Bing West will deliver the 2014 LCDR Erik S. Kristensen Lecture in the Great Hall of McDowell Hall on the campus of St. John’s College in Annapolis, MD on Wednesday, April 9th 2014 at 7:30pm. His lecture Lessons from a Decade of Frustrating War is free and open to the public. The Honorable Francis J. “Bing” West is a war correspondent and military historian. He served as Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Reagan administration. Other posts he has held include: Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Vice President of the Hudson Institute and Dean of Research at the Naval War College. A graduate of Georgetown and Princeton Universities, he served in the infantry in Vietnam, where he was a member of the Marine Force Reconnaissance team that initiated Operation Stingray – attacks behind North Vietnamese lines. As President Reagan’s Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs, he chaired the Security Commissions with El Salvador, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, South Korea and Japan. Among other awards, he is the recipient of the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal and Tunisia’s Médaille de Liberté, awarded for actions after a raid from a neighboring country.

West has served as an adviser to the commander of the US Central Command and embedded with our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan on more than thirty occasions over the past dozen years. He is the author of numerous bestselling military books. These include The Village, a narrative of advising and surviving under fire that has been on the Marine Commandant’s Reading List for 40 years; The Strongest Tribe, a history of the Iraq War; The Wrong War, a history of the Afghanistan War. His latest book, Into the Fire, describes the actions of a Marine sergeant who was awarded the Medal of Honor. His articles appear in The Wall St. Journal, The New York Times, The Atlantic, The National Review, Foreign Affairs Magazine and The Washington Post. He appears on NPR, CBS and Fox News.

A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Infantry Order of St. Crispin, West has served on the boards of the Center for Naval Analyses and the Broshio National Security Center in Rome and is a member of Military History Working Group at the Hoover Institution. He is the recipient of the Colby Military History Award, the Marine Corps Foundation Award for Leadership, the General Goodpaster Prize for Military Scholarship, the Father Clyde E. Goodpaster Prize for Military Scholarship, the Father Clyde E. Leonard Award, the Free Press Award, the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Award and the VFW National Media Medal.

He and his wife, Betsy, reside in Newport, RI. His web site is www.westwrite.com

THE LCDR ERIK S. KRISTENSEN MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

The LCDR Erik S. Kristensen Lecture Series is held once a year at St. John’s College, Annapolis MD to honor the memory of this alumnus of both schools. The lectures would deal with one or more of the following subjects:

- Civil-military relations.
- Great works of military or naval history or literary works depicting military or naval figures and events
- The vital importance of naval and military power for our nation in peacetime and in war.
- The role of the liberal arts in professional military education.

Scott Buchanan, one of the founders of the Great Books Program at St. John’s College, Annapolis, wrote extensively about the role of the liberal arts in informing the professions of Divinity, Law and Medicine. These timeless and essential professions were for him, vital endeavors to which mankind applies the civilizing disciplines of the traditional liberal arts. It can be argued that Naval and Military Science deal with equally undying aspects of human nature and striving. Yet, in the years since Vietnam, the understanding of these subjects has declined in the academic world. It is said that the loneliest professor on a campus is the military historian. Intelligent, sophisticated students and teachers have little familiarity with what the “military option” entails, or of what importance military and naval power is to a nation’s well being. The recent return of ROTC programs to campuses that had ended them during and after Vietnam marks an attempt by academic administrations to readdress these issues. This lecture series will stimulate in a small way, public and academic discourse on civil-military issues. This is especially important now that less than one percent of American citizens serve in the Armed Services and veterans serving in Congress are at a historic low.

Lieutenant Commander Erik S. Kristensen, United States Navy, was born at Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia on 15 March 1972. He attended Gonzaga College High School and Phillips Academy. After graduating with honors from the United States Naval Academy in 1995, he served as a Surface Warfare Officer. He began teaching English at the United States Naval Academy in 1999 and also attended the Graduate Institute at St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland, before accepting a transfer to Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training in Coronado, California, where he graduated with BUD/S class 233. From there he reported for duty at SEAL Team EIGHT. He deployed as a Task Unit Commander at SEAL Team TEN to Afghanistan to support the Naval Special Warfare community’s prosecution of the Global War on Terrorism. On June 28, 2005, LCDR Kristensen led a daring mission to rescue a four-man SEAL reconnaissance squad engaged in a fierce firefight with overwhelming Taliban forces in rugged 10,000 foot mountains. LCDR Kristensen, seven other SEALs, and Officer Luttrell survived. The 2007 book and 2013 film Lone Survivor describes the

The lecture series was founded in 2013 by Michael A. Zampella, a Navy Reserve Lieutenant and 1992 graduate of St. John’s College, Annapolis, MD. All inquiries concerning the lecture should be directed to him at mzampella@mac.com.

AUDI0F OF AUTHOR AND FOX NEWS STRATEGIC ANALYST RALPH PETERS’ 2013 KRISTENSEN LECTURE AVAILABLE ON ST. JOHN’S WEBSITE

A recording of last year’s lecture can be listened to at:
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2013 CONTRIBUTORS & SUPPORTERS
The following individuals’ generous contributions made the 2013
lecture possible:
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efforts.

LONE SURVIVOR FILM WITH ERIC BANA AS LCDR KRISTENSEN TO BE
RELEASED DECEMBER 2013
Lone Survivor is a 2013 action drama war film written and directed by Peter Berg. It is
based Marcus Luttrell's nonfiction book of the same name by Marcus Luttrell, an account of
SEAL Team 10's failed mission Operation Red Wings. The film stars Mark Wahlberg as
Luttrell, with a supporting cast that includes Taylor Kitsch, Eric Bana as LCDR Erik S.
Kristensen, Emile Hirsch, Ben Foster, and Alexander Ludwig.
Lone Survivor is set to have a limited release on December 27, 2013, and have a wide release
on January 10, 2014

Only the dead have seen the end of war
GEORGE SANTAYANA
To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace
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