

CLASSMATE PROFILES

Getting to know Classmates all over again!
So what have you been doing for the past 50 years?



Larry Marsh Taft Student



Rear Admiral Larry Marsh



Larry Marsh - January 20, 2008 - Larry & Wife Barb



Taft Class of 1959

Larry addressing
54 attendees at
October 6, 2007
Mini-Reunion in
Vernon Hills, IL

LARRY ROY MARSH

Little did I realize what I wrote for our 8th grade teacher at Thomas Edison Grammar School in the spring of 1955 would come true! As a final “test” for English, Miss Gustavson, our teacher, had us write a short paper on “What we wanted to be when we grew up.” She said we were about to go to high school, and it was not too soon to start thinking about that important topic! So, I wrote that I wanted to become a “Submarine Officer”.

While I only had an uncle who served in the Army in World War II, I had become interested in the military, mostly by watching “Victory At Sea” and “Men of Annapolis” on our 12 inch black and white TV. It was the Navy, and especially submarines, which fascinated me.

At TAFT, like most of us, I forgot about the future. Studying, baseball, basketball, ice skating, learning to drive, starting to date, etc. occupied me. Well into our junior year, my interest in the Navy was rekindled, and the next year I was fortunate enough to be accepted to The Naval Academy at Annapolis, where I reported on 5 July 1959, just a few days after we graduated.

At the Academy, like all Midshipmen at the time, I majored in Electrical Engineering. Additionally, I played varsity baseball, studied lots, marched lots, and enjoyed some winning football seasons, especially four straight wins over West Point (“Army”). Following graduation in June 1963, I immediately entered nuclear power and submarine training, having been selected for these programs by the legendary Admiral Hyman Rickover.

After completing 1 ½ years of training in February 1965, I reported to my first submarine, a World War II diesel submarine, which was still in commission and which was home-ported in Norfolk, Virginia. After 16 months on board that old, but very capable, boat, I was transferred to a nuclear submarine operating out of Hawaii. I then went on to serve on four nuclear submarines, and from 1977-1981 I commanded one of our ballistic missile submarines, which operated first out of Rota, Spain, then out of Holy Loch, Scotland. I made a total of seven submerged strategic patrols in command, an experience of a lifetime...and something I would gladly do again! I had a terrific crew of dedicated Submarine Sailors and we had an important mission to perform. It remains a highlight of my life. Following command, I served in shore assignments in the following locations: Washington, D.C. (3 times, which included two assignments in the fascinating Pentagon); Newport, Rhode Island; Norfolk, Virginia; New London, Connecticut; and Seattle, Washington. Earlier, I also lived, studied, and traveled in Germany for two years under a Department of Defense Scholarship set up to educate young military officers about foreign cultures and foreign languages. Most of these “shore tours” with the Navy were in the personnel business, which I considered my “strong suite” in the Navy...and even now.

I retired from the Navy in 1998 after 35 years of service; and, after a year of doing some “consulting” work, I joined the Staff of the non-profit Foundation, which sponsored my earlier education in Germany as a young Naval Officer. So, I am STILL in the personnel business, and I enjoy it. As of this moment, although I am asked a lot, I have no plans to “retire - retire” anytime soon. I continue to have too much fun at my job, and associating with young military officers, as I once was, keeps me busy, enthused, and, hopefully, looking and acting somewhat young! I also have the opportunity to travel a lot to visit our overseas military Scholars, and I virtually have been “around the world” during the past 8 years that I have worked for the Foundation. That, too, is keeping me young!

In 1968, I met my wife, Barb, who is from Baltimore, Maryland. She was an elementary education major in college and a church youth worker. We married in 1972 and have enjoyed lots of travel, moves, and many Navy friends over the years. We have no children. We live in Great Falls, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. in the same house we were living in when I retired from the Navy.

My interests and hobbies include sports, jogging, a little golf & tennis, gardening, fishing, and reading. Unfortunately, I don't play much baseball or basketball anymore.

I hope to see lots of Classmates at the 50th Reunion, if not before!! And, I would enjoy hearing from any Classmate at any time. My TAFT years remain wonderful years in my memory. GO TAFT GO!!!