

The Class of 2014 Selects...

John W. Connor, Ph.D (Class of 1949)



A 1949 graduate of Butler High school Mr. Connor attended St. Paul's parochial elementary school. Upon high school graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served under General Douglas MacArthur at his headquarters in occupied Tokyo, Japan. With the outbreak of the Korean War he volunteered for a special unit, the G.H.Q. Raider Co. (special forces Ranger battalion) that carried out long range reconnaissance missions seeing combat from the landing diversion at Kunsan, S. Korea to the first contact with the Chinese at the Yalu River in N. Korea. After the war he returned to the US and took advantage of the GI Bill. He attended college in California, exploring majors in English, sociology and history before choosing anthropology. Completing his B.A. in less than four years he began teaching high school English, history and social science, while also pursuing a master's degree in Anthropology. With his master's degree he began to teach at American River College, Sacramento City College and Sacramento State College while also working as a full time doctoral student at the University of California Davis. He received this degree in 4 1/2 years and he specialized in psychological anthropology, Japanese studies, and American studies. Professor Connor has been a teacher at California State University, Sacramento for over 30 years, in that time he has produced over 70 publications 52 papers and public addresses, 4 NEH Summer Fellowships, 4 directorships of NEH Fellowship programs at the California State University, Sacramento, 3 Fulbright scholarships for study in Japan, China and Korean and he has received 3 major awards from CSUS, the Distinguished Teaching Award, the Outstanding Scholarly Achievement Award and the John C. Livingston Award for Outstanding Intellectual Leadership.