

# Distinguished Public Service Award

to

**Mr. Mont Smith**

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award to Mr. Smith in recognition of his unwavering dedication and support to the Coast Guard. Under Mr. Smith's leadership, the Coast Guard Aviation Association (CGAA), also known as the Ancient Order of the Pterodactyls, continues to serve as a custodian of the Coast Guard's aviation history and a venue for the mentoring of young Coast Guard aviators. Mr. Smith has commissioned extensive research and compilation of information related to Coast Guard Aviation, forming a master index that has made the CGAA the favored reference source for Coast Guard Aviation history. Inspiring camaraderie and esprit de corps, Mr. Smith provided leadership and financial support for the enhancement of museum exhibits and related historical initiatives around the country. These included donations of excess equipment, and the construction of large museum quality models, including "Project Phoenix", which is the restoration of an HH-52A that will be placed in the Smithsonian Air and Space Udvar-Hazy facility. He researched and submitted documentation to support the posthumous award of the Legion of Merit to the late Captain Samuel Martin, and sponsored the inductions of Commander Frank Shelley, Master Chief Petty Officer Larry Farmer, and Chief Petty Officer Oliver Berry into the Coast Guard Aviation Hall of Honor. His efforts remain tireless, as he continues to be a regular attendee at most Coast Guard Aviation professional development events. His willing and eager participation provides a conduit for considerable wisdom and experience in a forum that promotes understanding and mentorship. Most recently, Mr. Smith's contributions and insights to the Aviation Safety Assessment Action Plan have been invaluable. At the request of Coast Guard Aviation Forces, the CGAA conducted a benchmarking study of commercial aviation safety programs and best practices that can be adapted to Coast Guard Aviation operations. The findings of this study will be instrumental in strengthening the safety posture of Coast Guard aviation. Mr. Smith's dedicated volunteer service and exceptional leadership are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.