



RONALD J. BORRO
Freedom Area Class of 1969

“The difficult we do at once; the impossible takes a little longer.”

United States Navy Seabees

Ronald J. Borro, a member of the Freedom Area Class of 1969, graduated as the Valedictorian. He also led his class as president during his junior and senior years.

After graduating from high school, Borro earned an appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy and embarked upon a career with the Navy that continues to this day. While at the Naval Academy, Borro excelled academically. He was one of seven seniors chosen for the Trident Scholars Independent Research Program. He served in several military leadership positions, and he led the Naval Academy’s internationally recognized Foreign Affairs Conference. He was a two-time All American shooter on the Naval Academy’s Pistol Team. Borro graduated from the academy in 1973, standing 22nd in a class of 890.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy, Borro was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy. He was assigned as an engineering officer on the USS JOUETT, a Guided Missile Cruiser with a homeport in San Diego, California. The JOUETT deployed to the Western Pacific as part of a Carrier Strike Group where her principal role was tracking Soviet submarines during anti-submarine warfare operations.

In 1975 the Navy selected Borro to participate in the inaugural year of the Department of Defense Law Education Program. He attended the George Washington University National Law Center, graduating in 1978. Borro was reappointed to the Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps and served as a uniformed attorney in the JAG Corps from 1978 until he retired from active duty in 1994. Over the course of that career, he served in a wide variety of assignments. He was a criminal prosecutor and criminal defense counsel based in Newport, Rhode Island, where he handled cases ranging from routine unauthorized absences to desertion, rape, and arson. His next assignment took him to Sicily, where he was the legal advisor on all aspects of federal and international law for Navy shore commands. Borro and his family experienced an earthquake and volcanic eruption during that tour of duty as well as the increased security tensions caused by confrontations with Libya and the kidnapping of an Army General by the Red Brigade terrorist group. After serving in Italy, Borro returned to the Naval Academy as an Associate Professor. He taught military and international law, co-authoring two textbooks. His next series of assignments included responsibility for civil litigation, defending the Navy against lawsuits involving constitutional and environmental issues.

Borro retired from active duty in 1994 with the rank of Commander. At that time he was recruited for a position as a senior civilian environmental counsel within the Navy's Office of General Counsel (OGC). He held several positions within the environmental law practice area before being appointed to the Senior Executive Service and assigned as the Assistant General Counsel for Energy, Installations, and Environment. In this capacity he advised the Secretary of the Navy and Navy senior leadership on all legal matters related to environmental planning, environmental compliance, natural resources, real estate, facility management, base closure, energy and safety. Since 2005, he has been an Adjunct Professor in Environmental Law at the George Washington University National Law Center.

Borro was appointed to the Federal Senior Executive Service in January 2007. Members of the Senior Executive Service serve in the key positions just below the top Presidential appointees. Then, in 2010 he was appointed to the highest tier of the Senior Executive Service and assigned to oversee civil litigation within the Office of the General Counsel. As Associate General Counsel (Litigation), he has responsibility for civil litigation strategy within the Department of the Navy, overseeing approximately 1500 government contract, environmental, civilian personnel, and international cases valued at \$17 billion.

Borro is a member of the bars of Pennsylvania and the United States Supreme Court. His awards include the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award, the Distinguished Civil Service Award, the Department of Justice John Marshall Award, the Navy Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Borro and his wife of thirty-five years, Susan, reside in Arnold, Maryland. They have two children, Geoff and Lauren.