



BENJAMIN G. M. FERIL

Ben's Scouting journey begins in 1965, when he joined Pack 4, chartered by the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Gardner, Massachusetts. By 1968, he had transitioned ("crossed over") to Troop 4, marking the start of a distinguished Scouting career. Rising rapidly, Ben was elected Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), became an Ordeal member of the Order of the Arrow (OA), and in November 1973, achieved the Eagle Scout Rank. During this time, he also received the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII Catholic religious emblems and the William T. Hornaday Silver Medal.

After moving to Ionia, Michigan in 1974, Ben's Scouting leadership continued as SPL for Troop 86, and in 1975, he attended the World Jamboree in Norway. After entering Central Michigan University in 1976, Ben took on the role of Roundtable Commissioner and attended Wood Badge and earned his beads in 1978.

Ben's post-college years brought new challenges and achievements in military service. He attended the Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and was commissioned as a U.S. Navy Officer in November 1980. Qualifying as a Surface Warfare Officer, Ben served on three Navy ships, developing operational expertise and leadership under demanding circumstances.

Furthering his education, Ben earned a bachelor's degree in health care management from Florida A & M University and transitioned to become a Hospital Administrator in the Navy Medical Service Corps. His assignments included the Navy Medical Clinic in Quantico, the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, and as Medical Planner for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), deploying to Somalia as part of Operation Restore Hope. He also commanded the 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and served as Officer-in-Charge for the Navy Hospital Ship COMFORT, and deployed to New Orleans, Louisiana, during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to provide medical support.



Ben's pursuit of excellence led to further academic accomplishments: he is a graduate of Marymount University, the Naval War College, and the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College. His distinguished military career included serving on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, and concluded with a final assignment on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In February 2014, after 34 years of exemplary service, Ben retired as a Navy Captain. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, as well as numerous other honors and campaign medals.

After retirement, Ben embarked on a new chapter. He completed Clinical Pastoral Education (Hospital Chaplaincy) at Christiana Care Health System in Newark, Delaware, followed by master's degrees in theology and in Church Ministries from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland (2017 and 2018, respectively). Entering formation for the diaconate, Ben was ordained as a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church in August 2021 and assigned to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Elkton, Maryland. There, alongside his wife Rita, he directs adult religious education and serves as a volunteer chaplain with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and at Union-Christiana Hospital.

Ben's history with Scouting is profound. He participated in seven different Councils during his Navy career, and he completed a two-year term (2022–2024) as National Sea Scout Program Chair. He has held key positions, including Unit Commissioner in the Del-Mar-Va Council, membership on the National Sea Scout Committee (2020–present), Northeast Region Commodore (2017–2020), and Vice Chairman for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Ben's engagement extends to national and international Scouting events—World Jamboree Staff (2019), National Jamboree Staff (2005, 2010), Course Director for Seabadge Courses (2007, 2014, 2020), and staff for the Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership Training (SEAL). He and Rita are both active in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 21-05 in Chesapeake City, Maryland, with Ben holding numerous qualifications. He also serves as Chair of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and he was recently appointed as Chaplain for the Diocese of Wilmington Catholic Committee on Scouting.





Ben is an OA Vigil Member and recipient of numerous honors: the Silver Antelope, Silver Beaver, National and Regional Sea Scout Leadership Awards, St. George Silver Emblem, St. George Emblem from the Diocese of Wilmington, and the District Award of Merit.

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