

# **Distinguished Public Service Award**

**to**

**REAR ADMIRAL JAMES C. VAN SICE, USCG (RET.)**

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award to Rear Admiral James C. Van Sice, USCG (Ret.), for his exceptional contributions to the legacy of Coast Guard Aviation, during his outstanding voluntary service as President of the Coast Guard Aviation Association (CGAA), during the period June 2014 through June 2018. Admiral Van Sice guided CGAA's participation with active duty elements during the execution of a nationwide celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Coast Guard Aviation, which included the completion of the multi-year Phoenix Project that placed an HH-52A helicopter, CG-1426, on permanent display in the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum. He supervised the refurbishment of an HH-3F, CG-1486, for display at the National Naval Aviation Museum, to complement the Coast Guard Aviation display at that museum, whose exhibits were also upgraded and overhauled on his watch. Admiral Van Sice directed the creation of a world-class CGAA web site, and also a Coast Guard Aviation History web site, along with publication of numerous articles and books to record and publicize Coast Guard Aviation's service to our Nation. He spearheaded funding and other support for several memorials to Coast Guard aircrews. Admiral Van Sice also sponsored recognition of countless outstanding mechanics, technicians, rescue swimmers, and pilots, through selections via the Coast Guard, for the Erickson Rotary-Wing Rescue Award, the Stone Fixed-Wing Rescue Award, the Berry Aviation Maintenance Award, and the Shrode Flight Safety Award. Several CGAA recognitions were created during his service, including the establishment of the Victor Roulund Rescue Swimmer Achievement Award, and the Aviation Technical Training Center's Roll of Valor Wall to highlight the superb contributions of enlisted aircrew members to aviation history, and inspire new graduates as they begin their careers. His leadership culminated with a five-year Strategic Plan, which will guide the Association's activities into the future. Admiral Van Sice's dedication and devoting in supporting the CGAA are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of public service and the United States Coast Guard.