

## HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2009/2010  
Journal

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### JOSEPH JOYNER

Class of 1967

Joe credits his foster parents, his church, and his educational experiences in the Copiague Public Schools with establishing who he is. He vividly recalls many memories from his classroom days: making mayonnaise in kindergarten, earning a penmanship award in the fourth grade, and tenth-grade geometry with Mr. Vargas, to name a few. He notes that he was an average student until junior high school where he was motivated by the Assistant Principal, Mrs. Muriel Gunthorpe. He went on to become the Valedictorian of his class. But high school was more than just classes – it was a period of growth outside of the classroom as well: a sixth-grade field trip to Gettysburg and Colonial Williamsburg, playing the trumpet and French horn, track, cross-country, debate team, senior class musical, a senior trip to a “dude” ranch, and a fun, but unsuccessful campaign for senior class president.

After graduation, Joe attended C. W. Post College where he majored in mathematics, ran track and cross-country, and learned to speak Russian. He never planned to become a teacher, but after he was hired to teach basic English and math skills for a federally funded program in eastern Suffolk, teaching found him. Joe joined the faculty at Bronx Community College where he co-directed the math tutoring lab. At this time he attended graduate school earning his Master’s degree in mathematics education. In 1976 Joe joined the U. S. Navy as a commissioned officer and set out to see the world. He earned a second Bachelor’s degree in computer science and served as the Executive Officer of a naval combatant ship home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After serving 18 years, he retired from the Navy as Lieutenant Commander. Joe returned to teaching math in Norfolk and is now an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Tidewater Community College.

Joe has three grown sons. He enjoys computers and educational technology, playing backgammon, reading and an occasional run.

**"Math is fun!"**