



James S. Gracey

Admiral

U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)

Class of 1945

Voted "boy most likely to succeed" by his classmates, James Gracey certainly lived up to their expectations.

"Jim" led an active student life in his three years at Needham High School, serving as Class Vice-President for three years, Home Room President for two years, Home Room Vice-President for one year, Student Council Member for three years, and Student Council President for one year. A member of the baseball and basketball teams for three years, he also played in the band for three years and the orchestra for two years, managed the band for two years, and still found time to perform in the Senior Play and serve on the Senior Play Committee and the Senior Prom Committee. He graduated from Needham High School with high honors, winning the Needham Music Club Prize and being voted the "boy who made the most of opportunities, 1944-45."

Admiral Gracey received a B.S. in Engineering from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School. While at the Coast Guard Academy, he was the Battalion Commander of Cadets, captain of the baseball team, and a member of both the rifle and the soccer teams.

Admiral Gracey's Coast Guard Career has been varied in both duty and locale—from Coast Guard Academy "swab" to Commandant of the Coast Guard, from the

oceans and seas of the world to conferences with Heads of State. Before being appointed Commandant of the Coast Guard (1982-1986), he served as Commandant of many Coast Guard Districts, including the Atlantic Area (1981-1982) and the Pacific Area (1979-1981).

Admiral Gracey is currently a Governor of the U.S.O. World Board of Governors; a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Higher Defense Studies, National Defense University; a consultant on leadership and human relations, management, government, executive communications, maritime affairs, anti-drug abuse, crisis management; and a director of Cordatum, Inc., the American Ship Building Co., Tampa Shipyards, Inc., The Retired Officers Association, The Coast Guard Foundation, and the Association for Rescue at Sea.

Among his honors are three accelerated advancements, two Distinguished Service Medals, two Legions of Merit, a Meritorious Service Medal, and citations from the U.S. Public Health Service, Secretary of the Treasury, and the Great Lakes Basin Commission. He has also been honored as Bay Stater of the Year, San Francisco Honor Medal recipient, New York Maritime Day Man of the Year, Michelob Schooner Award winner, San Diego Navy League Man of the Year, Grand Marshall of the 1983 Needham Fourth of July Parade, as well as being included in Who's Who in America.