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Naval Postgraduate School Board of Advisors:
Walter Anderson

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Naval Postgraduate School Board of Advisors



Mr. Walter Anderson
Chairman and CEO

Walter Anderson has been chairman and CEO of Parade Publications since March 2000. Until March 2000, he was editor of PARADE magazine for more than 20 years.

During his tenure as editor, Anderson, 60, helped increase the magazine's circulation from 21.6 million in 129 Sunday newspapers in June of 1980 to more than 37 million in 343 papers at the turn of the millennium. In the process, he added such internationally known writers as David Halberstam, Norman Mailer, Dotson Rader, Dick Schaap, Gail Sheehy and Herman Wouk. He introduced regular reports by Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld on health, Sheila Lukins on food, Dr. Carl Sagan and the astronomer David Levy on science and Elizabeth Gaynor on lifestyles. He created "Ask Marilyn," one of the most popular columns in the country, by Marilyn vos Savant, "In Step With," by James Brady, and "Fresh Voices," by Lynn Minton. He also introduced special issues on automobiles, food, electronics and finances.

Anderson joined the company as a senior editor of PARADE in June 1977. He was named managing editor in March 1978. Prior to joining PARADE, Anderson held several management positions with Gannett Newspapers in Westchester County, New York.

A champion of literacy, Anderson made his theatrical debut on October 19, 1992, at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., with an original program of storytelling to benefit the Literacy Volunteers of America and the National Center for Family Literacy.

Anderson received the Literacy Volunteers of America's Stars in Literacy Award with Mrs. Barbara Bush and Wally Amos in 1990. He is a member of the board of advisors of the National Center for Family Literacy. He serves on the board of Very Special Arts, and he was host of the "Read Together" series for children on public television. His book, "Read With Me," was published by Houghton Mifflin on September 8, 1990, International Literacy Day.

In October 1995, Anderson was nominated by President Clinton to serve as a member of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. His nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in the same year and he served four years.

Anderson's latest book, "Meant To Be: The True Story of a Son Who Discovers He Is His Mother's Deepest Secret," was published September 2 by HarperCollins. Publishers Weekly said the memoir is "bound to become a coming of age classic." The book has been described as a poignant memoir of growing up poor, battered, and tormented by a man who, Anderson would learn, was not his real father. Instead, he found, he was born of a love affair between his mother and a co-worker, Albert Dorfman, during World War II. For 34 years, Anderson kept this secret. When he was allowed to reveal it, his life changed in profound ways, not the least of which is that he has since established a relationship with a brother, Herbert Dorfman, who has also had a long career in communications. Elie Wiesel said of the book, "Walter Anderson's eloquent and beautiful memoir is an offering: I have rarely read in recent years a narrative written with such intensity, emotion, and elegance. I warmly recommend it to all readers, whatever their faith." Anderson is also the author of "The Confidence Course," published in February 1997 by HarperCollins. It is based on a course he taught at The New School University.

Anderson's first book, "Courage Is A Three-Letter Word," was published in June 1986 by Random House and in paperback in July 1987 by Fawcett Crest. Marlo Thomas said, "Walter Anderson is a gutsy, tough warrior, as well as a sensitive, open human being who writes from the heart. By revealing to us his extraordinary personal journey he helps us all to understand our own journeys." Jack Anderson called the book "a moving and inspiring tribute to the indomitability of the human spirit, most strongly embodied in Anderson himself."

Anderson's second book, "The Greatest Risk of All," was published by Houghton Mifflin in September 1988. THE KIRKUS REVIEWS described Anderson as "the Dale Carnegie of our time." Margaret Truman called the book "richly inspiring," and the late Alex Haley said it "vividly illustrates that it is those people who dare who will succeed."

A high school dropout, Anderson is a national spokesman for GED, the program that enables high school dropouts to gain equivalency diplomas. He is also a director of the National Dropout Prevention Fund. A Vietnam veteran, Anderson served in the U.S.

Marine Corps from 1961 to 1966, rising to the rank of sergeant. Today, he is a member of the board of advisors of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

In May 1999, Anderson launched "It's About Time," a series of filmed discussions with prominent Americans. The project will be permanently available at the Library of Congress. His guests have included Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, Marian Wright-Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley, the actor Christopher Reeve, and Disney CEO Michael Eisner.

Anderson has received many honors throughout his career, but perhaps his greatest recognition was the 1994 Horatio Alger Award for which he was nominated by the late Norman Vincent Peale. In January 1992, he was named to the 14th annual list of 10 Best Mannered Americans by Marjabelle Stewart, the etiquette expert. He placed second on the list, right after President and Mrs. George Bush.

In March 1988, Anderson was honored for his professional leadership and humanitarian service with the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund. The award was presented by Nobel Peace Prize-winner Elie Wiesel. In 1989, Anderson received the Napoleon Hill Foundation Gold Medal for literacy achievement. He is also a former member of the board of directors of the Public Broadcasting Service.

Anderson's posts with Gannett in Westchester included serving as general manager and editor of THE REPORTER DISPATCH in White Plains; general manager and editor of THE STANDARD-STAR in New Rochelle; and managing editor of THE WESTCHESTER ROCKLAND NEWSPAPERS in White Plains.

Previously he was an investigative reporter whose articles appeared in publications as diverse as NEW YORK and RING magazines. He also wrote for the Associated Press and received numerous state and national awards for editorial excellence. An accomplished speaker, Anderson has spoken widely on a variety of subjects and appeared on numerous radio and television shows including "Today," "CBS Nightwatch," CNN News, PBS specials and the MDA Telethon.

Anderson was valedictorian of his class at Mercy College in Westchester, where he majored in psychology. He served as chairman of the board of trustees of Mercy for eight years and is now trustee emeritus. In May 1990, Anderson received an honorary doctor of law degree from the University of the Pacific, where he served as a President's Lecturer. Clemson University in South Carolina, St. Ambrose's University in Iowa and Mercy have all conferred honorary doctorates on him.

He is married to the former Loretta Gritz. They have two children, one grandchild and live in White Plains.