



# FENWICK HIGH SCHOOL



## **Fenwick Hall of Fame Robert J. Callahan '67**

**Robert J. Callahan '67** has lived a life committed to service, and consuming and sharing knowledge.

He spent 32 years in the U.S. State Department beginning as a press attaché and rising to ambassador. His career took him all over the world where he called eight foreign countries home including Costa Rica, Honduras, Great Britain, Bolivia, Greece, Italy, Iraq and Nicaragua, where he served as U.S. ambassador. This globetrotting as a diplomat allowed him to become fluent in Spanish, Greek and Italian. His understanding of global issues made him the perfect man to teach at the National Defense University for two years and at George Washington University for three years, both positions on assignment for the State Department.

Since retiring in 2011, Mr. Callahan has published over 50 articles for newspapers and periodicals such as the *Chicago Tribune*, *Miami Herald* and *American Journalism Review*, to name a few. He continues to write pieces dealing with diplomacy and gives lectures on international matters at schools, to clubs and organizations, and even on cruise ships.

His interest in world affairs has served Mr. Callahan and the international community well, and it all began at Fenwick High School.

As a student, Mr. Callahan was greatly impacted by Frs. Andrew Miehls, O.P. and John Schwind, O.P. who led him to study history in college. John Thallemer's economics class opened his mind to the important complexities of economics. His senior year theology course with Fr.

James Regan, O.P. set forth examples of Christian living and provided a guide to a life properly lived.

And, like so many other Fenwick alumni, Mr. Callahan owes a great deal his knowledge to the mathematics lessons taught by Roger Finnell '59.

After graduating from Fenwick, Mr. Callahan attended John Carroll University in Ohio before transferring to Loyola University Rome Center and Loyola Chicago where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history. He then earned his Master of Arts in History from DePaul University. While completing his MA, Mr. Callahan worked as the editor of *Loyola University Press* for four years before turning his journalism experience into a career with the State Department in 1979.

During his time with the State Department, he received multiple awards including the Superior Honor Award (six times) and the Meritorious Honor Award (five times) before receiving the Career Achievement Award in 2011. He has been a member of the American Foreign Service Association for over four decades and a member of the Diplomatic and Consular Officers since 2007.

In addition to penning articles and giving lectures, retirement has afforded Mr. Callahan the time to volunteer with organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Barnstable Land Trust, Osterville Men's Club and the Cape Cod Community College Foundation. Mr. Callahan played baseball all four years at Fenwick and his love of the game has remained steadfast. He has been a board member of the Cape Cod Senior Softball League since 2012 and plays in its 30-game season each year as well as plays on the over-70 travel team.

Mr. Callahan and his wife, Deborah, have called Centerville, Massachusetts their home since 2011. They spend a lot of time traveling between his speaking engagements and softball games. They have two adult children, Andrew and Emmett. Andrew works in finance and lives in New York City, and Emmett and his wife both teach at international schools. Mr. and Mrs. Callahan make a point to visit both of their children as often as possible.

Mr. Callahan not only joins the renowned Friars and friends of Fenwick in the Hall of Fame, he is also part of a Fenwick dynasty, which includes his maternal uncle **Thomas C. Donlan, O.P. '35** (Fenwick Hall of Fame 1986), brother **James M. Callahan '82**, nephews **John Schultz '86** and **Daniel Schultz '87**, and brother-in-law **James Lamb '77**.