Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023 Nomination:

Captain H. Robert (Bob) Jones, (Retired) USN, ‘53

Captain Jones, USN (Ret.) was commissioned through the NROTC program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in September 1953. He served on active duty for nearly 27 years, retiring in May 1980, having commanded four ships and with combat service on the ground in Vietnam. He also served three consecutive tours in the Pentagon in demanding financial management and budgeting billets.

**Naval Service**:

A career Surface Warfare Officer, his assignments in the operating forces include:

• First Lieutenant and Damage Control Assistant, USS CONY (DD 508)

* Executive Officer and Commanding Officer, USS CARDINAL (MSC 4)
* Commanding Officer, USS THRUSH (MSC 204)
* Navigator, USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA 143)
* Executive Officer, USS CONY (DD 508)
* Officer in Charge, Naval Support Activity Detachment Hue, Republic of Vietnam
* Operations Officer, Naval Support Activity Danang, Republic of Vietnam
* Commanding Officer, USS GLENNON (DD 840)
* Commanding Officer, USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)

Service Ashore:

• Associate Professor of Naval Science, Northwestern University

* Student, George Washington University (MBA in Financial Management)

• Student, Army Command and General Staff College

* Faculty, US Naval War College
* Special Assistant to Deputy Comptroller of the Navy
* Deputy Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel, Deputy Comptroller
* Assistant Director for Budget and Reports/Fiscal Management Division

His personal awards include:

• Legion of Merit (2 awards), with Combat Distinguishing Device

• Bronze Star

• Meritorious Service Medal

• Army Commendation Medal

In addition, he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon. He has been privileged to serve in commands that have been awarded the following unit citations and awards:

• Navy Unit Commendation,

• Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation

* Battle “E” for USS GLENNON

**Private Sector**:

Following his retirement from the Navy, he briefly served as comptroller for the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, before joining Norfolk Southern, quickly rising to serve as President of three Norfolk Southern companies: Lamberts Point Docks, Inc, Norfolk Barge Co. and Sandusky Docks Inc. These companies were Norfolk Southern’s largest coal shipment facilities in the US. He retired from Norfolk Southern in 1998.

He also served in leadership positions in numerous community and charitable organizations, including as President of Hampton Roads Traffic Club and Board of Directors of Hampton Roads Maritime Association and Habitat for Humanity. He also served as Chairman of the Board for the March of Dimes, Greater Hampton Roads Division from 2000-2012. During his tenure as Hampton Roads Chairman for March of Dimes, the division revenue goal grew from $325,000 to $1.5 million! He received many local and state volunteer awards, including Volunteer of the Year for 1999, 2003 and 2004. He has been inducted into the Virginia State Volunteer Hall of Fame.

CAPT Jones (Ret.) is a member of the UNC NROTC Alumni Association.