

College of the Holy Cross

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80th Anniversary of NROTC at Holy Cross


O'Callahan Society

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History of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit: 80th Anniversary Slides

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O'Callahan Society Annual Dinner - 2021

History of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit – 80th Anniversary Slides



Captain Julian Wheeler and Staff

First Commanding Officer of Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit

Authorized by the Department of the Navy May 1941

Established July 1941

A Navy V-12 Unit was added in 1943 – one of 131 WWII V-12 Units (WPI also had one)

**First Commissioning Class
Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit
February 27, 1944**



48 Navy Ensigns

48 Deck Officers

13 were 19 years old; 22 were 20 years old

Most were assigned to small combatants: patrol craft, minesweepers, amphibious ships

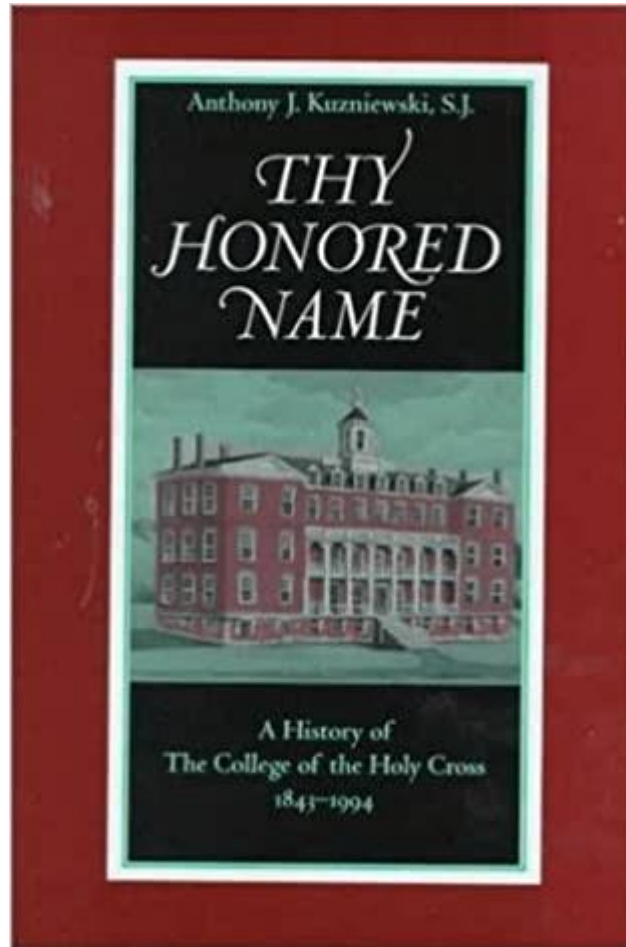
Most served in combat in the Pacific Theater

All survived World War II

The last surviving member of this class died in September, 2021

History of the College of the Holy Cross

Rev. Anthony J. Kuzniewski, S. J.



On pages 298-302, as young men volunteered for WWII military service,

Holy Cross closed some residence halls and was concerned about its future.

But, the Naval ROTC and V-12 programs provided a steady flow of students.

1966: Holy Cross NROTC Unit was the 15th largest of the nation's 52 NROTC Units

1970: Holy Cross students, faculty, and trustees voted separately to retain ROTC

1970s: Holy Cross was the only one of six New England colleges to keep its Naval ROTC Unit

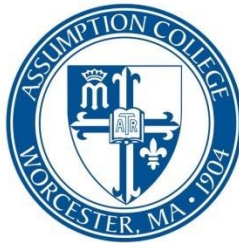
1970 Jesuit comment to the speaker: "Without the Navy, there would be no Holy Cross"

Other Colleges Participating in Holy Cross NROTC

Current Consortium Members



Previous Consortium Members



Central New England College also participated for a few years but no longer exists

1975: Holy Cross NROTC Unit placed on probation by the Navy due to low enrollment

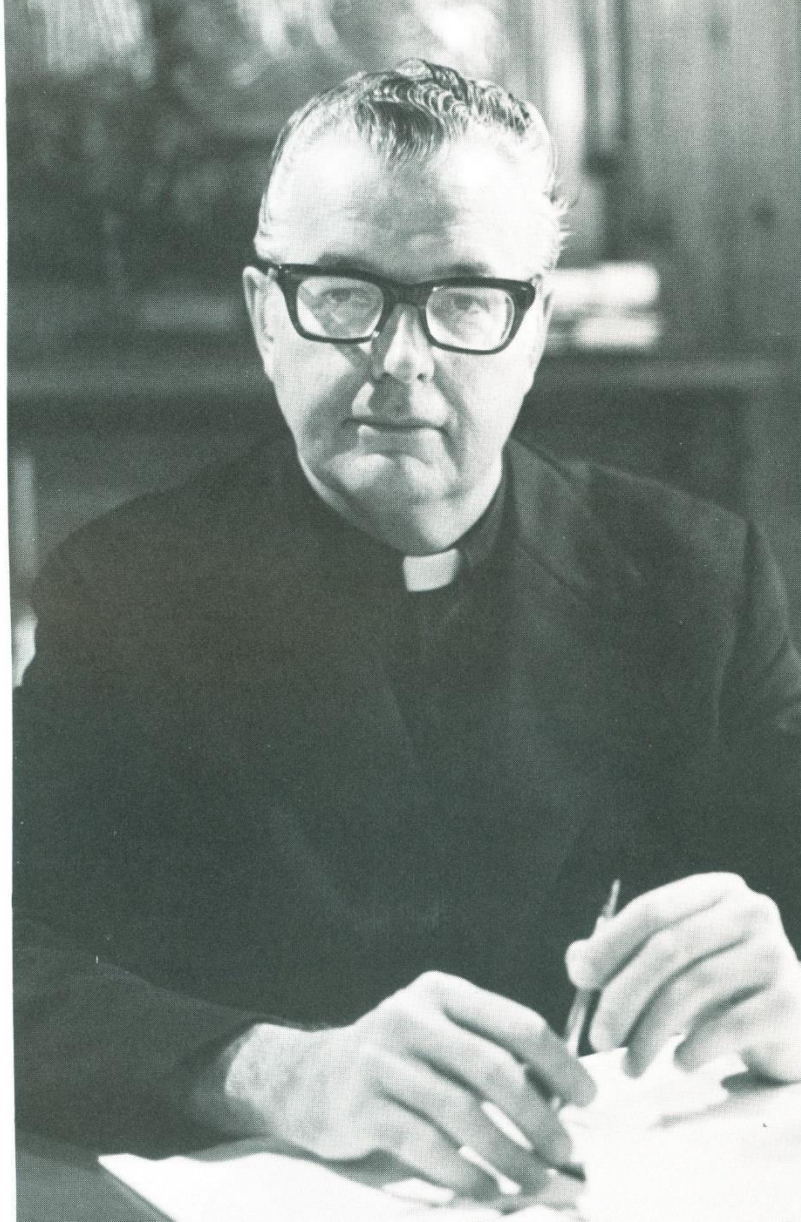
1976: First woman commissioned by the Unit – Marine Corps Second Lieutenant

1976: First graduate from a different college commissioned – Navy Ensign from Assumption

1978: Holy Cross NROTC Unit removed from probation

1986: Holy Cross commissioned 5th most officers of the nation's 64 NROTC Units

Rev. John E. Brooks
President, College of the Holy Cross 1970-1994



Longest serving President in Holy Cross history
Chartered O'Callahan Committee on his last day in office, June 30, 1994

**Swearing-In of Midshipmen during COVID-19 Pandemic
February 2021**



Holy Cross NROTC Unit adapts to another crisis (COVID-19) in its 80-year history
In 80 years, 2458 Navy and Marine Corps officers commissioned through NROTC
130 Second Lieutenants also commissioned through USMC Platoon Leaders' Class (PLC)
17 NROTC graduates died on active duty – 8 in combat
2 PLC graduates died in combat in Vietnam
WE REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICE