

Peter Clement

Bellport High School Class Of 1967



Peter Clement grew up in North Bellport and graduated from Bellport High School in 1967. He ran cross-country and track, did photography for the Clipper and The Log, and was Student Council President – but most of all, he simply enjoyed learning from his teachers and classmates. He also wrote about Bellport athletic teams for the Long Island Advance.

Mr. Clement was a history major at SUNY-Oswego, and went on to Michigan State University for an MA in European history and Ph.D in Russian history. He taught history courses at a suburban Maryland high school for three years before joining the CIA in 1977. As an analyst and manager in the Agency's analytic directorate, he had endless opportunities to write and brief about tumultuous change in modern-day Russia during the Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Putin years.

From 2003-2018, Mr. Clement held a number of senior CIA positions, including eight years as Deputy Director for Intelligence for Analytic Programs, Director of the Office of Russian and Eurasian Analysis, and the Deputy Assistant Director of CIA for Europe and Eurasia. Memorable assignments include serving as the daily briefer for Vice President Cheney, NSC Adviser Rice, and Deputy NSC Adviser Hadley, and brief tours at the National Security Council and the US Mission to the UN. He also represented the CIA at dozens of White House policy meetings.

Teaching, and learning, have always motivated Mr. Clement. During his early CIA years, he taught evening classes on Russian history and politics for over 10 years at DC area universities, and later was a full-time visiting professor at Columbia University (2013-2015). Mr. Clement has published some 10 journal articles and book chapters on Soviet and Russian foreign policy, Central Asia, and the Cuban missile crisis. Upon retiring from the CIA in 2018, he joined Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, where he teaches classes on Intelligence and US Foreign Policy, and Contemporary Russian Security Policy.