

## Excerpt from Banquet Script

October 5, 2018

Ladies and gentlemen, only two individuals have been inducted as an honorary member of an Air Force Academy graduating class: President Dwight D. Eisenhower by the Class of 1959 and President John F. Kennedy by the Class of 1963. Tonight, we induct the third honorary member in Academy history and the first for the Illustrious Class of 1973. In arriving at criteria for such a distinction, we settled upon an individual steeped in integrity who has made significant contributions to the Academy, our Air Force, and our nation. Ladies and gentlemen, that individual is Brigadier General Malham M. Wakin.

Mal Wakin is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the United States Air Force Academy. He has taught at the Air Force Academy from 1959 to 2016. He has served as Professor and Head of the Department of Philosophy, Chairman of the Humanities Division, Assistant Dean, Associate Dean, Head of the Department of Philosophy and Fine Arts, Head of the Political Science and Philosophy Department, Chair and member of numerous academic committees.

He served on active duty with the Air Force from 1953 to 1995, including early tours as an Air Rescue navigator and a combat tour in Vietnam in 1968. He holds a number of military decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, and three Legions of Merit.

He has authored or edited five books, the most recent being, *Integrity First, Reflections of a Military Philosopher*. He has also published many articles in scholarly journals. He was featured as one of twelve “great professors” in *People Magazine*, Oct.13,1975, and was the subject of a feature article in the Nov. 19, 1984 issue of *Newsweek*. He helped found and then chaired the Joint Services Conference on Professional Ethics from 1979 to 1993. He served as ethics advisor to the U.S. Olympic Committee for 13 years. General Wakin, during the seventies, eighties, and nineties, averaged 40

outside lectures a year in the United States, Europe, and Canada. He was the Air Force representative on the Department of Defense Medical Ethics Committee for several years and currently serves on a number of community medical ethics committees.

Mal has earned a B.A. from Notre Dame, an M.A. from State University New York in Albany, and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. He has also been awarded three honorary degrees. He and his wife, Lynn, both previously widowed, have a combined family of eight children, nine grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

I want to share with you an abstract from an academic journal article published in 1995: Quote

Professor Manuel M. Davenport, in a tribute to Col Mal Wakin entitled "Ethics and Leadership," examines Col Wakin's views and qualities of leadership, comparing them with those of Albert Schweitzer, whom Professor Davenport met in 1960. He claims that Wakin's and Schweitzer's views of leadership are quite similar. Wakin's concepts of competence and integrity parallel Schweitzer's technical expertise and moral authority. Both provide examples of transformational leadership. Schweitzer's Reverence for Life shares aspects of Wakin's discussions of Natural Law theory, and both men exemplify strong . . . leadership. Professor Davenport holds that by emulating Wakin and Schweitzer, we will become better leaders as well as better persons.

End Quote.