



RYAN J. MCCOMBIE '70

Biographical Sketch

Ryan J. McCombie is a retired United States Navy Captain (SEAL) with over 26 years of service.

Beginning his career with a SEAL tour in Vietnam, he has trained and served with commandos from all over the world. He was the first to serve two years with the elite French Commando Hubert. He also served as the Operations Officer of the highly regarded Red Cell Team.

Captain McCombie was selected to be the first United States Military Attaché to our nation's embassy in Brazzaville, Congo. Following that assignment, he commanded SEAL Team Two from 1985 to 1987. Mr. McCombie then served in high level positions at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, DC and finally, as the senior Navy representative and faculty member at the Army War College, Carlisle.

Mr. McCombie has consulted with international American, French, Belgium and Canadian companies around the world. He is now an independent business consultant and serves on the Board of Advisors/Directors of several national firms.

Ryan is a member of the National Eagle Scout Association, a graduate of Penn State University '70 and the National War College '86. He is on the BoD of the Board of Advisors for Outreach Development; and, chairs the military scholarship committee of the world campus at Penn State. He is a member of the Penn State Mount Nittany Society and a lifetime member of the PSU Alumni Association. Two of Ryan's children graduated from Penn State.

Position Statement

Penn State is one of the great teaching and research institutions in the world. This noble university continues to grow even stronger despite recent attacks on our culture. All of the metrics of a world-class education and ever increasing demand at PSU continue trending upward.

Living in State College and being essentially retired, I can devote the time, energy, and focus to the opportunities presented by the Board. I consider this an honorable duty. During the past three years I have sat on various committees, assisted at numerous commencements, and attended too many chicken dinners. The academic committee, the outreach committee, and now the executive committee have all become part of my purview. It is quite time consuming, but enormously gratifying.

The past three years have demonstrated how I will continue to represent you as a trustee. I may never be a "press darling" or publicly over-communicate my thoughts and positions. I will, however, continue to work with the steadfast focus that ensures Penn State maintains its position as one of the premier institutions of higher learning in the world.

Our alums continue to prove their steadfast loyalty; our students continue to excel; and our children still dream of becoming Nittany Lions. I will continue to work earnestly not to disappoint them.