

C. Ron Allen interview

Veteran Voices

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Margaux Muhletaler and Jack Walsh had the honor of interviewing C. Ron Allen about his time in the US Navy. C. Ron Allen had a very memorable and honorable 30 years of service in the US Navy. His time spent serving the nation had a long-lasting impact on his life and played a role in shaping him into the inspirational man he is today. Mr. Allen is a man of honor and throughout his years of service, he did many things that impacted the nation and the people around him. His 30 years of service, August 1984- December 2013, were days filled with travel, communications, journalism, promotions, awards, and most importantly honor and pride.

Mr. Allen's story began in the heart of Boston, Massachusetts. Growing up in the heart of Boston he was constantly surrounded by the ships coming in and out of the harbor. He vividly remembers the day he saw a man in a sailor uniform and was instantly mesmerized by it, he expressed how *"the uniform had 13 buttons on it and I said wow, that's a pretty neat outfit. Never, had I'd seen it before."* He instantly went up to the sailor and exchanged names with him. Later, the same sailor he had met, called him and invited him down to the base to show him around. Since that day, Mr. Allen knew he wanted to be involved in the military someday.

When he graduated, Mr. Allen did not know what he wanted to do allowing him to continue his journey at the University of Massachusetts. He expressed how Michel Dukakis, who later became the governor, made it possible for him to get three scholarships to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and go through the ROTC program. This exposure to the ROTC program was his first real introduction to the military. His admiration toward the uniform and the honor it signified, drove him to want his own and enlist in the military.

While reminiscing about his time in the US Navy, Mr. Allen recalls many of his fondest memories of his early years of service. He expressed how one of his favorite things was traveling. The opportunity to travel to various countries built his love for immersing himself in new cultures. He highlights how *“It was a great experience I had, but I enjoyed traveling, I was a young man, and I had a chance to go places and being in the military the reception that I got overseas people enjoyed us, people appreciated us. It opened a lot of doors for me.”* Not only did he enjoy traveling, but he also loved having the opportunity to travel to various schools and speak to students.

that consisted of traveling, meeting new people, and being exposed to new things.