

# Coast Guard Aviation Association



## The Association President

IN RECOGNITION *of notable services that have  
greatly contributed to the preservation of the history of  
Coast Guard Aviation  
takes pleasure in presenting the*

### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

*to*

*Ms. Beth L. Crumley*

*November 14, 2020*

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**Michael D. Emerson**  
**Captain, U.S. Coast Guard (Retired)**  
**President**

# **President's Award**

## **to**

### **Ms. Beth L. Crumley**

The President of the Coast Guard Aviation Association (CGAA) takes pleasure in presenting the President's Award to Ms. Beth L. Crumley, in recognition of her extraordinary and enduring contributions to researching and recording the history of Coast Guard Aviation. As Assistant Historian for the U.S. Coast Guard since 2016, Ms. Crumley has successfully investigated key figures and events to fill gaps in historical records and highlight important milestones and lessons. Her examination of service records for William Kossler and Frank Erickson revealed the remarkable initiative and courage needed to incorporate helicopters into Coast Guard missions, and the inherent challenges of early helicopter operations. Ms. Crumley's timely studies and reporting provided a strong foundation for a yearlong commemoration of noteworthy rotary-wing accomplishments, that began on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Helicopter Operations. Using first-hand accounts of Sergei Sikorsky and helicopter pilot No. 2, Commander Stew Graham, along with queries of vast resources in the Sikorsky Archives, she further elevated awareness of the early development of helicopters, and the fascinating spectrum of characters that conceived and flew them. Ms. Crumley instinctively engaged the "History Detectives" of CGAA, and brazenly probed into Russian influences in early flying machines, including a little-known enlisted immigrant named Victor Utgoff. Their collective findings illuminated details of Utgoff's incredible experience with flying boats, and fortuitous association with Igor Sikorsky that led to the startup of Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. Ms. Crumley continued to trace leads from first generation aircraft manufacturers to explain the relationship between the naval services, which reinforced long-standing suggestions that Coast Guard aviators provided invaluable leadership and innovation to U.S. Navy and Marine Corps flight programs. She is a prolific author, and, published numerous articles to increase public visibility and preserve the legacy of aviation in the Coast Guard. She also responded to countless inquiries from Congress, industry organizations, academia, and the media, providing valuable statistics and data that were not available elsewhere. Ms. Crumley has established an aviation specific section in the historical records of the Coast Guard, and, made significant progress with protocols for chronicling and retrieving seminal aviation documents. She has been a subject matter expert on aviation for design teams involved in planning the layout of the official Coast Guard Museum, and, ensured that Coast Guard aircraft and aircrews will be aptly and accurately featured. Ms. Crumley has also championed the consideration of famous aviator names for cutters and major facilities, most notably helping to influence the final approval for naming the 9<sup>th</sup> National Security Cutter, USCGC STONE, in honor of Aviator No. 1, Elmer F. Stone. An impassioned storyteller, Ms. Crumley was a favorite speaker during Professional Discourse sessions on Coast Guard Aviation for the Vertical Flight Society, Aviation Engineering Conference, and the Annual Pterodactyl Roost. She has proudly conveyed the complexity and value of Coast Guard aviation for the benefit of present and future generations. Ms. Crumley's initiative, dedication and leadership are most heartily commended, and in keeping with the highest traditions of the Aviation Association and the United States Coast Guard.