



LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOSEPH M. COSUMANO JR.

US Army, Retired

NDR Hall of Fame Induction: 6 March 1993

NSU Hall of Fame, the Long Purple Line: 2003

US Army ROTC National Hall of Fame: 2016

Omar N. Bradley “Spirit of Independence” Award: 2020

Lieutenant General Cosumano is a 1968 Distinguished Military Graduate of Northwestern State College. He was a member of Iota Lambda Sigma Industrial Engineering Fraternity and the Black Knights Drill Team. He commanded the Corps of Cadets during his senior year.

General Cosumano commissioned in the Air Defense Artillery Branch and served on active duty from 1968 until 2004 during the Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom eras. He was a Patriot Brigade Commander with units in Saudi Arabia and Turkey during Operation Desert Storm and culminated his career as the Commanding General of the Army Space and Missile Defense Command with units in both theaters of war.

Having served as the Director of the First Quadrennial Defense Review in 1996 and the first Program Manager for National Missile Defense, General Cosumano has had a significant impact on the future of the Army. Also, he was the Army Force Modernizer, defining and resourcing all Army programs, and the Program Manager for Future Combat Systems.

In recognition of his years of service and support to the Demon Battalion and Northwestern, General Cosumano was inducted into NSU’s Long Purple Line in 2003. He is the First Colonel of the Demon Regiment and was inducted in Cadet Command’s inaugural class of the US Army ROTC National Hall of Fame in 2016. In 2020, he received the Omar N. Bradley “Spirit of Independence” Award.

General Cosumano holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Industrial Technology. He is a graduate of the Air Defense Artillery Basic and Advanced Courses, Army Aviation School, Air Command and Staff College, Program Management Course, and Industrial College of the Armed Forces. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the Army Commendation Medal. He has earned the Parachutist Badge, Army Aviator Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge.

General Cosumano and his wife, Chanelle, have five daughters and four grandchildren.