

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

FORRESTAL LECTURE SERIES



ADMIRAL JAMES G. STAVRIDIS, USN (RET.)
*Dean of The Fletcher School of Law
and Diplomacy, Tufts University*

7:30 p.m.
October 17, 2016
Alumni Hall

ADMIRAL JAMES G. STAVRIDIS, USN (RET.)
*Dean of The Fletcher School of Law and
Diplomacy, Tufts University*

A Florida native, Admiral Stavridis attended the U.S. Naval Academy, and spent more than thirty years in the Navy, rising to the rank of four-star Admiral. Among his many commands were four years as the 16th Supreme Allied Commander at NATO where he oversaw operations in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, the Balkans, and piracy off the coast of Africa. He also commanded U.S. Southern Command in Miami, charged with military operations throughout Latin America for nearly three years. He was the longest serving Combatant Commander in recent U.S. history.

In the course of his career in the Navy, he served as senior military assistant to the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Defense. He led the Navy's premier operational think tank for innovation, Deep Blue, immediately after the 9/11 attacks.

He won the Battenberg Cup for commanding the top ship in the Atlantic Fleet and the Navy League John Paul Jones Award for Inspirational Leadership, along with more than 50 U.S. and international medals and decorations, including 28 from foreign nations. He also commanded a Carrier Strike Group and Destroyer Squadron, both in combat.

Admiral Stavridis earned a Ph.D. from The Fletcher School at Tufts, winning the Gullion prize as outstanding student in his class in 1983, as well as academic honors from the National and Naval War Colleges as a distinguished student. He speaks Spanish and French.

He has published six books on leadership, Latin America, ship handling, and innovation, as well as more than a hundred articles in leading journals. An active user of social networks, he has thousands of followers on Twitter and friends on Facebook. His TED talk on 21st century security in 2012 has had more than 700,000 views. He tweeted the end of combat operations in the Libyan NATO intervention. His memoir of the NATO years, "The Accidental Admiral," was released in October 2014.

Admiral Stavridis is also the Chair of the Board of the U.S. Naval Institute, the professional association of the Nation's sea services: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. He is the 12th Dean at The Fletcher School, a post he assumed in the summer of 2013.

FORRESTAL LECTURE SERIES

The Forrestal Lecture Series was established at the Naval Academy in May 1970 in honor of the late James V. Forrestal who, as one of the foremost proponents of seapower of our era, was instrumental in the development of the modern Navy. Secretary Forrestal served in the Navy's flight program in World War I, leaving service as a lieutenant junior grade. He reentered government service in 1940 as an administrative assistant to President Roosevelt. Later that year, he was named Under Secretary of the Navy.

Long an advocate of naval supremacy, he was the man responsible for the remarkable logistical building of the Navy in the early war years. He became Secretary of the Navy in 1944, following the death of Frank Knox.

Secretary Forrestal took unprecedented strides towards establishing racial equality in the Navy. He also served as the chief architect of the vastly complicated merger of the War and Navy Departments into the National Military Establishment (later the Department of Defense). He was named the first Secretary of Defense by President Truman in 1947. The awesome burden of reorganization quickly took its toll and Secretary Forrestal resigned for health reasons in 1948. He died one year later.

The purpose of this series is to enhance the Brigade of Midshipmen's awareness and appreciation of the social, political, and cultural dimensions of the Nation and world. Featured are leading representatives from various disciplines—government, the arts, humor, literature, education, sports, politics, science, and other fields.



This evening's Forrestal Lecture is generously sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Finnigan (Class of '49) of Los Altos, California, and the Class of 1946 through charitable funds established at the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation. The Brigade of Midshipmen acknowledges this support with deep appreciation.