



Rear Admiral Ronald J. Kurth
PRESIDENT, 11 AUGUST 1987–17 JULY 1990
Oil on Canvas
Margaret H. Sargent, 1990

Ronald J. Kurth taught Russian at the Naval Academy, and earned a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration and a Ph.D. in Russian studies at Harvard University. He served as Naval Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow between 1975 and 1977, and as U.S. Defense Attaché in 1985–1987.

He served as Director, Politico-Military Policy and Current Plans Division, in 1981–1983, and Director of Long Range Planning, in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, 1983–84. As the forty-fifth president of the Naval War College, Rear Admiral Kurth testified before Congress concerning Professional Military Education and the application of the Goldwater-Nichols legislation, he conceived the idea that led to the accreditation of the Naval War College to award a Master of Arts degree, and began the effort to construct a new building.

After leaving active duty, Kurth served as President of Murray State University in Kentucky, Dean of Academic Affairs at the Air War College, and President of St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Wisconsin.

Gift of the Naval War College Foundation

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