

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FENWICK HIGH SCHOOL NAMES FIRST LAY PRESIDENT IN 95-YEAR HISTORY

Colonel Otto J. Rutt is a Fenwick alum, Marine Corps veteran and Harvard University graduate.

October 4, 2024, OAK PARK, IL – Following a national search, Fenwick High School named retired Marine Corps Colonel Otto J. Rutt its first lay president, beginning November 4.

"The Fenwick community is etched into my heart. I am humbled to get this opportunity," said Rutt, who graduated from the Dominican Catholic college preparatory school in 1979 and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2008. "After decades of building on the top-notch Catholic education I gained at Fenwick, through career stops in the military, the private sector and in public education, I am coming home."

Rutt retired from the Marine Corps in 2012 with decades of service as a fighter pilot, combat veteran and senior leader, serving two tours in the Persian Gulf and Western Iraq. He spearheaded the training and readiness of multiple Marine Corps units, eventually serving as Chief Officer of the Equal Opportunity & Diversity Management Branch.

Rutt returns to Fenwick "out of a profound sense of mission," he said. "My life has been filled with deep commitments...my aspirations and choices have carried a sense of vocation. Aligned with this reason is my strong belief that I can make a unique and significant difference in this pivotal era for Fenwick."

A recipient of several service awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal, he holds degrees in economics, business administration, strategic studies and fine art from Harvard University, the University of Chicago, Air University and Florida Atlantic University.

These achievements "reflect a dedication to teamwork and mentorship, and a profound ability to inspire and guide others," Fenwick Board Chair Matt McNicholas said. "We believe Col. Rutt's leadership will foster a dynamic environment where students thrive not only academically but also as compassionate individuals who think critically, approach problems in the tradition of Dominican intellectual investigation, are responsible members of their community, serve others and have an unshakeable foundation of faith."

About Fenwick High School

Fenwick High School, founded in 1929, is a Dominican college preparatory secondary institution with a co-educational enrollment of approximately 1,200 students. Guided by its Dominican Catholic values, its mission is to inspire excellence and educate each student to lead, achieve and serve. Today, Fenwick has two Golden Apple teachers on its faculty and an alumni list that includes a Skylab astronaut, Rhodes Scholars, Pulitzer Prize winners, a Heisman Trophy recipient and other leaders making a positive impact locally and internationally.

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