

Steve Cahn, 2nd from right, with fellow U.S. Marines in northern Norway as part of a 1998 NATO European mission

Steven D. Cahn Ward 3 Councilmember

While Steve Cahn has been serving the Township as a councilmember since 2001, he got an early exposure to politics as a wide-eyed University of Maryland student. To be a low-level advance staffer for Senator Ted Kennedy's civil rights speech at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, DC, that was enough to endear a young Steve Cahn to public service.

Steve was thrilled with his volunteer post on Kennedy's 1980 presidential run. He not only spent a lot of time

outside of class doing typical campaign work in the downtown DC headquarters but was also sent up to New Hampshire to organize for the state's primary. However, some of his fondest memories were the simple interactions of menial tasks with notable people such as driving Ethel Kennedy to the airport or getting a drink for Senator George McGovern at a football game watching party at Robert Kennedy family's Hickory Hill estate.

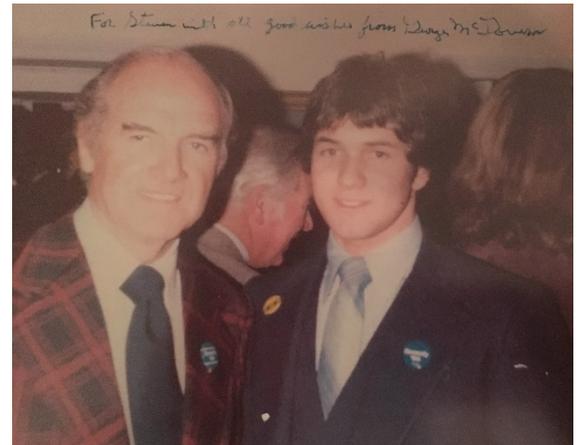
Steve's first foray into politics culminated in volunteering at the 1980 Democratic convention at Madison Square Garden, a figurative world away from his earlier years but not too far



Steve was #83 on the state champion J.P. Stevens High School football team

from his literal childhood. Along with his younger sister, Steve

was raised in a typical family home in Edison, grew up playing Little League and would be part of two undefeated state championship football teams at J.P. Stevens High School.



Steve with 1972 Democratic presidential nominee Senator George McGovern in 1980



Steve speaks at a gun safety press conference alongside U.S. Representatives Frank Pallone, Jr. & Bonnie Watson Coleman, State Senator Bob Smith, Mayor Brian C. Wahler, fellow Township Council members and Piscataway Township Police Department officials

As part of a 1982 summer exchange program, Cahn would study at Tel Aviv University, even traveling by bus through the Sinai to spend a week at the American University in Cairo – an exciting endeavor so soon after peace established between Israel and Egypt.

With Steve’s academic studies in foreign policy and military affairs, it was a considerable time to be in Israel with a war waging with Lebanon. He and a friend hitchhiked to northern Israel where they wound up meeting

Fiji nationals whom were part of U.N. peacekeeping forces. The two students took their new friends up on an unexpected offer and were taken into southern Lebanon to get an up-close look at the action.

After two years at UMD, Steve decided to transfer to Rutgers where he competed on its track team. Upon graduating from Rutgers with a taste for adventure and the pride of American patriotism, Steve decided to join the U.S. Marine Corps. He took advantage of a Corps’ program where he first went through officer candidate school, then attended what is now Widener University Delaware Law School for three years to get his law degree, and then would be committed to four years of military service to serve as a Marine lawyer. Steve would eventually stay in the Marine Corps for seven years rising to the rank of captain.

However, it would be months after law school graduation when a slot would open up for him at



Alongside Reverend Linwood D. Rouse of the Macedonia Original Free Will Baptist Church, Steve is interviewed on News Channel 12 regarding his ordinance prohibiting the retail sale of firearms or ammunition within 1,000 feet of sensitive locations.

Quantico to begin training and serving on active duty. Needing to fill his time, Steve would work for a well-established New York City law firm. Although it was only for a period of months, Steve knew from that experience that he didn't want to eventually be part of a large firm for his career but rather have a more local practice.

Yet before Steve would find himself back in central New Jersey in the civilian world, serving as an officer in the Marine Corps lay ahead starting with several months at Quantico learning every facet of military life and responsibilities. In 1988, Steve was part of a NATO mission with the 6th Marine Expeditionary Brigade in an administrative officer's role both at sea on the U.S.S. Inchon and based on a deployment in Europe.

Leaving military life in 1990, Cahn would move to Piscataway and pick up his civilian career under the tutelage of well-known central New Jersey lawyers Dave Rubin and Cliff Kuhn. With neighbors also looking to improve the community, Steve caught the attention of a then young councilmember and now Mayor Brian C. Wahler. Steve and others would advocate for the creation of what is now Wynnwood Park, and as a result, he was appointed to the Township's recreation advisory commission. When Wahler was elected mayor in 2000, Cahn would be named to the open Township Council seat. After 9/11 occurred, Steve went to the Middlesex County Fire Academy at the age of 41 and volunteered with the Possumtown Fire Company.



Steve (right) and Mayor Brian C. Wahler (left) advocate to NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti for taking commercial trucks off a long section of River Road at an NJDOT headquarters meeting with Senator Bob Smith.



Steve (center) at a Township Council meeting alongside Councilmember Gabrielle Cahill (right) and Assistant Township Attorney Rajvir S. Goomer (left)

Steve has been elected to the Township Council five times, most recently in 2018. He points to the banning of truck traffic on River Road between the Route 18 bridge and Centennial Avenue and the construction of the Piscataway Community Center as two important accomplishments and continues to be a part of many more projects that improve the quality of life in our community such as those focused on environmental issues.