

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Washington, DC 20004-2901



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### **The Honorable John W. Crawford, Jr.**



It is with great sadness that we share the loss of Captain John (Jack) William Crawford, Jr, Board Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) from 1989-1996, who passed away on February 28, 2022. Captain Crawford provided a lifetime of service to the United States, and he was pivotal in the establishment of the Board and instilling in the agency a culture of excellence and dedication to the safety of the defense nuclear complex that has endured for decades.

Captain Crawford was a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1942. He left the academy 12 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor and served 22 years on active duty in the Navy. Captain Crawford fought in the Battle of Midway aboard the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, surviving its sinking in the aftermath of the battle. After World War II, Captain Crawford joined the staff of Admiral Hyman Rickover and played a key role in the development of the Nuclear Navy, eventually rising to the role of Deputy Director of Naval Reactors.

After retiring from the Navy with the rank of Captain, he joined the Atomic Energy Commission in 1965 and held senior positions including Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy. He carried out a comprehensive post-Three Mile Island assessment of the safety of the Department of Energy's (DOE) nuclear reactors, resulting in the widely publicized "Crawford Report."

Captain Crawford served as one of the founding members of DNFSB from 1989 to 1996. While at the Board, he was instrumental in recruiting staff of the highest technical caliber to ensure the Board could effectively carry out its safety oversight mission. By his work on several Recommendations and Technical Reports, Captain Crawford: led the Board's successful effort to drive DOE into becoming a standards-based organization instead of relying on expert judgment to carry out its missions safely; led the Board's push to drive DOE into taking ownership and responsibility for the safety of the defense nuclear complex, instead of allowing responsibility to devolve onto DOE's contractors; and led the Board's efforts to raise the

technical competence of DOE and contractor personnel and to raise the level of rigor and formality in the conduct of nuclear operations across the complex.

Even after retiring from the Board, Captain Crawford continued to actively correspond with the Board Members, DOE, and others in positions of responsibility to urge vigilance in oversight and assurance of the safety of the defense nuclear complex. The DNFSB's highest award for staff excellence in achievement in safety oversight carries his name, the Crawford Award.

The Board and its staff offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Captain Jack Crawford.