

# Wainwright Building

Bldg. 456



The Wainwright Building was undergoing construction in 1999-2000 with the first tenants – the Human Resources Office, Memphis Field Office – setting up shop in May 2000. The building was named in honor of Commander Richard Wainwright Jr. who was appointed a naval cadet in 1898 and reported for duty as a midshipman to the USS Massachusetts on May 20, 1902.

Wainwright served on several ships between 1902 – 1905 and he was commissioned an ensign on Nov. 1, 1905 with a retroactive date of rank of May 2, 1904. He served in a variety of assignments and was part of the U.S. occupation of Veracruz, Mexico, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

“For distinguished conduct in battle, engagements of Vera Cruz, April 21 and 22, 1914; was eminent and conspicuous in command of his battalion; was in the fighting of both days, and exhibited courage and skill in leading his men through action. In seizing the customhouse he encountered for many hours the heaviest and most pernicious concealed fire of the entire day, but his courage and coolness under trying conditions was marked.”

- G.O. 177, Dec. 4, 1915

Wainwright retired from service on March 3, 1921 as a lieutenant commander. While on the retired list, he was recalled for duty on several occasions. The most prominent was his service as the head of the Navy Department Library from Nov. 20, 1925 until Jan. 31, 1929. He was promoted to Commander on the retired list on Feb. 23, 1942.

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The Wainwright Building houses the Travel Processing Center and MyNavy Career Center.