



President's **LECTURE SERIES**

SPRING 2023

Management Lessons Learned Through Life Experiences

6:30 p.m. | March 27

Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education auditorium

Rear Admiral William Stubblefield, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (retired)



Management in a geopolitical world requires skills that are both directed and flexible. Rear Admiral William Stubblefield was able to navigate this dynamic and unforgiving world for over 35 years in multiple environments and situations. His successful management in addressing varied goals required skills incorporating human relations, technological awareness, and competence outside a typical office. Rear Admiral Stubblefield acquired his diverse management skills in multiple ways, from formal training to life experiences. He will share several noteworthy real-life instances which were instrumental in forming his management philosophy. His travels from the Arctic to Antarctica, Mongolia to the Amazon, and commanding ships on the high seas, afforded Admiral Stubblefield ample opportunity to learn and incorporate management techniques. This lessons-learned lecture will be presented through a series of vignettes with an emphasis on humor and entertainment.

Rear Admiral William Stubblefield was born and raised in Medina, Tennessee. He attended Memphis State University and graduated in 1962 with a major in secondary education and a minor in chemistry. After graduation, Stubblefield was commissioned in the United States Navy and attended Naval Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island. Following his time in the Navy, Stubblefield earned a master's in geology at the University of Iowa. He then started his career with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Corps, where he served as Deputy Director of the Marine Geology and Geophysics Division at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) in Miami. He was awarded the NOAA Corps Achievement medal for his work there. Stubblefield returned to school, earning his Ph.D. in geological oceanography from Texas A&M University. He then returned to AOML, where he served as co-scientist on a series of dives and used the Deep Diving Research Vessel Alvin. Then, Admiral Stubblefield served as Commanding Officer of the NOAA Ship Surveyor, where he traveled to the Antarctic peninsula and retraced Ernest Shackleton's final expedition. Stubblefield returned to Washington, D.C., and led NOAA's Fleet Replacement and Modernization study before being selected as the Executive Director of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. Later, he became director of the Office of NOAA Corps Operations until he retired in 1999. Since retiring from NOAA, Admiral Stubblefield and his wife Dr. Bonnie McGregor Stubblefield moved to West Virginia where he served on the Berkeley County Public Service Water District and then as the president of the Berkeley County Council. In 2019, the Stubblefields sponsored the Bonnie and Bill Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications at Shepherd University and serves on its board.

This event is free and open to the public.