

2020 ISD 88 Hall of Fame Bios

Donald Mathiowetz – Class of 1957

A 1957 graduate of New Ulm High School, Donald was involved in both the arts and athletics, participating in many activities. After graduation, he attended the University of Minnesota, where he graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. Through the NROTC, Donald graduated from US Naval Submarine School and then the US Navy Guided Missiles School. He was the Commanding Officer of the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Puffer during the Cold War. He later served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Engineering, and Systems at the Pentagon. Donald was promoted to the rank of Captain by Senate confirmation in 1982. Capt. Mathiowetz has been awarded the Navy Achievement Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, and the Legion of Merit. After retiring as an inspector general, he later became a math and science teacher in San Diego and, after that retirement, continued as a substitute teacher. In his free time, he sings in the prestigious San Diego Master Chorale and is a Docent for the Maritime Museum of San Diego.