

## Walter P. Kitonis III - BIO

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### **Executive Summary**

Visionary leader with over 30 years of experience in defense technology innovation, specializing in submarine and surface ship modernization through advanced weapons control systems, torpedoes, radar, sonar, and operations command systems. Founded and led Progeny Systems Corporation to a \$450M acquisition by General Dynamics and AeroVironment in 2021–2022. Pioneered cutting-edge hardware and software solutions deployed worldwide, saving billions in the defense budget while enhancing Navy operational capabilities. Drove disruptive innovation through the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program and fostered collaboration between small and large businesses to deliver value to the U.S. Navy. Served as general contractor for over 400,000 square feet of commercial construction across 14 states. Passionate about community engagement, sponsoring award-winning robotics teams, composing music, and supporting the arts. Semi-retired, actively engaged in consulting, speaking at small business conferences, and advising on government acquisition strategies.

### **Education**

Master of Science, Computer Engineering, Loyola University, Baltimore, MD

Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, Penn State University, University Park, PA

### **Professional Experience**

Progeny Systems Corporation, Manassas, VA <https://gdmissionsystems.com/sea/progeny-systems>

President and CEO, 1993–2022

- Founded and grew Progeny Systems into a leading defense technology firm, culminating in a acquisition by General Dynamics (Navy Combat and Sensor Systems) and AeroVironment (AI Technologies for Drones) in 2021–2022.
- Led development and integration of weapons control systems, torpedoes, radar, sonar, and operations command systems for all U.S. Navy submarines and surface ships, enhancing operational readiness and mission effectiveness.
- Developed cutting-edge hardware and software solutions deployed worldwide, strengthening global defense capabilities and supporting mission-critical operations for the U.S. Navy and allied forces.
- Pioneered the adoption of commercial hardware and software, saving billions in the defense budget by reducing costs and accelerating schedules for Navy modernization programs.
- Leveraged Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program to drive disruptive technologies, establishing Progeny as a model for innovation in the Department of Defense (DoD) high-technology sector.
- Served as general contractor for over 400,000 square feet of commercial construction, overseeing corporate office spaces across 14 states to support Progeny Systems' operational growth.
- Developed business plans for government acquisition leaders to optimize collaboration between small and large corporations, ensuring best value for warfighters.
- Served as a thought leader, speaking at small business conferences and co-founding the Small Business Technology Coalition to advocate for small business contributions to the defense industrial base.

IBM/Lockheed Martin, Manassas, VA

Senior Engineer, [Years of Employment, e.g., 1986–1995]

- Led engineering initiatives to integrate commercial hardware and software into Navy weapon systems, achieving significant cost and schedule savings for submarine modernization programs.

- Navigated complex government and contractor environments to deliver innovative solutions under tight constraints.

Northrop Grumman, [Location], [Years of Employment, e.g., 1983–1988]

#### Engineer

- Contributed to the development of radar, satellite, and ground weapon systems, building a strong foundation in defense technology engineering.

#### Leadership and Affiliations

- Board Member, Navy Submarine League: Recognized with the Distinguished Service Award for contributions to submarine modernization.
- Co-Founder, Small Business Technology Coalition: Advocated for policies enhancing small business roles in the defense industrial base.
- Congressional Advisor: Educated lawmakers on the value of small businesses in delivering innovative, cost-effective solutions to the DoD.

#### Community Involvement

- Major sponsor to “The Challenge Program” The Challenge Program, Inc.'s mission is to motivate high school students to develop the habits required to succeed in school and in their careers by building business/education partnerships.
- Sponsor and Supporter, Robotics Teams: Provided financial and mentorship support to multiple award-winning robotics teams, fostering STEM education and inspiring the next generation of engineers.
- Music Composition and Arts Advocacy: Actively engaged in music composition and supporting “The Art Factory” of Manassas local arts initiatives, promoting cultural enrichment in the community.

#### Awards and Recognition

- Distinguished Service Award, Navy Submarine League
- Recognized as a leader in disruptive innovation within the defense industry

#### Personal

- Married for 45 years, with three children and six grandchildren.
- Resides on Venice Island, Manassas, VA, since purchasing a home in 2017, joined by two daughters and their families in 2019.
- Passionate about mentoring the next generation of defense technology innovators, promoting cost-effective acquisition strategies, and advancing STEM and arts initiatives.