

Meritorious Public Service Award to

Mr. Barrett Thomas Beard

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award to Mr. Barrett Thomas Beard for exceptional, enduring contributions to the legacies of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Aviation. Mr. Beard retired from the Coast Guard as a Lieutenant Commander on January 1, 1975 and has been a formidable champion of an official program for documentation and dissemination of historical information and artifacts for over thirty years. He was an advocate and early architect for a Coast Guard History Foundation to assimilate, organize, and preserve service records and documents that might have value for future decision-making. He also collaborated with the U.S. Lighthouse Society, the U.S. Lifesaving Service Heritage Association, the Coast Guard Aviation Association, other Service history foundations, and myriad Coast Guard historians, as a consultant on historical projects of national significance, most notably the National Coast Guard Museum. Mr. Beard is an acclaimed and prolific researcher and author. He has won awards from the Military Writer's Society of America (MWSA) for books he published, including *The Coast Guard*; *Lighthouses of America*; and *Wonderful Flying Machines*. These distinctly different projects are primary sources for historical data exhumed from forgotten storage boxes of archive materials that might otherwise be lost. For the aviation community, Mr. Beard's research chronicled little-known details of the development of helicopter operations, featuring first-hand accounts of Frank Erickson's Rotary Wing Development Unit at Coast Guard Air Station Brooklyn, and those of inventor Igor Sikorsky. Absent his extraordinary research and writing, the Coast Guard would never know the accomplishments of Frank Erickson, the challenges of early helicopter operations, and the qualities of "fixer-flyer" pioneers that made Coast Guard Aviation the safest military flight program in the world. Mr. Beard served as a volunteer historian for the Coast Guard Aviation Association for two decades, routinely publishing articles and essays highlighting heroic aviators and documenting the value of Coast Guard aviation for the benefit of future generations. Mr. Beard's outstanding initiative, dedication, and leadership are most heartily commended, and in keeping with the highest traditions of public service and the United States Coast Guard.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



The Commandant

IN RECOGNITION *of notable services that have
assisted greatly in furthering the aims and
functions of the Coast Guard
takes pleasure in presenting the*

MERITORIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

to

Mr. Barret T. Beard

Executed this 4th day of August 2020

at Washington, D.C.


Karl L. Schultz
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard