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Media Advisory

USU Unveils Official Portrait of Everett Alvarez Jr., Longtime Board Member

BETHESDA, Md. — Everett Alvarez Jr. already has his name on the Board of Regents Room at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Now that room, where Alvarez served on the university's board for more than 20 years, will also feature the one-time Navy pilot's official portrait.

"This is a deep honor," said Alvarez, the former board chairman, who was on hand for the unveiling recently. "I'm extremely thankful for this honor. It has been a tremendous 21 year experience that I will treasure forever. I really truly appreciate everything."

Alvarez, who retired from the Navy as a commander in 1980, endured one of the longest periods as a prisoner of war, or POW, in American history. He was the first American POW in North Vietnam, spending more than eight years in captivity in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton."

Following his retirement from the Navy, Alvarez served as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps and the Veteran's Administration, before being named to the USU Board of Regents.

Alvarez joined the USU Board of Regents in 1988, serving as chair from 1992 – 96. He was then reappointed as a regent and reappointed as chair in 2001, a post he held until 2008.

The Alvarez's ties to USU extend throughout the family. Besides Mr. Alvarez's years of service, his wife Tammy created a not-for-profit organization called The Friends of USU. Under Mrs. Alvarez's tireless leadership, "Friends" was instrumental in the recently released PBS documentary "Fighting for Life." The film chronicles the lives of students, faculty, staff and alumni of USU, along with the unique style of education and training USU employs to train the future leaders of military medicine. Additionally, the Alvarez's son, Bryan, is a 2005 graduate of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at USU.

Located on the grounds of Bethesda's National Naval Medical Center and across from the National Institutes of Health, USU is the nation's federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. The university educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the U.S. Public Health Service. Students are active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service, who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies. Of the university's nearly 4,400 physician alumni and more than 400 advance practice nurses, the vast majority serve on active duty and are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise. The University also has graduated more than 600 public health professionals.

For additional information or a photo from the unveiling contact Ken Frager in the USU Office of External Affairs at (301) 295-3981 or (240) 281-2738.