

Three Veterans Honored with Saint Thomas Academy Fleming Alumni Veteran Awards

At a special Veteran's Day assembly on Wednesday, Nov. 9, [Saint Thomas Academy](#) awarded the [Fleming Alumni Veteran Award](#) to three alumni, recognizing their honorable service in the U.S. military and dedication to the Academy. The three recipients were:

Col. Bertram Maas, U.S. Marine Corps STMA '49 – (Deceased) – A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Maas was a fighter pilot and helicopter pilot prior to and during the Vietnam war. On Aug. 19, 1968, Maas and the unit he commanded, the Marine Gunship and Observation Squadron 6 of the 1st Marine Air Wing, flew in and out of landing zones, under heavy enemy fire to evacuate wounded Marines. Maas, attacked North Vietnamese Artillery emplacements and advancing North Vietnamese Infantry, allowing many Marines to be saved and reinforcements to join the fight, while reducing enemy in the area. He is a recipient of the Silver Star for Gallantry, the Bronze Star, 23 Air Medals, and many other awards. He retired from the Marines in 1980, with 27 years of service.

Col. Julian McFadden, U.S. Air Force STMA '49 - (Deceased) – McFadden joined the U.S. Air Force as a second lieutenant in 1954 and later graduated from pilot training as a fighter pilot, flying the F-102 Delta Dagger interceptor and the famous F-4 Phantom. He served several tours in the Pacific and Asia, flying over 341 combat missions from the bases of Da-Nang, South Vietnam and Udorn Air Base in Thailand. His missions included combat strikes and close air support sorties in North Vietnam, Laos and South Vietnam. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and 17 Air Medals. After Vietnam, he became rated in the A-10 Thunderbolt and was awarded command of the largest fighter group in the Air Force – the 18th Tactical fighter group based out of Kadena Air Base in Okinawa.

Rear Adm. John Crowley, U.S. Coast Guard (ret.) STA '71 – Crowley served as the operational commander for the Great Lakes region, where he oversaw the more than 7,700 regular, reserve, auxiliary and civilian men and women who secured 6,500 miles of shoreline and 1,500 miles of international border by providing search and rescue, marine safety and environmental protection and maritime law enforcement. Crowley will be present to accept his award. Crowley lives in Suffolk, Va.

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