Cross was to prevail upon the Trustees to approve coeducation.*” (Sources: Holy Cross Magazine, Spring and Summer 2012 editions)

*(Note: The Society’s Eleventh Annual Dinner was held on September 17, 2011 and honored Father Brooks for his support of the Society and the NROTC program. Given the importance he placed on the decision to admit women, it was fitting that among the guests at his table was Lieutenant Colonel Kelley J. McAvoy, USMC (Ret.). Colonel McAvoy, ‘76, was among the first women admitted to the College and the first to enter the Holy Cross NROTC Unit as a “Marine Option”. She was also the first woman in the United States to graduate from the “Marine Option” program.)*

*Retaining Navy and Air Force ROTC Units on Campus.* Perhaps one reason change is often resisted is because of the uncertainty, discomfort and anger it can generate. In the Vietnam era, these emotions about the war in Southeast Asia led to distrust and even disdain for the military. This resulted, as we know, in the removal of Reserve Officer Training Corps programs from many colleges and universities around the country.

Father Brooks’ ability to look beyond a current crisis saw this as a mistake and led him to conclude that the demise of the Navy and Air Force programs would a loss for the nation (and the College). Acting as a facilitator, he brought administration, students and faculty together to consider the future of the College with and without the ROTC programs. In the end, all three groups voted to retain both units. True to his generous character, Father Brooks was quick to share credit for this accomplishment; he always maintained that his efforts would have failed without the energetic and professional support of the then Commanding Officer of the NROTC Unit, Captain Harry R. Moore, USN.

Perhaps the core of Father Brooks' work to retain ROTC units lay in his belief in the value of liberal arts education in general and, in this case, as it related to those serving in the armed forces. At the O'Callahan Society's meeting on October 19, 2009, Father Brooks elaborated.

He noted that, as President of Holy Cross, he was a member, along with the Presidents of Baylor and Auburn Universities and the University of Wyoming, of an Air Force ROTC advisory panel. In that capacity, he and his colleagues would be invited each year to a different Air Force base to learn the Air Force's perceived needs and plans for Air Force ROTC graduates and cadets.

During the ensuing meetings and discussions, Father Brooks would acknowledge the need for young officers who had the technical and engineering skills to operate today's sophisticated weapons. He would then argue, as he says "*year after year*", that there was a "*comparable need for military officers well-versed in the liberal arts – young men and women who have .... The basic mental habits, intellectual skills, qualities of mind and judgment – all commonly referred to by philosophers and our sacred authors as wisdom.*"

He summarized a liberal arts education as one "*not nurtured by job training, but by experiencing and coming to an understanding of literature, history, the arts, cultures, languages and religion,* and, he concluded "*Not every military officers needs such an education, but in my judgment it is essential to the welfare of our nation that numbered among the leadership in our Armed Forces must be officers and decision makers whose minds and souls have been enriched and formed by a strong liberal arts education*".

It is this writer's belief that the qualities of a liberal arts education that Father Brooks describes were the foundation of his own education. They empowered him to give the leadership the College required during the 'firestorm' of the Vietnam period and move it along paths which have served it very well. The example Father Brooks set during his tenure as President validates his strong commitment to the liberal arts educational tradition. Working to ensure that that tradition is strongly represented among the officers in the nation's armed forces was for him, and remains for us, a critical goal.

Father John Brooks was an inspiration for the O'Callahan Society and was a faithful supporter and friend of our efforts as President and as President Emeritus. He will be missed but the lessons he taught will endure. On behalf of the Society, I say

***Thank you, Father Brooks,***

Bill Dempsey '63  
Chairman Emeritus, O'Callahan Society  
CDR, USNR (Ret.)

September 2012

## **Reverend John E. Brooks, S.J. Defines Our Beginning and Our Mission**

Reminiscence by Lester W. Paquin

It was 1992, and a Committee had been formed by the City of Worcester's mayor and City Council to host and appropriately display the replica of the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the city. I was on that Committee, along with Pierce Gould, Worcester's Veterans Services' Agent. Our first order of business was to decide where the so-called "Moving Wall" would be located during its stop in the city.

The question – Where is the most magnificent and honorable spot in Worcester for such a tribute? – seemed to have a simple answer: Mount Saint James. Gorgeous campus, magnificent view.

So, Pierce and I boldly and naively sat down with the NROTC Unit's then-Commanding Officer, Timothy Winters, expecting immediate acclaim for our idea. The fact that CAPT Winters was a Vietnam veteran would certainly seal the deal.

"Are you out of your minds?" CAPT Winters thundered. "They don't so much as plant a geranium on this campus without proposals, meetings, reviews and fundraisers – all so carefully thought-out that we'll all be retired by the time they actually tell you no."

Smarter men would've taken that as a cue to excuse themselves. Not us. We persisted. CAPT Winters eventually – albeit reluctantly – agreed to arrange an appointment with Father Brooks.

When that day arrived, we appeared in CAPT Winters's office – Pierce and I in the suits the Captain had instructed us to wear, he in his dress whites. We followed the officer up the hill on that very hot August day – into the President's outer office, to await what CAPT Winters was sure would be our prompt but courteous dismissal.

Father Brooks' secretary opened the door, and we filed in – greeted by the man himself, dressed in golf shirt and chinos, sitting behind that massive desk.

"Come on in, boys," he said, adding "You must be a little warm all dressed up like that."

I knew then that we'd be fine.

We presented our plan, which included the placing of the Moving Wall on the sloping lawn just outside the Hart Center.

"That isn't going to happen," Fr. Brooks said. "They'd kill me. Here's what we can do – put it on the baseball field. You just tell me when, and I'll see to it. Sound good?"

We all nodded, expressed our thanks and said our goodbyes. To this day, I think CAPT Winters was back in his office before his heart started beating again.

The week-long visit of the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall to Holy Cross in July of 1993 was an incredible, healing and emotional experience. Once the Moving Wall was positioned on the ball field, the College's groundskeepers landscaped the site on orders from above – complete with flagpoles, trees, plants, in-ground lighting and mulch – to look like it had always been there.

Under CAPT Winters's supervision the NROTC Unit, including Ensigns who had been commissioned only weeks before, became the site's administrators. They planned and executed ceremonies, concerts and remembrances that are still talked about.

And every night during that amazing week, at sunset, a man in a green Lincoln Town Car would drive down the hill and park a respectful distance from the site. Father Brooks would emerge, dressed in a suit and collar, and stand at attention as "Taps" was sounded. After the nightly benediction, delivered by a Vietnam veteran, Father Brooks would slip quietly back into his car and head back up the hill. He attended every concert and ceremony that week; often walking the length of the Moving Wall to talk with visitors – many of whom had no idea who he was. He also politely declined to offer prayers or remarks at the site – always deferring to Vietnam veterans for that honor, claiming he had not earned the right to do so.

When it came time for the Moving Wall to leave Holy Cross and the City of Worcester, Father Brooks summoned Pierce, myself and CAPT Winters back into his office.

"What has happened here on this campus, this week, must not be allowed to end," he said. "We all have to think of a way to keep this spirit alive, to do whatever we can to make sure the men and women who leave here to serve their country do so with as much support as we can give them."

Within months, CAPT Winters had enlisted the support of Bill Dempsey to the cause, and the rest, as they say, is history.

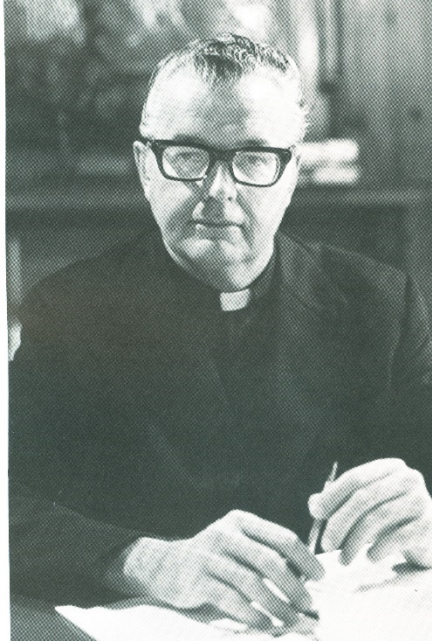
So as we mourn the loss and passing not merely of a dynamic college president and staunch advocate of providing the best education possible to our future military leaders, we also bid a reluctant and fond farewell to our Society's founder -- a dear friend, supporter and mentor, who saw in a group of eager public servants the chance to connect the lessons and legacy he and CAPT Harry Moore established during the Vietnam War with a meaningful mission of support and encouragement for the NROTC Unit into the future.

In remarks delivered at our Annual Meeting in 2009, which have become the mission statement he penned for the O'Callahan Society, Father Brooks wrote that the value of having military leaders educated at small liberal arts institutions, means they are educated to possess, in his words: *"an open-mindedness, reflected in one's respect for other points of view, a tolerance for ambiguity, a passion for the truth, respect for the facts, and a willingness to pursue them to uncomfortable conclusions."*

His gifts shall not be soon forgotten, nor will he.

## **Remarks of Rev. John E. Brooks, S. J. to the O'Callahan Society 10/17/2009**

I have been asked to comment briefly on the reasons underlying my willingness to serve as a member of the Father Joseph T. O'Callahan NROTC Committee.



Father John E. Brooks, S. J.

My reasons, not unexpectedly, are both simple and straight forward.

The first, of course, must be the immense respect and admiration I personally have for two deceased naval officers whose histories are intimately associated with the College of the Holy Cross and its proud NROTC Unit.

1. Father Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J., in whose honor and memory our committee is named and whose heroic naval service is well-known by all of you, was a Jesuit priest in residence here at Holy Cross in 1954 when, as a Jesuit scholastic, I was assigned by superiors to teach mathematics and physics at the college. At the time, Father Joe was severely impaired physically – he had considerable difficulty breathing, standing, walking, speaking, swallowing and sleeping, having only recently undergone extensive and unsuccessful surgery. He lived in a room on the south side of Fenwick Hall where his door was always open and his room daily became between classes a raucous gathering of brother Jesuits – all admirers of his gallantry and story-telling ability. There he served as my spiritual director and regularly conducted the brief retreats Jesuit scholastics were required to make throughout our years of training until such time as we made our profession of final vows well after ordination to the priesthood.

In his pain, discomfort and suffering, Father Joe occasionally and understandably became a bit cantankerous – and one of the scenes that particularly annoyed him was the one-day-a-week drill conducted by the ROTC Midshipmen just below his window in what was then a parking area (now the 9-11 memorial plaza). As he tried to gain a bit of rest, Father Joe would be bombarded by the sharp and piercing voice of the drill master commanding his battalion forward, reverse, left, right etc. It always struck me as being somewhat inhuman that, given Father Joe's war-time experience aboard the Franklin, he had to endure the commands of a close-order drill.

Because of Father O'Callahan, a brother Jesuit, a one-time spiritual director, a national hero, and a priest of whom Holy Cross and the Society of Jesus can be extremely proud, I'm happy to commit myself to the service of our Committee named in his honor.

2. The second naval officer to whom I referred is Captain Harry Moore, USN. During my early years as president of Holy Cross, there emerged on college campuses across the country a strong, vocal and demonstrative effort on the part of many students and faculty demanding the termination of ROTC programs on campus. Many colleges and Universities complied including Harvard and Dartmouth here in New England. The Commanding Officer of our NROTC Unit at the time was Captain Harry Moore – a Naval career officer with whom I worked closely and collaboratively, and who quickly earned my immense respect, admiration and gratitude.

Without going into details, I assure you today that the retention of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit was preserved primarily in those troubled days and weeks by the dedicated labor, attention to details, compelling arguments, patience and persistence of Captain Moore. Without his dedicated commitment and hard work, there would be no NROTC Unit on the Holy Cross campus today! Believe me; Captain Moore merits whatever accolades, praise and expressions of gratitude we might choose to bestow upon him.

The final reason underlying my commitment to the work of the O'Callahan Committee is founded on yet another experience I had while serving as President of Holy Cross. During that era, I was a member for a number of years of a Government Advisory panel to the U.S. Air Force along with the presidents of Baylor and Auburn Universities and the University of Wyoming. In that capacity, we would be invited annually to a different Air Force Base for a few days during which we would:

1. Attend informative conferences conducted by highly ranked Air Force officers who instructed us on the perceived needs and plans the Air Force had for newly recruited ROTC Air Force pilots and officers-to-be
2. Be given an opportunity to participate in simulated war-time engagements such as war-room exercises or a simulated helicopter battlefield rescue operation
3. Or my favorite – join a veteran pilot in his T-38 training plane, experience a breaking of the sound barrier and allowed to fly the plane through a few thrusts, rolls, barrel turns etc. until such time as the pilot took over to return the plane to ground.

During the formal conferences, we were encouraged to ask questions and make comments. It was on those occasions that year after year I would:



- First acknowledge the highly developed and sophisticated weaponry possessed by the U.S Armed Forces and the need the country had for young men and women with the character, knowledge, training and the skills required to operate such weaponry
- And secondly, plead and present my arguments for what I saw and continue to see as a comparable need for military officers well-versed in the liberal arts- young men and women who have developed via their collegiate years the basic mental habits, intellectual skills, qualities of mind and judgment – all commonly referred to by philosophers and our sacred authors as wisdom.

I suspect that we are all in agreement as to what these mental habits, intellectual skills and qualities of mind are. Certainly, to be included among them are:

- The ability to communicate both in oral and written expression with clarity and conviction
- The ability to understand a question, to analyze it, to argue for/against it and reach sound conclusions
- The possession of an open-mindedness that is reflected in:
  - o one’s respect for other points of view
  - o one’s tolerance of ambiguity
  - o one’s passion for truth, respect for facts and willingness to pursue them to uncomfortable conclusions
- And finally, that quality of mind that enables one to develop a sensitivity to ethical considerations and the capacity to make discriminating moral choices

This is a cryptic description of a liberal arts education – an education nurtured not by job training, but by experiencing and coming to an understanding of literature, history, the arts, cultures, languages and religion.

Not every military officer needs such an education, but in my judgment, it is essential to the welfare of our nation that numbered among the leadership in our Armed Forces must be officers and decision makers whose minds and souls have been enriched and formed by a strong liberal arts education.

This platform was never (not once) denied by the Air Force officers to whom I repeatedly proposed it. This response was always the same – “Father, we agree- you are correct, but the problem is not with the leadership of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps. It’s with the members of the U.S. Congress.”

In conclusion, I hope that one of the goals our O’Callahan Committee might successfully pursue will be to develop a methodology that will enable us to become effective communicators of this message – the glaring need for Naval Officers educated in the liberal arts.

Thank you for your attention.

**The O'Callahan Society  
Presents to**

**Reverend John E. Brooks S.J.**

**The Captain Harry R. Moore USN Award**

**In recognition of his long service to and support of ROTC  
at the College of the Holy Cross**

At the beginning of his tenure as President of the College, when many colleges and universities were banishing ROTC programs from their campuses, Father Brooks led a collaborative effort among faculty and administrators which forged a pragmatic process for retaining these programs at the College by strengthening them academically and enhancing their relevancy and effectiveness in advancing the intellectual and ethical formation of prospective Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force officers.

Always a champion for liberal arts education for military officers, Father Brooks served on the Air Force's ROTC Advisory Committee of select college and university presidents and was instrumental forming a similar body for Navy ROTC.

In the final years of his presidency when there were concerns about the continued viability of the NROTC Unit, Father Brooks supported enhancement of the College's recruitment for the Unit. This led to the establishment of a committee that later became the O'Callahan Society. He continues to serve on the Society's governing Board.

By his outstanding leadership, judgment and service Father Brooks has made a deep and an enduring contribution to the College of the Holy Cross and the United States of America.

For the O'Callahan Society,

William A. Dempsey '63  
CDR USNR (Ret), Co-Chair

William J. McCarthy '76  
RADM USN (Ret), Co-Chair

September 17, 2011

## **O’Callahan Science Library College of the Holy Cross**

The Reverend Joseph T. O’Callahan, S.J. came to the College in 1938 to chair the mathematics department. In the summer of 1940 with war raging in Europe he was commissioned into the Chaplain Corps of the US Navy, its first Jesuit chaplain. In addition to his chaplain duties his first Navy duties included teaching calculus to young naval aviators at Pensacola Naval Air Station. Later Father O’Callahan served on an aircraft carrier that took part in combat operations in the Atlantic and that provided air support for the invasion of North Africa. In the spring of 1944 he was transferred west, eventually reporting to Pearl Harbor Naval Station in December.

On March 2, 1945 Father O’Callahan boarded the aircraft carrier USS FRANKLIN as the senior chaplain to more than 3000 Sailors, Marines, aviators and officers. A few hours later the ship weighed anchor for the western Pacific. On March 19, he and his shipmates stepped onto the pages of history.

While conducting combat air operations against the Japanese home islands, FRANKLIN suffered a brief but devastating attack from a single enemy aircraft. Its bombs set off conflagrations and explosions fueled by the carrier’s stores of gasoline and ordnance. The ship was ravaged for hours resulting in over 1000 casualties including over 800 dead. If the fires and the continuing detonations were not controlled FRANKLIN would sink, with greater loss of life.

From the bridge FRANKLIN’s captain observed Father O’Callahan, in his helmet with its prominent white cross, moving about the chaos on the flight deck. He was not just ministering to the injured and dying. He was also organizing, leading and inspiring his dazed and disoriented shipmates to fight the fires and jettison the dangerous ordnance that had not yet detonated from the heat. At one point, after receiving a thumbs up from Father O’Callahan from the flight deck, the captain declared to his Marine orderly “That’s the bravest man I ever saw”.

The captain recommended Father O’Callahan for the Medal of Honor. Eventually this would make him the first Navy chaplain to receive that honor. His medal is in the College archives. After the war Father O’Callahan returned to the College to teach theology and philosophy. However, in a few years the injuries he suffered on that fateful day forced him to give up classroom teaching. Living on campus he remained mentally active serving as a mentor to young Jesuits and writing an account of his Navy service that was published in 1956. Father O’Callahan died in 1964 at age 58. He was buried with military honors in the Jesuit cemetery on campus. In 1965 when the Navy launched a new destroyer, it was christened USS O’CALLAHAN.

Before he died, the College honored Father O’Callahan by naming the Haberlin Hall science library for him. When, in 1985, the library moved into the Swords Hall, it was dedicated to his memory.

There is a wealth of published material about Father O’Callahan and USS FRANKLIN, including audio and video. Please ask about the librarian about the O’Callahan Collection.

## O'Callahan Science Library Display – Since August 2015



## O'Callahan NROTC Unit Displays



## **JOHN VINCENT POWER**

### **Namesake of an annual NROTC scholarship presented by the O'Callahan Society**

By Lester W. Paquin

John Vincent “Jack” Power was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on November 20, 1918, the fourth of five children. He attended St. Paul’s and Sisters of Mercy schools, graduating from Classical High School in 1937. He was a 1941 graduate of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

After he received his college diploma, John Power decided to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. He received his commission at Quantico, Virginia, in October, 1942. Now that America was deeply involved in World War II, more training followed for Power, along with his promotion to First Lieutenant.

As a boy, his friends called him “Sunshine” because of his cheerful personality, high spirits and devoted friendship. Later in life, these attributes earned him the loyalty and respect of those in his command.

First Lieutenant John Power was only one of 42,000 green Marines of the Fourth Marine Division who stormed the Pacific Ocean beaches of Namur Islet on Wednesday, February 1, 1944. When the guns finally fell silent the next Saturday, 7,870 Japanese and 372 U.S. Marines were dead. First Lieutenant Power was one of them. He is also the only man from Worcester to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

On the long voyage to Namur – one of the 100 islets that make up the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands – Jack Power was heard more than once to say that “the other fellow could have the glory.” As for himself, he said, it was his personal intention to turn over his platoon to his sergeant, and let his senior non-commissioned officer lead his men through the fray. The men whom he led for a few brief hours before his death knew all along he didn’t mean it. First Lieutenant Power was closer to his men than anyone else.

In landing on Namur, Power’s company encountered the heaviest resistance of the entire Marshall Islands invasion. They had been ashore only a couple of hours, when a burst of enemy machine-gun fire struck Power in his abdomen as he placed an explosive charge in a Japanese pillbox. His men got him to the shelter of a nearby shell hole and applied an emergency dressing to the injury. Power refused to be evacuated back to the aid station on the beach. On his orders, his men reluctantly left him in the shell hole and returned to battle.

As his men advanced, the battle grew more intense. To their surprise, Power’s platoon spotted him crawling toward them, clutching his bleeding midsection with one hand while firing his carbine as rapidly as he could with the other. Power headed straight for another Japanese pillbox, toward an opening torn in its side by his men. One of his Marines would later say, “He was like a one-man army. It seemed that he wanted to win the whole war all by himself, right then and there.”

His men helplessly watched as Power struggled to within a few feet of the opening. Then his ammunition gave out. Power tried to insert a fresh clip of bullets into his carbine. The Japanese still alive inside the pillbox opened fire on him at point-blank range, as his beloved comrades watched in horror. The enemy's fusillade of bullets struck him in the head and body. His men finished the job – raining fire on the eight Japanese soldiers still inside the pillbox, killing them all.

Jack Power's family joined President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the White House on August 30, 1944. There, the president awarded the Lieutenant's mother her son's posthumous Medal of Honor. The citation reads:

*“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as platoon leader attached to the Fourth Marine Division during the landing and the battle of Namur Islet, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands, February 1, 1944, severely wounded in the stomach while setting a demolition charge on a Japanese pillbox, First Lieutenant Power was steadfast in his determination to remain in action. Protecting his wound with his left hand and firing with his right, he courageously advanced while another hostile position was taken under attack, fiercely charging the opening made by the explosion and emptying his carbine into the pillbox. While attempting to reload and continue the attack, First Lieutenant Power was shot again in the stomach and head and collapsed in the doorway. His exceptional valor, fortitude and indomitable fighting spirit in the face of withering enemy fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Services. He gallantly gave his life for his country.”*

First Lieutenant Power was initially buried overseas. After the war, on October 28, 1947, to the muffled roll of drums, the tolling of church bells and the thunder of a 21-gun salute, Jack Power came home to Worcester. He was one of the city's first war dead to return, joining five other war casualties in doing so that autumn day.

More than 25,000 people joined the cortege as it solemnly proceeded from Union Station to the city's new War Memorial Auditorium at Lincoln Square, draped in black for the occasion. At the rate of one shot every 30 seconds, the roar of cannon fire echoed and re-echoed from the walls of surrounding buildings as the procession passed through Harrington Corner and down Main Street.

As the caskets were carried into the impressive Auditorium, the haunting refrain of “Nearer My God to Thee” was the only sound to be heard. The heroes' remains were to lie in state as the city paid its tribute. Thousands came, late into the night, to express their gratitude to those who had given the supreme sacrifice in defense of their country.

The next day, the body of United States Marine First Lieutenant John Vincent Power was laid to rest in St. John's Cemetery.

Jack Power was finally home from the war.

## **FRANK JOHN MALINSKI and the *U.S.S. THRESHER***

### **Namesake of an annual NROTC scholarship presented by the O'Callahan Society**

By Lester W. Paquin

Frank John Malinski was born on August 6, 1939, in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, the only child of Frank and Margareta Malinski. He attended parochial schools in his youth, and was awarded the Ad Altar Dei Medal, the highest Catholic Scout honor, for his outstanding performance as an Eagle Scout.

Frank was an honor student at Fairfield College Preparatory School in Fairfield, Connecticut, prior to entering the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, in the fall of 1957. He was on the Dean's List for four years, secretary of the Student Congress, and a member of the Math Club and Amateur Radio Society. He also performed in the Senior Class musical, worked on the yearbook and actively participated in the Big Brother Program. Frank graduated from Holy Cross summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics in 1961.

During his Junior and Senior years at Holy Cross, Frank was listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*, and he was a leader in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC), where he served as a color guard commander and a battalion commander.

Upon graduation, Frank was commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy, and he volunteered for submarine duty. He entered the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in New London, Connecticut, in June, 1961. By December of that year, he had successfully completed that course of instruction, whereupon he was selected for advanced training in nuclear power. From December 1961 through January 1963, Frank underwent nuclear power training at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California, and at the nuclear power training unit at Idaho Falls, Idaho. Upon completion of this segment of his education, Frank was assigned to his first submarine duty aboard America's biggest and best nuclear-powered submarine, the *U.S.S. Thresher* (SSN 593).

When he was not training to become one of our country's finest nuclear-powered submarine officers, Frank's interests were diverse and in keeping with the spirit of curiosity his educational background had taught him to cultivate. He enjoyed swimming, hiking, boating, bowling, golf, bridge and photography. He was a licensed "ham" radio operator, and played the guitar, banjo and piano. He loved sports cars, and was a member of the Sports Car Club of America, and he was also an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, April 9, 1963, LTJG Frank Malinski reported to his new duty station alongside Pier 11 at the Portsmouth (New Hampshire) Naval Shipyard. No doubt he gazed in awe at the ship before him – the sleek, 278-foot-long *U.S.S. Thresher* (SSN 593) – the Navy's newest, largest, fastest, deepest-diving and most technologically advanced atomic submarine. Named for a species of killer shark, she was the world's deadliest attack sub, whose missions – many of them top-secret – included finding and destroying her Soviet counterparts.

The *Thresher* displaced 4,500 tons of seawater when submerged, and her motto, “Silent Strength,” was highly appropriate. On that day in 1963, Frank Malinski and 128 other men boarded the most sophisticated war machine ever created by man.

The *U.S.S. Thresher* was launched at Portsmouth on July 9, 1960. Because of her size and displacement, she broke tradition by slipping into the water bow-first. After undergoing her pre-commissioning builder’s trials, the submarine was officially admitted to the Navy’s fleet on August 3, 1961.

On the morning of April 9, 1963, Frank Malinski came aboard the *Thresher* as its Sonar Officer. It was his first assignment on submarine duty – something he had aspired to since his days in the NROTC Unit at Holy Cross. You can imagine how proud and excited he must have been. He was one of the crew’s four lieutenants who did not yet have a division assignment, but he was more than capable of overseeing all kinds of jobs.

On this day aboard the *Thresher*, Frank Malinski was certainly not alone. In fact, the sub was exceptionally overcrowded. Besides her regular complement of 12 officers and 96 enlisted men, she carried 21 “observers.” These included Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Officer Observers, civilian workers and contractor technicians – all eager to see first-hand what their creation could do.

The purpose of this two-day mission was to put the ship through its paces yet one more time and test newly installed equipment. Given the power and might that surrounded them, no one aboard the *Thresher* that day had the slightest idea they would never return.

Well out to sea on the afternoon of April 9, the first sign that something was wrong was detected by Frank Malinski. He reported to the sub’s Executive Officer that the active sonar had failed – not once, but twice – in just a matter of hours. The lieutenant was assured his concerns were being addressed, and told not to worry.

All seemed well until the following morning, April 10, when the *Thresher* was taken down to a depth of 850 feet for a test dive. At this depth, there were 480 pounds of pressure bearing down on every square inch of her structure. Then the order came to go deeper.

As the sub pitched to descend to her test depth of 1,000 feet, the crew had to brace themselves against the sloping deck. Then, almost imperceptibly, a small “bang” was heard in the forward section. Upon investigation, it was discovered that a tiny leak had formed near the sub’s electrical panels. In an effort to save herself, the ship began a series of electrical shutdowns and re-routes that her human crew could not keep up with. Soon, the *Thresher*’s electrical power and nuclear fission ceased. The propeller blades stopped. The interior of the ship was in darkness, and the temperature was plummeting. The only sounds came from a worried crew. The *Thresher* was now continuing forward – and downward – only on her own momentum, one-quarter of a mile beneath the surface of the Atlantic Ocean.

Frantically, the crew fought in the darkness to stabilize the leviathan. Power – and the engines – was momentarily restored, bringing the vessel to an even keel -- only to stall into the blackness



for good. The ship now silently descended stern-first, the *Thresher's* speed toward oblivion hastened by the sheer size and weight of the ship. This final descent signaled to everyone on board that the situation was now beyond hope.

At 13 minutes past nine on the morning of April 10, Lieutenant Malinski's sonar told him that the *Thresher* had rapidly slipped past her 1,000-foot test depth toward terrible danger. The pressure now being applied by the sea to the ship's hull was enormous. Four minutes later, the end came.

A monstrous sound racked the ship as the hull gave way in the vicinity of the engine room. Instantly, a 1,500-ton-per-square-inch torrent of sea water stabbed into the crippled sub, annihilating everything and everyone in its path (as an example, bear in mind that a typical high-pressure fire hose has only 50 **pounds** of pressure per square inch). This caused an immediate rise in the *Thresher's* interior atmospheric pressure from the normal 14 pounds per square inch to at least 800 pounds per square inch.

The resulting implosion was equal to the power of a ton of dynamite. Those who were not pulverized by the tremendous force of intrushing water died a moment later as compressed air struck them with the impact of a hail of gunfire. Air pressure rose to equal sea pressure within a second or two at the most. This was much faster than the incoming ocean could travel. But for the explosion that followed the implosion, as the sub plummeted to the sea bed more than 6,000 feet below her, there would probably have been little outward sign of damage at this point – except for a large, gaping hole somewhere amidships or just aft of center.

The subsequent explosion, however, was inevitable. Diesel fuel ignites at a pressure of 460 pounds per square inch. When the ship's fuel tanks were suddenly subjected to pressure almost twice as great, the submarine was literally blown apart.

In the intervening half-century since the destruction of the *Thresher*, some have speculated that the sub foundered not because of mechanical and structural failure, but due to a silently-delivered Soviet torpedo – an admission our government would certainly not have made during the Cold War, while the memory of the Cuban Missile Crisis was still fresh. The evidence – at least that material which has been made public – seems to strongly counter that claim, but in the years to come, perhaps advanced technology and accountability may alter that view.

The loss of the *U.S.S. Thresher* remains the most tragic submarine disaster of all time. Were it not for the horrible events occurring in Dallas in November, 1963, that year would certainly be chiefly remembered for what happened in the springtime darkness of the New England sea. The *Thresher* carried with her into the abyss 129 of our nation's best and brightest, most loyal and capable defenders. Among them was a handsome, intelligent, dedicated, soft-spoken young man who lived the best years of his life at Holy Cross. Here he learned to carry on his country's finest traditions, and in doing so, became an inspiration for all of us. We continue to mourn his passing and salute his bravery and courage, while we remember the honor of his noble sacrifice.

# PAUL V. MULLANEY

## Honored at the 2014 O'Callahan Society Annual Dinner

By Lester W. Paquin

A true son of Worcester and the finest exemplar of its ideals, Paul V. Mullaney was born in 1920 in a three-decker on Gates Street in the Main South section of the city. A curious and dedicated student, he graduated from South High School in 1938 and then from the College of the Holy Cross in 1942.

While at Holy Cross, Paul Mullaney was a student of The Rev. Joseph O'Callahan, S.J., who eventually served on the *U.S.S. Franklin* and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery and heroism when the ship came under Japanese attack during World War II. The O'Callahan Society is named in his honor. Another Medal of Honor recipient, U.S. Marine First Lieutenant John Power, was a fellow student of Paul Mullaney's in Father O'Callahan's mathematics class at Holy Cross.

Paul Mullaney entered the United States Marine Corps during his senior year at Holy Cross, and began his active duty in the military upon his graduation. He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, in Hawaii, Tinian and Guam, before returning to Worcester in 1946. He immediately entered the Boston College School of Law, graduating with honors and becoming a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association in 1948.

Despite his accelerating success in civilian life, the young lawyer's duty to his country remained foremost in his mind. In 1950, he joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Signal Company Unit of the Marine Corps in Worcester, which was activated at the onset of the Korean War that same year. Paul Mullaney was sent to Korea in August, 1950, and was only in-country a month before he was wounded in Seoul. Having recovered from that injury, he was wounded two months later, in October of 1950 – then again, just weeks after that, in November. He was evacuated by helicopter to Japan, and spent the following year recovering in the Naval Hospital in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

Paul Mullaney retired from the Marine Corps as a First Lieutenant in 1952.

During the course of his military career, he earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

He married his wife Sallie, and the couple became the proud parents of nine children, with most of them still residing in Worcester or the surrounding area.

While any person's biography would be considered full and complete with these admirable accomplishments, Paul Mullaney's life was, in a sense, just beginning. As a wounded young Marine, he promised God that if he survived his ordeal in Korea, he would devote his life to public service. He did, and he has – magnificently.

Paul Mullaney ran for and was elected to the Worcester City Council in 1960, and he served on that body until 1967. He was Mayor of the City of Worcester from 1963 until 1965. He was nominated to the bench, and became a District Court Judge from 1978 until his retirement from the court in 1991.

In his well-earned retirement, Judge Mullaney is a beloved family man, neighbor and friend. He entertains neighborhood children with his skills as a magician, and has befriended innumerable local dogs, who have benefitted from his kindness, care and attention. He is an avid gardener, art lover, local history buff and patron of the Worcester Public Library. His love of reading and education has followed him through his long, rich life, and still motivate him to this day.

In June, 2014, Worcester's City Hall Plaza was formally named and dedicated as The Honorable Paul V. Mullaney Plaza. A high honor indeed, for a kind, gentle and influential man truly deserving of it.

Because of Judge Mullaney, this city, this country and this world are a better place and his gifts to all of us are his legacy and our heritage.

The O'Callahan Society proudly salutes Judge Paul V. Mullaney, and accords him our highest respect, honor, recognition and gratitude.

## **O'Callahan Society Fund Raising**

### **O'Callahan Society Initiatives Fund**

In 2011 Holy Cross transferred a small balance from the Father Joseph T. O'Callahan Memorial Fund \* into a new O'Callahan Society Initiatives Fund. This fund provides annual support for NROTC at Holy Cross. Since then, it has supported NROTC midshipmen battalion activities, recognition awards, improvements to the memorial in O'Callahan Science Library and to the O'Callahan Room in lower Carlin Hall,

In 2012, Holy Cross President Rev. Philip J. Broughs S.J. authorized annual solicitation for this initiatives fund.

### **O'Callahan/Brooks NROTC Scholarship Fund Holy Cross Hope & Access Campaign for Financial Aid**

In June 2021 three O'Callahan Society members established the O'Callahan/Brooks NROTC Fund. They contributed more than \$100,000 to this new endowment fund. The Holy Cross Hope & Access Campaign matched their commitments. Beginning in 2022, this fund will provide financial aid support to Holy Cross midshipmen in the NROTC College Program.

This fund realizes the vision of Rev John E Brooks SJ president of Holy Cross 1971-1994. In his last year, he established the Father Joseph T. O'Callahan Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee. This committee became the O'Callahan Society in 2009.

\* In a sense the O'Callahan/Brooks NROTC and the O'Callahan Society Initiatives Fund are the successors to the Father Joseph T. O'Callahan Memorial Fund initiated by Father John Brooks. Both continue support for NROTC at Holy Cross.

## O'Callahan Society Timeline

- Summer, 1993:** Vietnam Veterans Memorial “Moving Wall” display attracted large crowds to Fitton Field on the Holy Cross campus. The year before, the City of Worcester was designated as a site for this traveling wall and Father Brooks authorized the use of the campus for this event. A city committee with the assistance of the NROTC Unit planned and executed this event.
- Autumn, 1993:** Bill Dempsey and others including those who worked on the summer event began discussions about forming “*The Father Joseph Timothy O’Callahan Foundation*”. Its mission would be to provide support for the NROTC unit at the College and honor the memory of Father O’Callahan.
- June, 1994:** Father Brooks authorized the Father Joseph T. O’Callahan Scholarship Committee. The College provided the NROTC Incentive Grant to incoming freshmen.
- March, 1995:** Committee hosted a luncheon and Memorial Mass at Holy Cross on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on the *U.S.S. Franklin* (CV-13). Several *Franklin* survivors attended.
- Autumn, 1996:** Committee hosted the annual convention of the *U.S.S. Franklin* (CV-13) Survivors Association. More than 180 attended, including Robert Blanchard – the “dying sailor” depicted with Father O’Callahan in the iconic photograph on the sloping deck of the burning *Franklin*.
- April, 1999:** Committee resumed the tradition of providing a replica of the Father O’Callahan Memorial Bowl. This award has been presented at the President’s Review since 1964.
- November, 2001:** Committee sponsored its first Speaker’s Event.
- March, 2007:** Committee established the John Power and Frank Malinski scholarships.
- January, 2008:** Holy Cross Alumni Office designated the Committee as an affinity group
- April 2008:** Committee hosted a Memorial Mass and Dinner in honor of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loss of Frank Malinski and *U.S.S. Thresher* (SSN-593).
- October, 2009:** Committee adopted an interim O’Callahan Society charter which defined the membership of the Society.
- October, 2010:** Society adopted its charter and by-laws.
- July, 2011:** O’Callahan Society Initiatives Fund established at Holy Cross.

- September, 2011:*** At its Annual Dinner, the Society honored Father Brooks with its Captain Moore Award; the U.S. Navy presented Father Brooks with its Distinguished Civilian Service Award; and the Society hosted the entire Midshipmen battalion, and began to invite families of same to the event.
- January, 2012:*** William Dempsey named Chairman Emeritus, following 18 years of service as Chairman to both the O'Callahan Committee and the O'Callahan Society.
- July, 2012:*** Reverend John E. Brooks, S.J., former President of the College of the Holy Cross, died and was buried with military honors on campus in the Jesuit cemetery.
- September, 2012:*** Society honored the memory and the families of Edward Murphy '51 and John Connors '87 WPI, Navy UDT/SEALs killed in the line of duty.
- March, 2014:*** Society sponsored a presentation in Seelos Hall by Dr. John Satterfield, author of a 2011 biography of Father O'Callahan. This followed the College's observance the 50th anniversary of the death of the Rev. Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J., with a Mass and a graveside ceremony
- September, 2014:*** Society honored Hon. Paul Mullaney '42 decorated U.S. Marine, former Worcester mayor and civic leader, and jurist; and Paul Covino, chaplain to the Holy Cross NROTC unit for 20 years.
- May, 2015:*** Society recognized by the Navy.
- September, 2016:*** Society observed the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NROTC Unit at its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner
- March 2021:*** Lester W. Paquin, a founding member of the Society, died. He also served as Secretary of the Executive Committee, master of ceremonies for the annual Society dinner, and a co-author of this section of the Unit History.
- June, 2021:*** O'Callahan/Brooks NROTC Scholarship Fund established.
- July, 2021:*** Society observed the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NROTC Unit