



## Walter C. Nelson

Class of 2018

Walter graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1960 and was on the football and swim teams as a freshman. Upon graduation he enlisted in the United States Navy and embarked on a dual career of service to his country in the Navy and then as a civilian for the Department of Defense.

While station in Taipei, Taiwan in 1972 at the US Navy Headquarters Support Activity, he co-authored and established a program to help sailors and their families with drug related issues. During his Navy career he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and Humanitarian Medal for assistance provided to boat people escaping Vietnam.

In 1975, he earned his AA degree in business management from San Diego Mesa College and was on the Dean's list. He then attended National University earning 92 units in Business Administration and in 1997 earned a diploma from University of California, San Diego for his successful completion in the Executive Program for Scientists and Engineers.

He spent his 32-year civilian career in the computer software engineering and development field. He started in 1980 as a computer systems analyst working for two years in the Systems Development Corporation and the U.S. Navy Fleet Combat Direction Systems Support Activity in San Diego. For the next 11 years, he was project manager for Unisys Corporation in San Diego, where he managed the Integrated Submarine Automated Broadcast and Tactical Message Process Systems.

In 1982, he led a team of volunteer software engineers in the development of software to provide donation tracking for the School of the Madeleine (SOM), a Catholic coeducational school, in San Diego.

From 1995 to 1999, Walt worked for Simpac, Incorporated in San Diego where he was the Director of Project Management and Director, Engineering/Special Products Engineering. While there, he established and managed the Product Management Department. He directed a team of 15 senior software and hardware engineers in development and maintenance of communications protocols, and server software and hardware.

For the next two years, he performed various management positions within the Navy Tactical Communications Solutions (TCS) Program. He was Product Manager at COLSA Corporation as part of the San Diego Office. COLSA is headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama. There he managed the Data Link Test Tools (DLTT) Production Department with respect to ordering, building, testing, and shipment of all DLTT systems to over 160 customers worldwide. Other duties included developing project plans and product proposals.

From 2001 to 2008, Walt was Deputy Program Manager, and managed task order funding to ensure labor, material and material coverage for the COLSA West Coast Operations contingent of the TCS program. He authored and taught classes addressing the value of Continuous Process Improvement in software product development for COLSA Corporation. He established Software Development Environment policies, processes, and procedures, for the software and the System Test Department. He also mentored/coached four people to begin college classes at local colleges and universities.

He implemented the elements of Carnegie Mellon University's Capability Maturity Model (CMM) and Capability Maturity Model Integrated Model (CMMI), a product development standard for Government software, for the TCS program. He designed, developed and implemented all engineering processes, plans and supporting documentation, authored more than 100 processes and procedures as well as developed a curriculum for and taught the product development team to write processes and procedures to ensure consistency in the product development environment.

In 2008, Walt won the Leadership in Team Award, for product development and training software engineers and support staff.

Walt continued at COLSA Corporation until 2012, serving as Program Manager, and leading a team of 35 Software Engineers and Support Staff in performance of a 12-year \$70 million engineering services contract with Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific, San Diego, CA. During this time, he was also Project Manager for seven ongoing projects in various stages of development/release. He developed and conducted training for the team involving such disciplines as process development, project management, requirements development and management, product development life cycle measurements and metrics including analysis and decision making.

Awards at COLSA included: West Coast Manager of the Year on 2008; The Government sponsored Lightning Bolt Award for efforts in achieving CMMI level 2 competency in Software Engineering (the 5th program in the entire US Navy to be awarded). In 2011, Walt was named Corporate Manager of the Year at COLSA.

Walt and his wife JoAnn make their home in Carlsbad, CA.