

The Victor Roulund Rescue Swimmer Meritorious Achievement Award

The Victor Roulund Rescue Swimmer Meritorious Achievement Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Rescue Swimmer Program through sustained superior performance, significant initiative in technology or tactics, and unique or extraordinary accomplishments in other areas associated with the Program. This award is sponsored by the Coast Guard Aviation Association and established in 2015.

Background:

This award is named in honor of AD2 Victor Roulund, who was assigned to Air Station San Francisco, when in late December 1955, he was participating as a flight mechanic aboard CG-1305, an HO4S helicopter. His crew faced daunting weather and rescue challenges in the vicinity of the Yuba River in northern California, where countless homes and people were seriously stricken in extreme flooding conditions throughout the region. AD2 Roulund voluntarily accepted a very risky rescue attempt, after being hoisted down to a trailer home which was floating down the river. Using hand tools and quick intuition, he broke into the home which was nearly fully submerged, and rescued a woman who was completely disabled, and later placed her into the rescue basket for a successful hoist. AD2 Roulund and his fellow aircrew rescued a total of 138 people during a grueling 12 hour period of nonstop action. All four aircrew were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. AD2 Roulund's actions have since been considered the first example of typical mission challenges faced by present day Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers.

Criteria:

Individuals eligible for consideration for the Rescue Swimmer Meritorious Achievement Award will have made significant contributions to the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Rescue Swimmer Program. Contributions, for this purpose, include sustained superior performance, strong initiative in technical or tactical development, and unique or extraordinary accomplishments in other areas associated with the Program, with a lasting positive impact. Extraordinary operational achievement, for the purpose of this award, will be recognized only if it directly impacted the technical or tactical development of the Rescue Swimmer Program.

Nomination Procedure:

Nominations may be made by any Coast Guard Aviation Association member in good standing. The nomination must be in writing and formatted to provide:

- Complete contact information for the person making the nomination.
- Short biography of the person being nominated.
- 8 x 10" photo of nominee, or equivalent high resolution digital image.
- Detailed documentation supporting the nomination in one or more selection criteria.

The package should be so designed that it will enable the approval authority to fairly evaluate the meeting of one or more criteria. The nomination should be sent to the Executive Director, Coast Guard Aviation Association.

Selection Procedure:

A Selection Committee shall be appointed by the President of the Coast Guard Aviation Association and re-constituted for each subsequent selection occurrence. The Selection Committee shall be composed of not less than five members and shall always have an odd number of members. The Committee shall be representative in composition, including at least one retired officer, one active duty officer, and one enlisted or former enlisted member. Committee members should provide a broad background and experience in Coast Guard operations relating to search and rescue.

The frequency of this award is normally expected to be announced every two years, typically in odd numbered years. This award is not limited to one individual in any given year, with latitude provided to the Selection Committee for recognizing more than one individual. The convening date for the selection process shall be determined by the President of the Association. The Selection Committee shall designate a chairperson. The Selection Committee shall make a deliberate effort to verify the accuracy of the information contained in the nomination package(s). The name(s) of those selected for the Rescue Swimmer Meritorious Achievement Award shall be submitted to the President by the chairperson, for further action. The deliberations of the Selection Committee shall be closed and not made public record.

Induction Procedure:

The Executive Director of the CGAA shall prepare an appropriate document to be presented to the awardee(s) at a future ceremony. The President of the Association shall inform the officer-in-charge of the Rescue Swimmer School at Elizabeth City, NC of the name(s) of the awardee(s) for installation on the permanent plaque located at that facility. The nomination package(s) shall be made available for appropriate data and reference. The Induction Ceremony, if at all possible, shall take place in the same year the selections are made.