### **Gardner-Webb University**

### Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University

Gardner-Webb NewsCenter Archive

**Gardner-Webb Publications** 

12-1-2020

### GWU Alumnus Promoted to Rear Admiral in U.S. Naval Reserves Chaplain Community

Office of University Communications

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/gardner-webbnewscenter-archive

**ALUMNI** 

# GWU Alumnus Promoted to Rear Admiral in U.S. Naval Reserves Chaplain Community BY OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS ON DECEMBER 1, 2020



## Chaplains for Reserve Matters, has held at least nine other titles. The 1988 alumnus of Gardner-Webb University was an Old Testament professor and college administrator for 19 years, and is a humanitarian assistance advisor, archaeologist, certified master diver, runner, speaker, author and volunteer. How does he find time to do everything? "You just take advantage of opportunities," responded Eddinger, who lives in Winston-Salem, N.C. "Everybody says, 'Someday I want to do that,' but someday is not on the calendar. When I was stationed at Guantanamo Bay, some of the best diving is

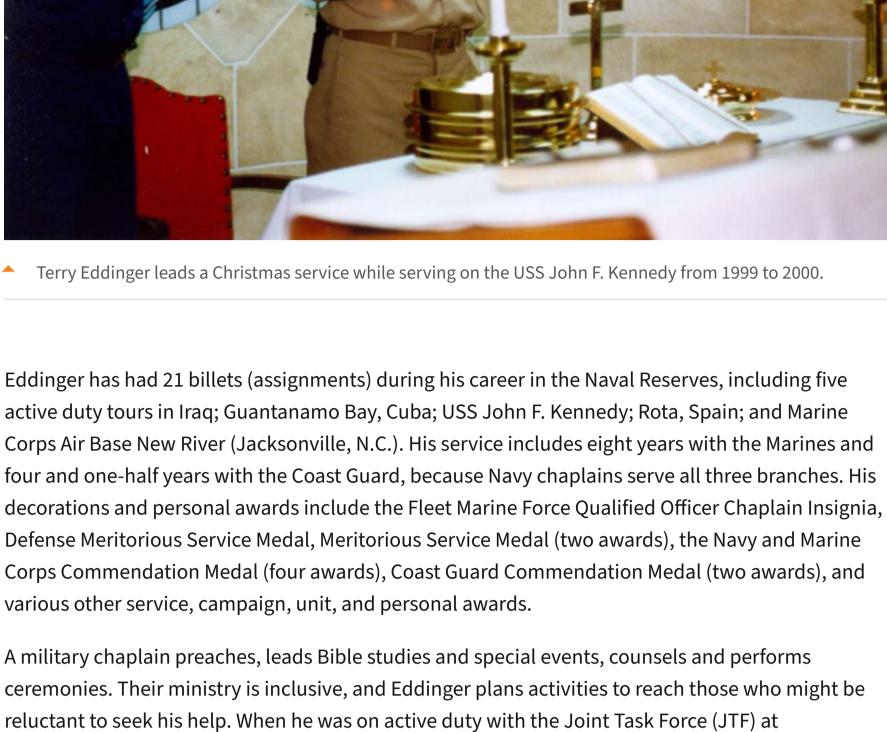
In his 25 years of service to the U.S. Naval Reserves, Rear Adm. Terry Eddinger, Deputy Chief of

While Holding at Least Nine

Other Titles

right off the coast, so I did it while I was there." Eddinger became Rear Admiral on Oct. 1, 2020. He is the first Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) chaplain to achieve this rank in CBF's nearly 30-year history. "I have a sense of pride in that I managed to reach the highest position a person can attain in the U.S. Navy chaplain community," he reflected. "With that said, I also feel the weight of responsibility that goes with the promotion. Many people are counting on me to make good and correct decisions. I want to do the best job I can for

God and for the Navy."



Guantanamo Bay, he coordinated and supervised 13 community service projects with 233

volunteers giving over 850 hours of service. One of the projects was to clean up the beach after

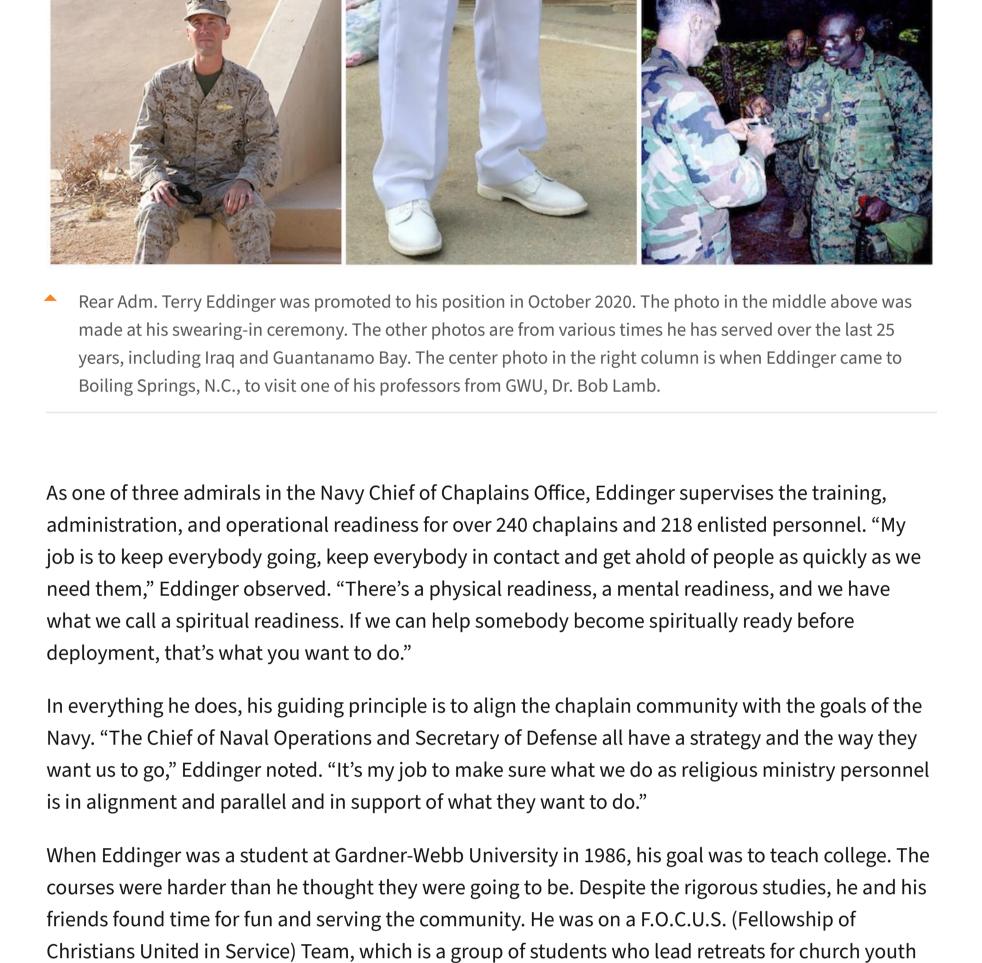
of whom would never come to my office. From those events, one or two would come to see me

come by and talk to you."

Hurricane Sandy came through. "I did that for a number of reasons," he said. "The beach needed

cleaning up for the people coming later. It also gave me time to spend with about 50 people—many

afterward and say, 'I was on the beach with you and I had this issue come up and I thought I would



groups, locally and regionally. His roommate was Tracy Jessup, GWU Vice President for Christian Life

played homerun derby on the steps of Lutz-Yelton," he related. "If you hit the back of the chemistry

building it was single; the roof, it was a double; and if you hit it over, a home run. We used tennis

After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, he went to Midwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary (Kansas City, Missouri) for his Master of Divinity. There, for the first time, he began to

consider chaplaincy in the Navy. "Gulf War fighting started in 1991," Eddinger explained. "My suite

mate was the oldest guy in seminary—he was 60—and he had a son, who was a fighter pilot, who

balls. We never broke a window, but one time we hit the ball into an open window."

flew off of the USS Ranger. We were concerned about his safety."

and Service and Senior Minister to the University. They lived in Lutz-Yelton Residence Hall. "We

Terry Eddinger, left, during his training for service

The first time he applied for chaplaincy in 1991 he wasn't accepted because of a Navy drawdown.

he finished his Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Old Testament at Southern Baptist Theological

Eddinger applied again in 1995 and was commissioned as a lieutenant junior grade. The same year,

Seminary (Louisville, Ky.) and began teaching. "I thought the military chaplaincy would be a good

offset to the teaching side," Eddinger observed. "The teaching side being purely academic, but I

Eddinger taught at Carolina Graduate School of Divinity (Greensboro, N.C.) and served in various

administrative roles from 1996 until the school closed in 2016. The small seminary had 18 faculty

pronouncing Bible names. He has contributed numerous articles to journals and reference books.

He is the author of "Malachi: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text" and co-author of a book on

He credits his GWU professors for teaching him the skills he needed for scholarly pursuits. "The professors helped me to think critically and helped to develop my research and writing skills," Eddinger noted. "The faculty just made you want to follow them and want to teach—my advisor, Dr. Bob Lamb, (Dean Emeritus School of Divinity), Dr. Alice Cullinan (professor emerita of religion), Dr. Vann Murrell (professor emeritus of religion), and Dr. Jack Partain (professor emeritus of religion). Dr. Partain's son donated his father's library to me and the Carolina Graduate School of Divinity."

with the Marines.

needed the practice side, too. I thought it would make a good balance."

members and about 75 students.

Terry Eddinger poses with his special guests for his promotion ceremony to Rear Admiral. Throughout his 25 years in the Navy, Eddinger has met many incredible people, including former President Bill Clinton. From left are, Capt. John Caraballo, USCG, retired, who served with Eddinger at Guantanamo Bay. He was the commanding officer of the Port Security Unit. He is a friend and is the epitome of integrity. Master Chief James Parlier, US Navy, retired. He was the ship's Master Chief on board when the USS Cole was attacked in Yemen. He helped save lives and the ship. Next is Eddinger. Then, Caroline Ogonowski. Her father was the pilot of flight 11, John Ogonowski, who was hijacked and hit the north tower of the World Trade Center. Ogonowski and Eddinger work for the US Agency for International Development. Last is Bernie Sheffield, a World War II survivor. He was shot five times by a German machine gun and left for dead on April 15, 1945. He is a member of First Baptist Church, High Point, N.C. where Eddinger attends. PREVIOUS NEWS ARTICLE **NEXT NEWS ARTICLE** GWU Music Professor Contributes to Christmas CD by Gardner-Webb Student Development Suite Named for

# Noel T. Manning, II Associate VP for Communications and

We welcome your suggestions and

# **Jackie Bridges**

**GOT A STORY?** 

feedback, contact:

ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu

## Assistant Director of University Communications, (704) 406-2542

jbridges9@gardner-webb.edu

February 28, 2022 COVID cases continue to

February 21, 2022

February 2, 2022

February Updates and

Weather Update: 2 Hour Delay January 17, 2022 January 2022: The Unfolding Work of Destiny January 17, 2022 **NEWS CATEGORIES** Select Category **NEWS ARCHIVES** Select Month

# Marketing, (704) 406-4631

**RECENT NEWS** 

March 2022: ...In Like a Lion

decline!

Changes

# Related News

Donors

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS | NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Southern Songwriters Association

Each Member of Gardner-Webb's **NEWS ARTICLE** Delegation to National Alpha Chi

**NEWS ARTICLE** 

Students Bring Home Top Prizes in Scholarships and Collaborative Research Competition BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—At the Alpha Chi National Convention and centennial celebration, delegates from Gardner-Webb University made their own history. [...] OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS | APRIL 1, 2022

GWU's Noel Center for Disability

Resources Promotes World Autism

Convention is a Winner

Gardner-Webb Devoted Dawgs Loyalty

Society Honors University's Dedicated

Double Dawg Day Supporters Recognized with Stewardship Items for Three or More

On April 1, Wristbands Supporting Students Living with Autism Spectrum Disorder will be Distributed on Campus BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—World Autism Awareness Day is on April 2, and the observance on [...]

Awareness Day and Acceptance Month

Request >

MAIN

About

Academics

Consecutive Years of Giving BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The Gardner-Webb Advancement team recently launched the Devoted Dawgs Loyalty Society to [...] OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS | APRIL 4, 2022

Longtime and Beloved Administrator

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS | DECEMBER 1, 2020

Gw

**Apply** 

I Am ...

See All News >

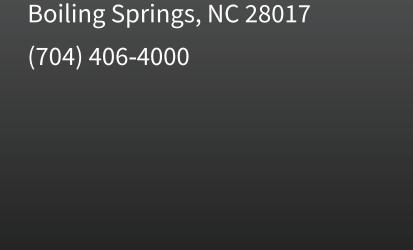
Devoted Dawgs Loyalty Society

Give

**NEWS ARTICLE** 

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS | APRIL 1, 2022

>



110 South Main Street

P.O. Box 997

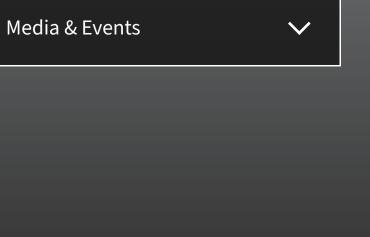
Admissions and Aid Resources Student Life **University Police** 

Title IX Compliance Directions Directory **Job Openings Contact Us** 

UTILITY

Athletics

Accessibility



© 2022