



*Donald Rumsfeld*

Class of 1950

Donald Rumsfeld served as the United States' 13th and 21st Secretary of Defense and is the only person to hold that Cabinet position for non-consecutive terms. His long record of service to his country began when he joined the U.S. Navy in 1954, where he served as a naval aviator and flight instructor and retired as a captain in the Naval Reserve. Rumsfeld won his first term representing Illinois' 13th Congressional District in 1962 at the age of 30. He resigned from Congress in 1969 to join President Nixon's Cabinet, where he served successively as the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Director of the Economic Stabilization Program, and U.S. Ambassador to NATO. Rumsfeld chaired President Gerald R. Ford's transition to the presidency and served as White House Chief of Staff. In 1975, he was named Secretary of Defense and oversaw the transition to an all-volunteer military. In 1977, Rumsfeld was awarded the nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Rumsfeld moved to private industry in 1977. He returned to Washington to serve as Secretary of Defense under President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2006. In 2007, Rumsfeld and his wife, Joyce, established the Rumsfeld Foundation, building on the work of the Joyce and Donald Rumsfeld Foundation, established in 1985. At New Trier, Rumsfeld was Vice President of Tri-Ship and a member of the wrestling and football teams. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Joyce (Pierson) Rumsfeld '50.

