

## **Colonel Arthur J. Athens, USMCR (Ret.)**

**artathens@gmail.com**

Colonel Athens is a retired Marine Corps officer and the former Director of the U.S. Naval Academy's Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership. He currently invests in leaders around the country through his speaking, writing, consulting and coaching.



Colonel Athens attended the U.S. Naval Academy where he served as Brigade Commander, lettered on the varsity lacrosse team, and received two of the Academy's most prestigious awards, the Alumni Association Award and the Coaches' Calvert Award. He graduated with distinction in 1978 and was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps. During his active-duty career, he held significant command and staff positions in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wings.

Colonel Athens also served as the Antiair Warfare Instructor and Academic Dean at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1, the Marine Corps' equivalent of the Navy's Top Gun School, and taught Computer Science at the U.S. Naval Academy where he received the Clements Award as the outstanding military educator. While assigned to the Naval Academy, he became a White House Fellow in the Reagan Administration and served as the Special Assistant to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Colonel Athens earned a master's degree in Information Systems from the Naval Postgraduate School, where he stood first in his graduating class, as well as a master's in Military Arts and Sciences from the U.S. Army's School of Advanced Military Studies.

Colonel Athens left active duty in 1994 to serve as the Executive Director of OCF, a worldwide non-profit organization assisting military personnel integrate their personal faith and professional responsibilities. After leading OCF for five years, Colonel Athens assumed responsibilities as the Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, one of the nation's five federal service academies. He remained as Commandant until returning to the Naval Academy as the first Lakefield Family Foundation Distinguished Military Professor of Leadership. Colonel Athens served in the Lakefield Chair until his appointment to the Stockdale Center.

When Colonel Athens resigned his active-duty commission, he transferred to the Marine Corps Reserves and served as a Space Operations Officer for the U.S. Space Command, the Commanding Officer of Marine Air Control Squadron 24, a Strategic Analyst at Headquarters Marine Corps, an instructor with the Marine Air Ground Task Force Staff Training Program and the Special Assistant to the President, Marine Corps University. He retired from the Marine Corps on 1 July 2008.

Colonel Athens is an honorary Senior Chief Petty Officer of the Navy and an honorary graduate of the Naval Academy's Classes of 1981 and 2009. He is the recipient of the Department of the Navy's highest honorary award for a civilian employee. Additionally, he has been a volunteer lacrosse coach at the high school and collegiate levels and the Washington Post recognized him as their High School Coach of the Year.

Colonel Athens is married to the former Mistina Root of Williamsburg, Virginia and they have ten children.