



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
FOUNDATION

George P. Watt, Jr. '73 • Captain, USNR, Retired • President and CEO

February 19, 2008

CAPT Lynn H. Widener, USNR (Ret.)
1767 Meadow Hill Dr
Annapolis, MD 21409-5816

Dear Lynn,

We were very pleased to learn that Vice Admiral Fowler, the U. S. Naval Academy Superintendent, has appointed Colonel Arthur J. Athens '78, USMCR, as director of the Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership at the Academy. Colonel Athens has served as the Center's interim director since July and as the Lakefield Family Foundation Distinguished Military Professor at the Academy since 2003. Included with this letter is detailed background on the Center and Colonel Athens, which you may find interesting.

It is a pleasure to share this good news with you and other leadership donors, including Naval Academy classes, who have so generously supported the Naval Academy Ethics Center and its various programs and personnel over the years. With Colonel Athens at its helm, the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership will continue to play a key role in the development of midshipmen. I know we may count on you to continue – and even accelerate – your gift support in the months and years ahead.

With very best regards,


George P. Watt, Jr.

THANKS '70!

The U.S. Naval Academy Foundation raises private gifts for the U.S. Naval Academy and the Brigade of Midshipmen

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Colonel Arthur J. Athens, '78, USMCR appointed director of the Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership at the United States Naval Academy

In order to provide support for this primary mission element, the Navy established the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics at the Naval Academy in 1998. Building on the Academy's proven track record of ethical leadership development, the Navy chartered the Center to reach out not only to the Naval Academy community, but also to the wider audience of the Navy, Marine Corps and the nation at large.

"Colonel Art Athens is a widely respected and highly valued member of the U.S. Naval Academy senior leadership team," said Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Jeffrey L. Fowler. "He brings to this important position significant professional experience and expertise, as well as a reputation for unwavering integrity. I am confident with Art at the helm, the Stockdale Center will have a profound impact not only on the Naval Academy and our midshipmen, but on the Naval Service and our nation as well - providing both emerging and seasoned leaders with the concepts and tools needed to confront the ethical challenges they face."

Beginning in 2006, the strategic mission of the original Ethics Center was revised and expanded, and the Center itself was given a new name – The Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership. Admiral Stockdale, a 1947 Academy graduate, a prisoner of war for more than seven years, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, and a lifelong student of leadership, philosophy and ethics, embodied the selfless and courageous leadership the Academy seek from midshipmen, officers and national leaders.

"I first met Admiral Stockdale in 1987 while serving as a White House Fellow and quickly gained a deep appreciation for his intellect, integrity, and courage," said Athens. "Now, twenty one years later, I am humbled and honored to lead a Center that bears Admiral Stockdale's name. I look forward to working with the Stockdale Center team to contribute to the moral development of our nation's leaders."

The Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy appointed Colonel Athens as Interim Director of the Center on 2 July 2007.

Born and reared in Huntington, New York, Colonel Athens attended the U.S. Naval Academy where he served as Brigade Commander, lettered on the varsity lacrosse team, and received both the Alumni Association Award and the Coaches' Calvert Award. He graduated with distinction in 1978 and was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps. During his active duty career, he held significant command and staff positions in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wings.

Colonel Athens also served as the Anti-air Warfare Instructor and Academic Dean at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 and taught Computer Science at the Naval Academy where he received the Clements Award as outstanding military educator. While assigned to the Naval Academy, he became a White House Fellow and served at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Colonel Athens earned a master's degree in Information Systems from the Naval Postgraduate School, where he stood first in his graduating class, as well as a Master's in Military Arts and Sciences from the U.S. Army's School of Advanced Military Studies.

Colonel Athens left active duty in 1994 to serve as the Executive Director of OCF, a worldwide organization assisting military officers integrate their personal faith and professional responsibilities. After leading OCF for five years, Colonel Athens assumed responsibilities as Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, one of the Nation's five federal service academies. He remained in that position until his selection as the Naval Academy's first Lakefield Family Foundation Distinguished Military Professor in 2003.

When Colonel Athens resigned his active duty commission, he transferred to the Marine Corps Reserves and has been a Space Operations Officer for the U.S. Space Command, the Commanding Officer of Marine Air Control Squadron 24, and Strategic Analyst at Headquarters Marine Corps.