

**REMARKS BY RADM D. L. KAUFFMAN AT THE 380 FT TOWING TANK DEDICATION CEREMONY
Rickover Hall – August 24, 1977**

Transcribed by Alexander Laun on 14AUG2019 from a handwritten speech in Professor Bruce Johnson's historical NAHL documents/records.

I am, quite literally, thrilled to see this tow tank come to fruition. It symbolizes for me the mission of this great Academy – to produce outstanding naval officers. For this, we must have outstanding educational facilities. In a world characterized by the ever increasing rate of technical sophistication, it is essential that midshipmen be exposed to the most modern possible concept of naval architecture.

As I am sure most of you know, this superb tank was the brainchild of two equally superb members of the Naval Academy faculty – Admiral Randolph King, then Captain King and head of the Department of Engineering, and Professor Bruce Johnson. It is therefore symbolic of the great advantages the Academy enjoys by having a joint civilian/officer faculty. I have long been an ardent supporter of this concept, whereby 50% of our faculty are first-rate officers here from the Fleet and bringing to the school, and to the midshipmen, an ever fresh picture of the operating Navy. As these officers rotate every three or four years, they are complemented by the stone rock of our relatively permanent staff of outstanding civilian professors. The resultant combination of academic excellence and professional Navy excellence is, I believe, unsurpassed. Incidentally, Professor Bruce Johnson, in himself, is a true example of this, as he first came here as a naval officer instructor and later on as a civilian professor. He and Admiral King have much reason to be proud today. But there is another man I wish were with us at this moment. That is the late Dr. Benjamin Drought, the truly great first civilian Dean of the Naval Academy faculty, who really spearheaded the drive for all of our new academic facilities.

There are many reasons why facilities such as this new tow tank are essential to a successful Academy. I will mention just three of them.

First, every midshipman – every midshipman – will become familiar with naval architecture in a very exciting way. In the world of today, you cannot be a complete naval officer without a basic understanding of that primary maritime science. Furthermore, we cannot design a successful modern naval vessel without inputs from sea-going officers, on the one hand, and professional naval architects, on the other. For these two groups to synthesize, they must be able to communicate. This basic course for all midshipmen, built around this tow tank, will make that communication possible.

Second, a number of our midshipmen will major in naval architecture. This tank will not only be an essential tool in educating this group, it will be a primary tool in interesting and attracting them. I am confident that this tank will cause a constant increase in the number of midshipmen selecting naval architecture as their major. In addition, I will wager that an increasing number of our really top students will elect to become Trident Scholars, with the tow tank as the focus of their research projects. As most of you know, the Trident Scholar Program is our really outstanding system of rewarding and challenging academic excellence amongst the midshipmen. Incidentally, I believe Professor Johnson has sponsored more Trident Scholars than any other member of the faculty.

Finally, this tank, with its research capabilities, will enable the Academy to continue to attract outstanding professors. As I learned when I was Superintendent here, and better when I was president of a civilian school, the most difficult and the most important job of any educational establishment is to attract good, really good, teachers. I read sometimes that there is an oversupply of teachers in this country. That may be, but I do know, only too well, that there is a terrible shortage of those really good teachers. They can be attracted only by such facilities as this one.

In conclusion, I extend again my heartfelt congratulations to the United States Naval Academy, and to Admiral King, Professor Johnson, and all others who have made this tank a symbol of the academic excellence of this school.

Thank you.