

The following was presented by a Board Member at the Hall of Distinction Induction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society, April 2014.

Rear Admiral Herald Stout

Herald Stout was born June 15, 1903 in Dover. As a boy, he attended Dover Schools while working part-time at a local print shop. The promising young man was forced to grow up quickly after his father was killed in an industrial accident when he was only 4. By the time he graduated Roosevelt High School as Valedictorian in 1923, Stout was a foreman at the print shop.

After high school, Stout attended the U.S. Naval academy at Annapolis, Maryland graduating in 1926. His first commission was on the USS *Cincinnati*. During his time on the USS *Cincinnati*, Stout attended the Naval Torpedo School in Newport, Rhode Island. It would be the first of many times that Stout pursued additional education. Incredibly intelligent, he constantly worked at improving his knowledge and skills.

Just months before WWII broke out Stout was named the Lieutenant Commander of the USS *Breese*. On December 7, 1941, the USS *Breese* was docked at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked. The ship not only managed to survive, but even downed a Japanese bomber. Later during the war Stout commanded the destroyer the USS *Claxton*. For his service in WWII, Stout was awarded three Navy Crosses.

Stout further distinguished himself during the Korean War as a commander of Mine Squadron Three. The squadron's responsibility was to sweep ocean channels prior to landings or gun strikes for mines. For his effectiveness in this post, Stout was given a Distinguished Service Medal.

Herald Stout retired from active service June 30, 1956 and was immediately given the rank of Rear Admiral. Perhaps his greatest honor though came after his passing in 1987. In 1994 the destroyer, USS *Stout*, was commissioned in his honor.