

Richard V. Spencer '72

DISTINGUISHED BROOKSIAN 2022

The Distinguished Brooksonian award honors individuals whose life and contributions to society exemplify the nobility of character and usefulness to humanity embodied in the spirit of the school. Dr. Joseph Sherer '37 presented the first Distinguished Brooksonian award to Frank Davis Ashburn on Prize Day, May 27, 1991.

Upon receiving a bachelor's degree from Rollins College in 1976, the Honorable Richard V. Spencer joined the United States Marine Corps and served as an H-46 (Phrog) pilot until 1981. After leaving active duty, Spencer worked on Wall Street for 16 years with responsibilities centered on investment banking services. He was president of Crossroads Investment Management, LLC, before serving Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., as vice chairman and chief financial officer and Fall Creek Management, LLC, as managing director.

Notably, Spencer was sworn in as the 76th secretary of the Navy on August 3, 2017, serving in that office until November 24, 2019. When pressured by the White House administration to overturn the results of a specific court-martial proceeding, Spencer refused and subsequently resigned.

“Richard became very prominent in the news when he took a principled stand against the White House,” classmates wrote when nominating Spencer for this award. “In a resignation letter to Donald Trump, Richard stressed his belief in the importance of ‘good order and discipline,’ which he no doubt learned at Brooks.”

In addition to volunteering his time to Brooks through a variety of roles, Spencer has served on multiple corporate boards. His charitable activities include board service on the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, Veterans Campaign/Center for Second Service and Honoring Our Vets. He also served on the Defense Business Board and the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel.