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Salve Regina to Honor President of Naval War College

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at Salve Regina College
Newport, R. I. . 847-6650

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1970

Salve Regina College, a Catholic women's college in Newport, R. I. , will honor the president of the U. S. Naval War College at a special convocation Saturday (Sept. 12) at 11 a. m.

Vice Admiral Richard G. Colbert, USN, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Education at the outdoor ceremony on Salve Regina's Ochre Court Terrace, high above the Atlantic Ocean. (In the event of poor weather, the ceremony will take place in the O'Hare Academic Center on the Ochre Point Avenue campus.)

Admiral Colbert, who has headed the prestigious senior educational institution of the Navy since August, 1968, will be the first military leader to be so honored by the liberal arts college. In his address to the honors convocation, he will incorporate the "Building Peace" theme of public ceremonies at Salve Regina this year.

In announcing the College's decision to honor Admiral Colbert, Salve Regina president, Sister Mary Christopher, R. S. M. , said "This convocation is our response to Admiral Colbert's personal, scholarly contributions to the Naval War College, and to his creative leadership in the continued development of the Naval Command Course for senior Free World Naval Officers, a powerful force for greater international understanding and cooperation.

"Through his intellectual and educational contacts with the Free World's military leaders, Admiral Colbert has envisioned the foundation of a cooperative society in which men can mutually support one another, rather than contribute to each other's destruction," Sister Mary Christopher said. "Salve Regina College is happy to recognize, in honoring Admiral Colbert, the degree to which the Naval War College has already enhanced our society, added to our own cultural understanding, and made our community known throughout the world as a center for the study of the art of war in the interests of peace."

(more)

ADD ONE

A native of Brownsville, Penna., and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Admiral Colbert commanded two destroyers, an auxiliary stores ship, a cruiser, and a cruiser-destroyer flotilla, and served in several other key positions before becoming president of the Naval War College. He was personnel planning officer in the establishment of the post-World War II Naval Reserve program; a special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations in the 1950 negotiations for U.S. Base Rights in Spain; and, at different times, a member of the Policy Planning Council in the Department of State and a senior member of the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic.

Just prior to completion of his tour as a student at the Naval War College in 1956, he was assigned to organize and act as director of a new course for senior Free World Naval officers. The Naval Command Course, established at the War College in August of that year, now has alumni representing more than 40 allied and friendly countries.

The honors convocation, with Sister Mary Christopher presiding, will follow an academic procession of the Salve Regina corporation, trustees, administrators, and faculty, together with Federal, State, and local government officials, lay educators, nuns, and clergymen.

As marshal, State Representative (D-Newport) Robert J. McKenna, a member of Salve Regina's political science department, will lead the line of march from the O'Hare Academic Center, down Ochre Point Ave., through the main gates of Ochre Court, and around the administration building to the terrace. The U.S. Naval Station Band will set the pace for the procession.

In addition to Sister Mary Christopher and Admiral Colbert, participants in the convocation will include Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell, Newport; Dr. Lester E. Carr, Jamestown, Salve Regina's vice president for academic affairs; and Navy chaplains Capt. William F. Doyle, USN, and Cdr. Carl A. Auel, USN, Portsmouth.