

Hall of Fame Honoree

Darius C. Karalis **Hinsdale South High School** **Class of 1970**

Inducted: November 16, 2021



Mr. Karalis has been highly successful in managing programs, innovative technology and systems to prime contractors, system integrators, and American and foreign government military agencies. He specializes in bringing new products to the market, both domestically and overseas. He holds broad knowledge of providing technology to platforms in the International marketplace, avionics, electronics, radars, high density semiconductor packaging solutions, computer memory modules, telecommunications, digital signal processing (DSP) markets, base station and satellite receiver systems electronics, command and control information systems, weapons and simulation training systems. He has extensive experience with U.S. and foreign military and government procurement practices, is a skilled administrator, and is an acknowledged motivator and innovative problem solver.

Cosmo Karalis was born in Chicago, Illinois, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, and received his Naval Flight Officer Wings in Pensacola, Florida. As a Naval Flight Officer, Cosmo Karalis flew missions during multiple deployments to the Mediterranean, North Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans. These deployments included the collection of electronics (Elint) and communications (Comint) data. He holds 99 carrier landings on nine various U.S. aircraft carriers. He was the Commanding Officer for his detachments on the USS Kennedy (CV-67) and USS America (CV-66).

Mr. Karalis has more than 20 years' experience in industry with functional experience in strategic alliances, teaming, finance, financial control, manufacturing operations, contracts, acquisitions, mergers, engineering, strategic planning, program management, sales, business development and marketing.

Cosmo Karalis holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and Management from the US Naval Academy. He holds a Master of Science degree in Finance and Management from Troy University, European Division. He also holds a Master of Science in Technology Management degree from Pepperdine University, Long Beach Campus that emphasized bringing new products quickly to market. This course brought him to the leading technology developers of Japan, Korea and Singapore in Asia, and to those in Germany, France and Spain in the European market.

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“Accomplishment most proud of...”

There are three items I have achieved:

- I. I achieved a well-rounded background in many aspects of life. Whether that is Spiritual, physical, or mental. Therefore, my experience can be passed on to the next generation if there is motivation and interest.



- II. Helping my nephew, Algis, complete High School at Hinsdale South High School. He dropped out of High School in Virginia at age 14. He wasted 2 years in an unaccredited home-schooling program. After starting at Hinsdale South, he turned his life around and graduated on the Honor roll with the class of 2019. He now mentors my grandchildren to be future graduates of Hinsdale South and future leaders in whatever endeavor they choose.



- III. Finding the best partner for my life. I was single for 22 years and searched the planet and every foreign country for the best wife/partner. I started writing a book on “How to find an Excellent Woman”. It came to pass that we met at the church in Marquette Park, where my grandmother and grandfather took me to Sunday Mass each week. I am a very blessed man today!



“Message encouraging Hinsdale South Students...”

1. Stop blaming others for your failures and bad feelings.

- We each have 64 specific emotions to choose from. For example, if your mom or dad does not buy you a car, you can choose to be sad or angry or happy or indifferent.
 - *Once you realize that choice is within you....not somebody else's fault you can get on with your life's journey.*

2. Invest in yourself

- Take each class seriously. It is an investment in your future. Learn a new skill, read a book monthly, learn a foreign language.
 - *Life is a continuous journey of learning....don't ever stop!*

3. Decide on what you want to do with your life.

- If you do not have a clue, then take an aptitude test, like I did with my guidance counselor. Try a Kuder aptitude test.
 - *It gives you insight at what you have interest in and a good way to narrow down career options.*

4. Then make the decision and make a game plan for life

- If you had all the dollars in the world, but one condition was that you had to work.....what would you choose to do?
 - You need to seriously think through this question.
 - Then lay out a 20-year plan. What is your title in 20 years from now?
 - Next you tell me what training or schooling you will need to get to that position in life. For year one....you lay out a monthly plan.
 - For years 2-20....you lay out a yearly plan. You can revise anytime.
- It is important that you write this out, and more importantly that you tape it to your bathroom mirror. That way you make daily decisions toward your 20-year goal!

“Influence of Hinsdale South experience to attain excellence...”

Hinsdale South’s strong cadre of teachers and coaches gave me the physical and mental preparation to make it through the US Naval Academy and beyond!

Hinsdale South’s Math and German program allowed me to accelerate at the Academy and to validate courses.

Hinsdale South Coaches like on the track team, senior year, prepared me in the best shape of my life.

The Football and Swimming Coaches increased my strength greatly with weight training.

At the Academy, we had PEP (physical training) every morning at 5:30 am. I ran ahead of my company classmates, and when I finished, I went to the back of the pack and carried guys on my shoulder to help them finish.

All teachers, administrators and coaches had some sort of influence on my future. You can read their words in my yearbook, and the confidence they gave me to go forward and succeed.

Even the Assistant Principal helped tie my bow tie on days of swimming meets because he was the only one that knew how to tie them at the school.

It was a requirement that students wear a tie and jacket or letter sweater on days of their sporting events.

So that also prepared me for wearing a daily uniform at the Academy!



Hinsdale South Administrators



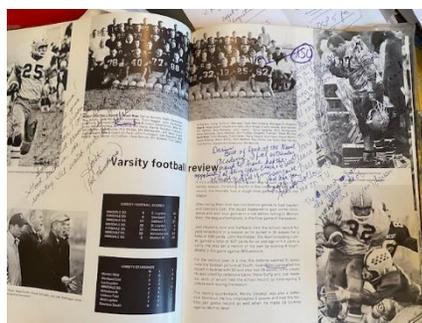
Hinsdale South Foreign Language Dept



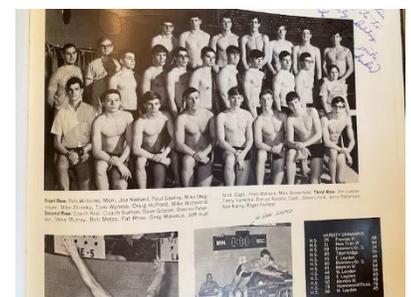
Hinsdale South Coaches



Coach Dave Smith and Math department;
Advanced Placement (AP) Math



H.S. Football Team



H.S. Swim Team

Recognition/Awards

Hinsdale South High School Class of 1970 (First Freshman class to graduate)

- National Honor Society
- Football team (Offensive Tackle; Defensive End, kicker, and punter)
- Swim Team (sprints, relays and 200 IM) Varsity Co-Captain
- Baseball team Freshman year (pitcher, 1st base and Outfield)
- Track team (high and low hurdles) Sophomore year
- Tennis team Junior year
- Track team (Mile relay, high and low hurdles) Senior year
- Letterman's club
- German club
- Honor Roll all 4 years
- High School Nickname: Big D



United States Naval Academy Class of 1974 (Navy Call Sign is Cosmo)

- Because the German class at Hinsdale South was so strong, I validated 2 years of German at USNA and started as a Junior.
- Because the Math program was so strong, I validated 1 year of math at USNA
- 22nd Company Executive Officer - First class year (Senior)
- Varsity Football letterman 3 years
- Started sophomore year on varsity as a Defensive end against Penn State (Franco Harris and Lydell Mitchell were in backfield (both went to Steelers).
- Also played Defensive end or Defensive tackle versus Notre Dame, Michigan, Pitt, Miami, Air Force and West Point
- Graduated and Service Selection was into Naval Air in Pensacola Florida



Pete Pembroke, my best man, at military wedding

VT-10 Basic Naval Aviation Officers (BNAO) Flight School – graduate Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola; advanced to VT-86.

VT-86 Advanced Jet Flight School - graduate; Gold Naval Flight Officer Wings Awarded

Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC) Corey Field – Advanced Electrical Engineering (EE) and Intelligence Training- graduate; Service selection to Intelligence Community.

Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two (VQ-2) Rota Spain (3 years)

- Senior Tactical Evaluator (SEVAL) Intelligence Officer both on the EA-3B (Aircraft carrier based) and EP-3 (Land based)
- Only Naval Officer selected to participate in an Agency Exercise in Southern Germany with 39 Army Rangers. Mission was to set up safe passage west for downed NATO Pilots – Received letter of Commendation
- Commanding Officer, VQ-2 Detachment USS Kennedy CV-67, and USS America CV-66, Aircraft Carriers
- Department Head, Administration, 300 Personnel
- Only the 2nd Officer to complete their Master's degree (MSM) while deployed constantly to foreign bases.

