

Vice Admiral John P. Currier, USCG (Ret.)



Vice Admiral John P. Currier, Coast Guard Aviator 1877 and Ancient Albatross 23, is recognized for extraordinary achievement and enduring contributions to Coast Guard Aviation as a gifted and courageous pilot, bold innovator, legendary leader, and engaging mentor.

During his first tour of duty as a helicopter pilot, VADM Currier earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Harmon Trophy for the night offshore rescue of ten men from a burning fishing boat. He later earned Air Medals along with recognition from national aviation organizations for two other highly challenging rescues.

During the many years he served at USCG headquarters, VADM Currier's unwavering stewardship resulted in monumental advancements in Coast Guard Aviation. As an Aeronautical Engineering Program Manager, he was directly instrumental in the acquisition of the HH-60J. As Assistant Commandant for Acquisition, he became an ardent advocate of the HC-130J acquisition, taking action to consummate the project while serving as Chief of Staff. Ascending to Vice Commandant, he arranged the transfer of fourteen C-27 medium range surveillance aircraft from the U.S. Air Force when the HC-144 procurement was reduced in scope during a period of increasing operational tempo. He later directed installation of a new mission sensor package, which enhanced C4ISR capability and interoperability with a lower total ownership cost. In response to a serious aviation mishap trend, VADM Currier guided a structured operational risk assessment and directed corrective actions which yielded a remarkable improvement in aviation professionalism and safety. Before retirement, VADM Currier made a legacy contribution to USCG aviation by facilitating a project to provide the first Coast Guard aircraft exhibit in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Throughout his 38-year career, VADM John Currier served his country with great skill, devotion, and determination. His caring leadership enhanced the pride and professionalism of thousands of Coast Guard men and women – within the aviation community and beyond.