

Boston College
Veterans Day 2021

Ray Berube '78, USN

Good morning, it is an honor to have the opportunity to be a part of today's annual Boston College Veterans Remembrance Ceremony and to spend Veterans Day here on Chestnut Hill, in such good company. Thank you all for attending.

I would like to acknowledge our distinguished guests and those individuals who made this event happen so smoothly: Boston College Executive Vice President John Lochhead, Lead Sponsor Spenser Associate Vice President of Boston College Alumni Relations Lieutenant Colonel David Mun, Lead Officer, Liberty Battalion, Major Andy Stebbins, Boston College ROTC, J. J. Misser, Associate Director of Alumni Special Services who is fully engaged and an advocate, Robert Santiago, Boston Veterans Commissioner. I would also like to thank Bill Dunford and Bill Kelley, co-chairs of the Boston College Veterans Alumni Network (BCVAN).

Although he is not in attendance today, I would like to mention and recognize the efforts of Paul Delaney, a BC alum and founder of the effort to bring the Veterans Home in all many years ago.

Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day in the United States, honoring military veterans who served in World War I. It coincides with the signing of the

Armistice with Germany went into effect. At



If you have the opportunity to speak to the BC veterans here today one on one, you will hear the shared pride they feel in having provided service to our Nation and being part of something that is bigger than themselves. While there are many common aspects in a military career, there are also many unique aspects and experiences for each veteran. I would like to share some aspects and experiences from my career as a Navy Supply Corps Officer.

The beginning:

My time at Boston College was tremendous: the academics and overall experience were a great fit for me. I met my spouse, Mary, at BC and made a number of lifelong friends, all of whom were instrumental in keeping me grounded throughout my career. When I graduated from Boston College my plan was to find a job that provided business and or financial experience, go to grad school and then pursue my career.

I first learned about the Navy Supply Corps through a targeted Want Ad in the Sunday

The ad required only a 36-month commitment. I followed up, took the required battery of tests and on 2 October 1978, took the oath and was sworn in in downtown Boston. That day will never be forgotten across New England, not because I joined the Navy but because Bucky Dent of the rival New York Yankees hit a late inning home run at Fenway Park to win an extra season game that was added since the two teams tied after the regular season. As a die-hard fan, it took a little of the steam out of the first day of my career. I was then off to Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI and then six months of training at the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens GA. In Athens, we learned the core Navy business management skills of Supply Chain Management.

DC was in the Pentagon serving as the senior Supply financial analyst for the Comptroller of the Navy. In this billet I reviewed and submitted the Department of the Navy's B repair part budgets to the Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, and ultimately Congress. The budget cycle involved many reviews and very often negotiation on the size, priority and underpinning of the funding request. I found that my BC Economics and overall academic studies served me very well in this fast-paced Pentagon environment. In fact I will never forget one individual telling me he hated to have to defend his budget input to me because I was so logical in my positions and arguments. I had in fact taken a Logic course at BC. As I recall I did not exactly ace the mid-term which earned me a trip to St. Mary's at Father Barrett's request, where he tutored me for about an hour. I don't think I was his best logic student, although I did review my transcript and did pull out a B+. When we left DC after seven years, we headed to San Diego for two tours including another afloat tour, this time as Sup00912 0 612f6(Ofer)7fich3(2()6(of)-7n)6(t)uSul rC-3(D)-42JET@.

