

HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2005/2006

JOURNAL

DONNA M. LAKE

Class of 1974

Donna Lake credits her years at Copiague High School for helping her learn many life-long lessons. She also learned the fundamentals of leadership through her participation in team sports, being class officer and a member of the Leaders Club. Donna attributes much of her success to her teachers who encouraged her to work hard, persevere and pursue her goals. Her parents and friends also helped her realize the value of laughter during difficult times. After graduating High School in 1974, Donna attended nursing school. She then worked as an ICU/ER Nurse for four years while earning her Bachelor of Science from SUNY at Stony Brook. Her love for learning, travel and adventure took her to the US Air Force, where she built a remarkable career. During this period, she earned a Masters in Education from the University of Oklahoma and is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. Program.

While a member of the Air Force, Donna Lake obtained the rank of Colonel. In her leadership role, Colonel Lake has led units in nine contingencies involving war and four Presidential and Humanitarian missions. These missions included building refugee camps, providing evacuation/medical care in Haiti, Cuba, Albania, Kosovo, Africa, 9/11 and at the Pentagon. She also prepared troops for helping in the New Orleans Flood. In addition, Colonel Lake has been Chief of Operations for hospital/clinics, and served in health policy positions for the Air Force Surgeon General. Donna Lake has many awards including a Bronze Star and the 1996 USAF Nurse of the Year Award.

Donna and her husband, Bob, have two children, Danielle and Ryan.

**“THE IMPORTANT THING IS THIS: TO BE ABLE, AT ANY MOMENT,
TO SACRIFICE WHAT WE ARE FOR WHAT WE COULD BECOME”**