

CLASS OF



1958

WILLIAM A. OWENS

Bill Owens, who was born and raised in Bismarck, graduated from Bismarck High School in 1958. He then attended and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1962. His subsequent naval career included more than 10 years or 4,000 days of service on a submarine, including duty in the Vietnam War. He served on four strategic nuclear-powered submarines and three nuclear attack submarines. From November 1990 to July 1992, Owens commanded the U.S. Sixth Fleet, from which the first attacks of Desert Storm were launched. He then directed the post-Cold War restructuring of the U.S. Navy as the first Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessments. In 1994 Owens was appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton to serve as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. At the completion of his service in the Navy, Owens moved into private business where he serves as Co-Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of Teledesic, a private company based in Kirkland, Washington. Owens was the recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award in January 1996.