



Why We Give: A Conversation with RADM Steven W. Maas, USN (Ret.)

“I was the Officer of the Deck aboard the USS Benjamin Franklin (SSBN 640)” Rear Admiral Steve Maas says, “and we were on the surface coming into Port Everglades in Florida.”

It was the mid-70’s, with Cold War tensions everywhere. LTJG Maas and his Commanding Officer stood in the conning tower of the submarine. A clear sky stretched overhead as they looked out over the water and glided closer to the port. Operating out of Rota, Spain, their submarine would deploy and hide for two months, then return to Rota, then get underway to hide again.

“You’d never see any other port,” Steve says. “But coming into Port Everglades, standing there looking out, I thought to myself, “You know, I really like this. This is pretty cool.”” Maas, filled with a sense of awe that the navy was trusting him with this 425-foot boat, considers that a defining moment in a stellar navy career spanning 35 years.

The *Benjamin Franklin* was Steve’s first sea duty assignment. Their mission was to patrol submerged and undetected while carrying a payload of missiles. After that tour, Steve’s second ship was the USS Indianapolis (SSN 697) in new construction at Electric Boat. He and his young family then went from Groton, CT to the then “brand New” Trident Refit Facility in Bangor, WA. After that, he was assigned as the Supply Officer for Submarine Squadron 14 in Holy Loch, Scotland, embarked aboard USS HUNLEY (AS 31). His next ship was USS L.Y. Spear (AS 36).

That’s part of the reason Steve and Barbara supported the Dolphin Scholarship foundation when he was on active duty. They became more involved in DSF when the late Joan Bacon, who was the foundation’s President at the time, asked Barbara to join two other submarine wives to work in Delaware House keeping track of funds and doing general office work for the foundation. And now, since retiring, the couple has been giving even more, demonstrating an extraordinary level of generosity.

Steve retired from the Navy in 2007, and every year since, as part of their estate planning process, he and Barbara have given generous gifts of appreciated stock. “We donate stock because it’s a win for everybody,” Steve explains, “And in the simplest terms, giving to society makes me feel good. I have the funds to be able to give back and I hope I can give more. It makes me feel good to do that.”

This is the commitment that you are part of with each gift you give the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation. Thank you for supporting your fellow Silent Service members and their families.

