

CLASS OF

1974

MARK MUNSON

Mark was born and raised in Bismarck, and graduated with the BHS Class of 1974. He is the son of Ardys (Munson) Swanson, who taught at BHS from 1956-1987, and 'step-son' of Emeroy Swanson, who also taught there and served as Assistant Principal and, then, as Principal in the same timeframe as his Mother. His father, Carl Munson, Jr., graduated from BHS in 1943. Mark has spent his career working in National Security Affairs. After six years on active duty in the Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer, he became a federal civilian in the Department of Defense, where he dedicated 10+ years managing arms-control operations and almost 20 years with the Office of the Secretary of Defense staff. He was in the Pentagon when the United States was attacked on 9/11. Mark had a dual-track career for 23 years as a Navy Reservist, like many in the National Guard and Reserves. He was the Commanding Officer of three Naval Reserve Units, and served overseas for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He retired as a Captain.

Mark graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1978, and later earned two Master's degrees from Harvard University and a Master's degree from the Naval War College. He and his wife, the former Jean Haase of Poughkeepsie, NY, met while they were both serving in the Navy. They have a daughter, Kathryn, and three sons, Mark, Jim, and Matt.

