

1975

ELMO RUSSELL ZUMWALT, JR.

Is most often thought of as the young Admiral who was made Chief of Naval Operations during a time of difficult change for the society and the nation.

In his early schooling in California and later at the United States Naval Academy, Mr. Zumwalt made records which foreshadowed his later rapid rise. His first active service came during World War II, in the Pacific. In the late 1940's he was Professor of Naval Science in the NROTC program at this institution. In the early 1950's he commanded the U.S.S. Tills and was navigator of the U.S.S. Wisconsin.

After further schooling and varied experience, he became Executive Assistant to Secretary of the Navy Paul Nitze. In 1965 he was made Rear Admiral--the youngest ever--and given command of a cruiser-destroyer flotilla. Two years later he set up and developed the Division of Systems Analysis in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and served as the personal representative of the Naval Chief in the political sphere. He was commander of the United States Naval forces off Viet Nam. There he demonstrated that here was one officer who understood that the Navy could and should move with changing social mores.

Made the youngest Chief of Naval Operations in history, in 1970, Admiral Zumwalt's famous Z-grams brought needed modification of traditional ideas of discipline and its relationship to individual freedom. If the Navy has since seen some difficult times, thinking men generally agree that without these changes the times would have been much more difficult.

This University is pleased to recognize the achievements of an Admiral who understands that humanity and dignity and compassion are everywhere important and everywhere possible.

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