

Alumnus of the Year Award

Each Year the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Alumni Association presents the distinguished award of Alumnus of the Year to a graduate in honor of their recognized achievements in his or her professional career pursuits, outstanding efforts on behalf of the Academy or Alumni Association, supporting Military Sea Services, the Maritime Industry as well as our Academy with honored performance within their professional affiliations and associations.

This year the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Alumni Association is proud to present this award to Captain William C. Kelley, Jr, MMA Class of 1954, who proudly served aboard the Academy's Training Ship, USS CHARLESTON.

Upon graduation from the Academy, Captain Kelley was commissioned, as an Ensign in the United States Navy and served aboard the USS MINDORO, CVE-120 and the USS COLUMBUS, CA-74. After his first tour of active duty, he came ashore to attend the University of Virginia and graduated from the Darden School of Business with an MBA degree in 1958.

He began his professional business career first with IBM and then with the Raytheon Company where in worked until he retired in 1995. He worked supporting the Navy and Maritime Industry as a Program Manager for both commercial and military radars systems. His major program was the AEGIS Radar and Fire Control System for several classes of US Navy ships.

In addition to his professional career, Captain Kelley continued his service with the United States Naval Reserve where he obtained the rank of Captain. He proudly served in many Reserve Units supporting the Navy and it's interface with the US Merchant Marine until his retirement in 1985.

Captain Kelley is a life long member of the United States Navy League supporting the Military Sea Services and the US Merchant Marine. He was elected National President, serving from 1991 to 1993 lobbying for the Sea Services, the US Merchant Marine, the Academy and support for new training ships. For these efforts he was awarded the Secretary of the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Medal, the US Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Medal, Corps of the Marines Award and the US Maritime Administration Award.

To this day, he continues his support as Past President, by serving on the Navy League Executive Committee and the Merchant Marine Committee and has received a second US Maritime Administration Award from the US Maritime Administrator for these outstanding efforts.

At each MMA Commencement, he presents the US Navy League award, a US Naval Officer's sword to a deserving Cadet who becomes an active duty Naval Officer.

Captain Kelley continues to be an outstanding supporter of the Academy, which is due in part to his strong continuing friendships, with his Class of 54 shipmates. He serves as Chairman of the

MMA54 Revolving Loan Fund, where he manages funds donated by his shipmates and provides school loans to Cadets, who in turn make pledges to provide funds for future Cadet loans.

He has served both as a Past President of MMA Alumni Association (1969 -1970), served as Vice Chairman of the MMA Board of Trustees and is a past member of the MMA Board of Visitors. He became a voting member of the MMA Foundation in 2017. He is a long time financial supporter to the Academy as a member of the Admiral's Circle, became a Bronze Medalist in 2009 and joined the 1891 Legacy Society.

Captain Kelley continues to be an active alumnus supporting the Academy by attending Commencement, Officer Commissioning Ceremonies, Maritime Day Change of Command, Homecoming, Class Reunions and the Admiral's Gala.

On a personal note, Captain Kelley's pride and strong belief in the Academy's tradition has lead to his family in becoming a third generation Mass Maritime Academy family when he was asked to present his grandson, Ryan his MMA diploma at the Class of 2017 Commencement.

Presenting the award on behalf of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Alumni Association are the New President of the Alumni Association, Heather Swift and Alumni Association, Chairman of the Awards Committee, Steve Zilonis.

Accepting the Award along with Captain William C. Kelly is Captain Kelley's son, William J. Kelley, MMA Class of 1985 and Captain Kelley's grandson, Ryan J. Kelley, MMA Class of 2017. Congratulations and Bravo Zulu on a job well done Captain!

William J. Kelley
MMA Class of 1985
21 Mockingbird Lane
Wakefield, RI 02879
Wkelley2@verizon.net
bkelly@gdeb.com
Cell 401-741-9828
Work 860-433-3877