

Capt. Robertson P. Dinsmore (USCG, Ret)



Captain Dinsmore entered the Coast Guard Academy in 1943 having served briefly in the Navy. Graduating in 1946, he served on the frigate USS Muskegon, rescue cutters, weather ships and lighthouse tenders where he became captain of the Lighthouse Tender Firebush based at New London.

Coming ashore, he did graduate studies in oceanography at Scripps Institution followed by an assignment to the International Iceberg Patrol, based at Woods Hole and Argentia, Newfoundland. This led to Arctic studies where he headed expeditions on the icebreakers Eastwind, Northwind, and Evergreen. Other assignments included navigator on the Cutter Duane, instructor at the Coast Guard Academy and training bark Eagle, commander of the weather ship Cook Inlet, and head of the Coast Guard's Oceanographic Unit. His expeditions to Greenland glaciers in 1967-68 found early evidence of global climate change.

Retiring from the Coast Guard in 1971 he took a position at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution where he became Director of Ship Operations and occasional captain of the research ships *Atlantis II* and *Oceanus*.

Retiring again in 2001, he remained a consultant on research ship operations to the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research.

He holds two Coast Guard medals for ocean rescues, the Presidents Meritorious Service Medal, and the National Science Foundation Distinguished Service Medal. He now resides in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Capt. Dinsmore also serves on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Lightship Museum (USLM) and has been a committed volunteer and generous financial supporter since the USLM assumed ownership and rescued *Nantucket Lightship LV-112* in 2009.

Robertson P. Dinsmore

AWARDS BY DATE OF ACTION: (see USCG Medal citation for heroic conduct on next page)

Robertson P. Dinsmore

AWARDS BY DATE OF ACTION:



Coast Guard Medal

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS
DURING Vietnam War

Service: Coast Guard

Rank: Commander

GENERAL ORDERS:

U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

CITATION:

(Citation Needed) - SYNOPSIS: Commander Robertson P. Dinsmore, United States Coast Guard, was awarded the Coast Guard Medal for heroic conduct on April 8, 1966 while serving on board the U.S.C.G.C. COOK INLET [WHEC-384], when he boarded the burning and abandoned Norwegian passenger vessel VIKING PRINCESS to search for 40 missing survivors. When advised of the disaster, the COOK INLET departed Guantanamo Bay to assist the Norwegian ship, afire in the vicinity of Windward Passage. Upon arrival, finding the ship burning violently and apparently abandoned. Commander Dinsmore demonstrated leadership, initiative, fortitude, and daring in spite of imminent personal danger during the entire operation. His unselfish actions, courage, and unwavering devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Coast Guard.