



Robert Toney Class of 2011

Rear Admiral Robert Toney, United States Navy, Retired, was born in 1934 in Monroe, Louisiana and moved to Oakland at the age of eight. He attended Oroville High School (OHS) and graduated in 1952. While a student at OHS, he was a member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF) as a sophomore, junior and senior. He played basketball all four years of high school, played baseball two years and ran track one year. He was a member of the Block O Society his last three years of school. His student body activities included being a member of the cadets his last three years and serving as Cadet Officer as an upperclassman. Upon his graduation from OHS, Admiral Toney was awarded an athletic scholarship to Youngstown University in Youngstown, Ohio.

He played basketball at Youngstown University in 1953 and 1954. He then returned to his home in Oroville and enrolled at Chico State College (CSC), where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences (pre-law) in 1957.

Upon earning his degree from CSC, he was commissioned an Ensign in The United States Navy in 1957. Ten years later, he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander and was made Director of the Navy's Minority Officer Recruiting Effort (MORE). The goal of the "MORE Team" was to bring more minorities into the officer ranks. As Director of MORE, he established recruiting teams on many of the black universities similar to what was being done on predominantly white campuses. The results were immediate. By giving black students the same opportunities as were given white students, he was able to set the Navy on a course to full integration that is still paying high dividends today.

Admiral Toney completed NATO Defense College in Rome in 1977 and the National and International Security Course at Harvard University in 1990. He holds honorary doctorate degrees in Humane Letters from National Defense University in San Diego, CA, and the Golden Gate University in San Francisco, CA

Admiral Toney's naval career spanned thirty four years. He commanded four organizations: the Naval Surface Group, Naval Base, Logistics Group One and Maritime Defense Command. He served off the Vietnam Coast throughout the Vietnam War and also as Director of Logistics and Security Assistance, United States Pacific Command. As Base Commander in San Francisco, he managed more than sixty thousand people from Monterey to the Northern California border, with a payroll of 2.6 billion dollars.

His military honors and decorations were numerous and included the Defense Meritorious Medal, the Navy Meritorious Service Medal with Oakleaf Cluster and the Vietnam Service Medal. Admiral Toney, United States Navy, retired from the military in 1994 and returned to Oakland, California where he currently resides with his wife Flora.

During his retired years, Admiral Toney has served on the board of directors of the United Way, the World Affairs Council, the Commonwealth Club, Volunteers of America, and the Oakland Boys and Girls Club. For three years, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and served five years as Executive Vice President of Business Development of F.E.Jordan and Associates.

His business and community affiliations include: past interim president Bay Area Urban League, Director Bank of the West, Director Levine-Fricke-Recon Advisory Board, Junior Achievement of the San Francisco Bay Area, and member of the President's Advisory Board, California State University, Chico.

Admiral Toney has devoted his entire life to public service on both the national and community levels. He was instrumental in providing health care for those who could not afford it, rebuilding lives and unlocking the potential of those in need, and developing Bay Area youth into positive contributors to society.

He is a Christian gentleman who has championed the underprivileged youth of America his entire adult life.