

The Nickerson Award at the United States Naval Academy

On May 25, 2021, Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson, Governor General of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America from 1986 to 1988 was again remembered and honored at the United States Naval Academy for his service and heroism as a Marine Corps officer.

The Order of the Founders of America annually presents an award named in honor of Lieutenant General Nickerson to an outstanding Naval Academy midshipman who is entering the Marine Corps. The event on May 25 was the United States Marine Corps Awards ceremony, a ceremony held during commissioning week, for the 279 Midshipman entering the Marine Corps and for their families.

Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson

Lieutenant General Nickerson served in the Marine Corps for 35 years, from 1935 to 1970, having participated in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. While he was the Commanding Officer of the Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division in Korea, and as a result of action on 31 May 1951, Colonel Nickerson was awarded the nation's second highest combat award, for extraordinary heroism in the face of the enemy. Moving to the front line under a ferocious counter-attack by the enemy, Colonel Nickerson guided his troops to repulse the counter-attack, take the offensive and secure the high ground. His story is an inspiration to young Marine officers.

United States Naval Academy U.S. Marine Corps Awards Ceremony



NICKERSON AWARD



CRITERIA:
Given to the graduating Midshipman who has demonstrated superior leadership, integrity, and potential as a future Marine Corps officer.

PRIZE:
Marine Officer's Sword

AWARDING AGENCY:
Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

- (52) Nominations
- (17) Finalists

Lieutenant General
Herman Nickerson, Jr., USMC

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The Nickerson Award is given to the graduating Midshipman Marine-selectee who has demonstrated superior leadership, integrity, and potential as a future Marine Corps Officer. The Marine staff at the Naval Academy selects the winner of the award. For 2021, 52 Midshipman were nominated, and the winner was chosen from 17 finalists. The award, established by the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, is a Marine Officer's Sword, an award highly prized by its recipient.

Deputy Registrar General (and Virginia Society Governor) Captain Michael E. Weyler, Civil Engineer Corps, United States Navy (Ret) participated in that ceremony as the sponsor of the Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson Award. Due to the limitations on attendance, the sponsors of the ten annual awards participated virtually, while each award was given locally by a mentor of the award recipient. Deputy Registrar General Weyler presented the National Order's prestigious Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson Award to a Midshipman in the USNA Class of 2021. The Marine Officer's Sword was presented to Midshipman Sydney Barber.

Nickerson Awardee, Midshipman Sydney Barber

Midshipman Sydney Barber's accomplishments and demonstrated leadership while at the Naval Academy were enumerated, including the fact that she was the Commander of the Brigade of Midshipman, the highest ranking midshipman at the Academy for the 2021 spring semester.



United States Naval Academy U.S. Marine Corps Awards Ceremony

2021 NICKERSON AWARD RECIPIENT



Midn 1/C Sydney Barber
Lake Forest, IL
13th Company
Mechanical Engineering
Marine Corps Ground

Midshipman Barber embodies the Marine Corps values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment every single day. In times of turmoil, confusion and division, this future Marine Officer consistently demonstrates the courage to step up for what is right by confronting difficult issues. She understands that it is not sufficient to just point out problems, and is committed to creating teams that provide solutions. Above all, she does all this with intact honor, inspiring confidence in her peers and superiors alike.
Major Capdepon, USMC Practicum Instructor

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Award Presenter, Captain Michael E. Weyler, CEC, USN (Ret)

Deputy Registrar General Weyler's naval service biography was read as an introduction to his final remarks. His service as a Civil Engineer Corps Officer and Seabee diver, as well as his assignment to the Academy's Mechanical Engineering Faculty from 1980 to 1982, were noted.



United States Naval Academy U.S. Marine Corps Awards Ceremony

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Nickerson Award

CAPTAIN Michael E. Weyler, USN (Ret)

- 23 years Active Duty Navy Officer
- Seabee
- Helped develop the Navy's formal Seabee Training School
- USNA Mechanical Engineering Faculty from 1980 – 1982
- Member of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

The video player interface includes a play button, a volume icon, a "LIVE" indicator, a dropdown arrow, a settings gear, and a full-screen icon. The video content shows a man in a suit and glasses speaking in front of an American flag.

Compatriot Weyler closed the 2021 Nickerson Award presentation with the following congratulatory remarks:

“Good morning, and congratulations, Midshipman Barber. The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America is an Order dedicated to keeping alive the memory of those who came to America when it was mostly a wilderness and to their descendants who fought for our independence and our liberty, and gave us our Constitutional Republic and a nation of free people. This sword is given in memory of Marine Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross and past Governor General of our Order. Wear it proudly as you enter the officer ranks of the United States Marine Corps.”