

Guidance for Distinguished Graduate Award Submissions for Members of USNA '75



The Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA) was established in 1998 to honor USNA graduates who have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to service, personal character and distinguished contributions to our Nation. On 12 May 2017 the Alumni Association Board of Trustees formalized the program by approving the DGA Program Guidelines resolution. Per those Guidelines, all DGA nominations must have an endorsement of a Class President or USNA Alumni Association Chapter President.

The President of the Class of 1975 has established a 1975 DGA Committee to assist and guide him in executing his responsibility for receiving, reviewing, editing and nominating qualified and deserving '75 Classmates to the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association (USNAAA) DGA Selection Committee. The Vice President of the Class of 1975 will assist the Class President and 1975 DGA Committee members. _

Per USNAAA DGA Program Guidelines, currently there is no specific minimum or maximum number of DGA recipients selected in any given year. The current norm, per the Guidelines, states between three and five selectees each year. With that in mind, the goal of the 1975 DGA Committee is to put forth those most deserving and whose package is both compelling and competitive for that selection cycle.

All members of the 1975 DGA Committee will be selected by the Class President. While there are no specific term limits, those serving on the committee will be at the discretion of the Class President and in coordination with each individual committee member.

Those wanting to nominate a member of the Class of 1975 for a DGA should notify the Class President **NLT 01 April** of the nomination year of their intent to submit a nomination package. The purpose of this notification is to eliminate duplicity of effort if someone else is already preparing a package for a Classmate. The current USNAAA DGA timeline is that nominations are due near the end of October of that nomination year.

Upon being notified by the Class President of a DGA nomination, 1975 DGA Committee members will coordinate to discuss the merits of each package. An essential step in this

discussion is to ensure that each package received by the Class President and *1975 DGA Committee* is not only submission worthy, but is compelling/competitive, formatted properly and is compliant with the following:

- Adheres to USNAAA Distinguished Graduate Award Nomination Packet Guidelines. These guidelines can be found at <https://www.usna.com/dga>
- That the '75 Classmate nominated agrees to be an active participant in the vetting, review and any needed editing of his package.
- That the '75 Classmate understands that per USNAAA DGA Program Guidelines, nominees are required to acknowledge that their package will be vetted by the DGA Selection Committee to take into consideration all publicly available information.

Each nomination package submitted to the Class President shall be submitted digitally (preferably in Microsoft Word) **NLT 01 July**. Again, these packages should be as near submission worthy as possible when received by the 1975 Class President. Understanding that while nomination packages are not due to the USNAAA until the October timeframe, the months of July-Sept will be used by the Class President and the *1975 DGA Committee*, in collaboration with the '75 nominee, to ensure that the nomination package is compelling/competitive, captures all the accomplishments and distinctive contributions that the nominee has made to the Navy and Nation, and reflects proudly on all members of the Class of 1975.

The DGA Selection Committee values nominees that can demonstrate a lifetime of support for the Naval Academy through volunteer activities and engagement with the Naval Academy, USNAAA or Naval Academy Foundation in support of the Academy's mission.

Any questions or comments regarding this Guidance or questions on the overall DGA nomination process can be made to either the Class of 1975 President or Vice President.

—— **Current DGA Committee Members:**

CDR Chris Cikanovich USNR-Ret USNA '75 Class President

RADM Gary Jones USN- Ret USNA '75 Vice President / DGA Committee Chairman

RDML Craig Quigley, USN-Ret

VADM J.T. Blake, USN-Ret

CDR Carl Willis, USNR-Ret