

Joseph P. Canty Biography



Joseph P. Canty, - Class of 1924 - b. d. From the EHS Yearbook, The Maroon: “Joe”, Mathematics Course, “*All great men are dead or dying and I don’t feel so well myself*” Editor-in-chief of the Mirror; Maroon Staff Committee; Spanish Club; Literary Club; Hi-Y Club; Junior Honor Roll.

He was the executive officer on the destroyer Dewey during the attack on Pearl Harbor and an escort for the carrier Lexington in the Battle of Coral Sea. He was the commander of the ship in the battle of Midway and served as Squadron Beachmaster in the landings at Lingayen Gulf and Iwo Jima during WWII.

Before retirement he helped organize the Amphibious Forces Atlantic.

Awarded for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Legion of Merit to Commander Joseph P. Canty, United States Navy, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States commanding a destroyer during the seizure of Attu, Territory of Alaska, during World War II. Commander Canty provided invaluable support for our landing craft and, later, for our ground troops advancing against hostile opposition. His ship later furnished fighter director service, enabling our planes to drive off a strong enemy attack.



He retired as a Rear Admiral in 1955.