

Pioneer Hall of Fame Award

John Zimmerman

The University High School Alumni Association honors John Zimmerman, Captain U.S. Navy, class of 1984, as a 2016 Hall of Fame Alumni Award Recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service.

Zimmerman graduated from University High School in 1984, where he demonstrated leadership qualities in both his academic and extra-curricular activities. His accomplishments and distinctions included: Student Body President his Senior year, National Honor Society, Boys State Delegate, Team Captain and Two-Time State Qualifier for Wrestling, and Team Captain for Cross Country.

After high school, Zimmerman attended the US Naval Academy, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1988. He later went on to earn a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategy from the US Naval War College in 2001. While earning these degrees, Zimmerman was awarded the following notable distinctions:

- Graduated with Merit, US Naval Academy, 1988
- Top Graduate, US Naval War College, 2001
- William Sowden Sims Leadership Award, US Naval War College, 2001

Throughout his 28 year Navy career, Zimmerman has always demonstrated great leadership qualities and takes pride in having a positive impact on the lives of others. The following is a summary of his Navy experience and major recognitions:

1988-2008

Served aboard two Ballistic Missile, and two Fast Attack, nuclear powered submarines (9 strategic deterrent patrols and 3 Western Pacific deployments).

2003-05

Industry Analyst, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Industry Policy) – Led a Global Shipbuilding Industrial Base Benchmarking Study.

2006-08

Commanding Officer of the nuclear powered, fast attack submarine, USS JEFFERSON CITY (SSN 759).

2008-09

Director for Intelligence, Commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.

2009-10

Deputy Director for Intelligence and Special Operations, Commander Pacific Fleet.

2012-15

Major Program Manager, Submarine Combat and Weapon Control Systems (\$150M/year program responsible for all U.S. and Royal Australian Navy submarine combat systems).

2015-16

Deputy Command Information Officer, NAVSEA.

Recognitions

- 2015 Secretary of the Navy Innovative Leadership Award (Honorable Mention)
- 2015 NAVSEA Commander's Team Innovation Award
- 2014 Association for Enterprise Information - Government Award for Innovation, Cost Savings, Operational Impact
- Various personal awards including the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

In addition to his career accomplishments and other personal awards, Zimmerman also received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for various community service efforts during his Naval Service.

In his spare time, Zimmerman also enjoys running, where he was a Silver medalist in the 3K and Bronze medalist in the Mile at the 2013 USA Masters Indoor Track & Field Championships.

Zimmerman is married to his wife, Leah. They have two sons, Tyler, currently attending the US Naval Academy, and Connor, currently attending Langley High School.

"What is needed most of all are leaders who are prepared to challenge conventional thinking, break crockery, stop doing what doesn't work well or at all, and set a new course."
(favorite quote from Defense Secretary Robert Gates)



1984



University High School
