

OFHS



WALL OF FAME

Inducted May 29, 2011



STANLEY LEJA

Growing up in Abrams, Stanley Leja's parents, Estelle and Stanley, instilled in him the value of education and service to our country. At Oconto Falls High School, Stan enjoyed mathematics and chemistry. He felt he had excellent teachers in these subjects. While still in high school, he was twice awarded a National Science Foundation scholarship to attend summer sessions and conduct research in biochemistry at the University of Iowa.

Prior to graduation with the class of '67, Stan was accepted by the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. With several high school friends in Vietnam, Stan felt obligated to join the military and decided to attend USMA. He graduated from West Point in 1971 with a B.S. in Engineering, with a specialization in nuclear engineering, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps.

His first command assignment was at Kaiserslautern, Germany. While in Germany, he attended night school and earned a Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Utah. He was next sent to Stanford University to prepare for his next assignment as an instructor and assistant professor of Mathematics at the USMA. While at Stanford University, he earned two graduate degrees in applied mathematics, an M.S. in Operation Research and an Engineering Degree in Operations Research.

From his faculty position at West Point, Colonel Leja went on to serve as a Communications Electronics Engineer with the National Emergency Airborne Command Post as a member of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His next assignment took Stan and his wife, Mary, a native of New York City, to Brussels, Belgium, where he did diplomatic and military work as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Returning to the United States, he had four military acquisition command positions in which he was responsible for developing, procuring, equipping, and training portions of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard with satellite communications, computer networks, graphical information systems, and artillery/missile fire control systems. During his military service he received numerous distinctions and awards. Stan retired from active military service in November 2000.

COL(R) Leja is now an Associate Professor of Computer Science, Engineering and Advanced Technologies at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. Stan and Mary have been married for 40 years and enjoy world travel when Stan is not teaching. Stan believes in helping students achieve their dreams and improving their lives.