

Crabbing on bay inspires lead meteorologist

Richard Kane's love of weather began when he was a teenager crabbing the Chesapeake Bay's Hart-Miller Island. In order to maximize his catch for the day, which paid his tuition at Baltimore's Archbishop Curley High School, Kane had to vigilantly monitor tides, winds and approaching storms.

"I'd call the weather three to four times a day," said Kane, whose record catch was nearly 60 dozen crustaceans.

His love for weather continued to grow, leading Kane to enlist in the U.S. Navy, where he gained experience at the U.S. Fleet Weather Central/ Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Guam.

During his time in the Navy, he also worked at a large computer center in California and at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

"It was a great experience because I got exposed to all different pilots and different aircraft, because different aircraft have different weather needs," said Kane, who was inducted to the National Meteorologist Hall of Fame in Pennsylvania. "I loved that."

After leaving the Navy in 1979, Kane entered The Pennsylvania State University, where he earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in meteorology.

Today, the 1970 Archbishop Curley graduate, who also attended Baltimore's Our Lady of Hope School and St. Luke School, was recently promoted to lead the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Pittsburgh, Pa.

"I love the weather," said Kane, a husband and father of two. "It is a fascinating field, and I enjoy it every day. "

He considered the National Weather Service "an outstanding agency," and knew that's where he wanted to work.

Kane's career as a forecaster has taken him from Albany, N.Y., to Sterling, Va., to a position in Pittsburgh as the warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service. In that capacity, Kane served as a liaison, working with the public and the media.

While experience and technology have made him a better forecaster, Kane said those in the weather field need to always keep in the back of their minds that they could be wrong.

"Many times I think only God knows for sure what's going to happen because, again, you often get humbled," Kane said. "We forecast the best we can with the tools we have, but it is a challenge to deal with nature."

Kane, who loves the weather and winter storms, said he does feel good when he hits a forecast. "It's pretty satisfying when we can help people prepare themselves against severe weather," he said.

He credited his Archbishop Curley education with springboarding him to his career.