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# AFRAS NEWS

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SUMMER 2018



ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA, INC.

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*Honoring Heroes, Supporting Volunteers – AFRAS is a 501(c)3 charity.*

## ANNUAL AFRAS SEARCH AND RESCUE AWARD WINNERS SELECTED FOR HONORS



U.S. Coast Guard aviation rescue swimmer and victims aboard a Coast Guard helicopter during Hurricane Harvey rescue operations in the greater Houston, Texas, metro area Aug. 28, 2017. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Johanna Strickland.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Charles "Skip" Bowen, AFRAS President

Supporters of AFRAS! It has been an exciting year so far for the Association! For starters, we have been able to donate well over \$28,000 to the Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR), supporting their efforts to reconstitute their capability following last year's tremendous hurricane that impacted the Caribbean.

In addition, congratulations to Mr. Mark Cianciolo, Mr. Fair Kim and Mr. Joe Re for joining the AFRAS Board. Mark Cianciolo, a retired Marine Corps Colonel brings a wealth of experience to the Board representing McMurdo, Inc., a huge supporter of AFRAS. Retired Coast Guard Captain Joe Re also joined our team. Joe joined SevITech as the Director of Mission Solutions after a long and exemplary career in the U.S. Coast Guard. Fair Kim, a retired Coast Guard Commander, brings to AFRAS an extensive operational service background, as well as expertise in maritime policy objectives through his work at the Coast Guard's Office of Legislative

Affairs and now his work Policy Director and Counsel for the non-profit American Maritime Congress, in Washington DC.

Next, I would like to congratulate all of our 2018 award recipients. They will

be recognized at our annual Association for Rescue at Sea award reception, set for Thursday the 13th of September on Capitol Hill.

Finally, I will be stepping down as President of AFRAS at the end of my term in September. It has been a true privilege to serve the last three years. However, all organizations need fresh perspective from time to time and it is time for me to step down. I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish. I will remain part of this fantastic organization as a Director. Stay tuned for the announcement of a new President, and thank you!



## AFRAS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTORS

The Officers and Board of Directors would like to welcome Col. Mark G. Cianciolo (USMC Ret.), Capt. Joseph Re (USCG Ret.) and Cmdr. Fair Kim (USCG Ret.) to the AFRAS Board.

Cianciolo, a 31-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran, serves as Regional Vice President for Orolia Americas, which provides resilient positioning, navigation and timing solutions from Global Navigation Satellite System-based technologies. Cianciolo retired from the Marine Corps in 2008, during his last tour on active duty leading the planning and execution of worldwide aviation command, control, communications and intelligence (C4I) operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Re is a 31-year U.S. Coast Guard veteran now

serving as Missions Solutions Director at SevITech, an IT, engineering and program management consulting company. Re is also the Vice President of the National Capital Council of the Navy League, and spent eight years as President of Prince William Soccer, in Virginia, a club with more than 3,000 members whose volunteers provide coaching and support for children of all abilities to develop character, sportsmanship, teamwork and important life skills.

Kim currently serves as the Policy Director for the American Maritime Congress, an advocacy group dedicated to ensuring the nation maintains a robust maritime security posture through the U.S. Merchant Marine.

Cianciolo, Re and Kim begin their AFRAS Director terms after the annual Board of Directors meeting adjourns, in Washington D.C. Sept. 13.



## AFRAS CHAIRMAN VISITS CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTERS



AFRAS Chairman Dana Goward paid visits to Congressmen John Garamendi (top) and Duncan Hunter, both of California, after the 2017 Capitol Hill search and rescue awards ceremony to present tokens of appreciation for their continued support of our organization. Rep. Hunter sponsored the 2017 event and Rep. Garamendi attended to give remarks and present awards to honorees. Garamendi is a member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee; Hunter is Chairman of that Transportation and Infrastructure Committee subcommittee.



AFRAS President Charles "Skip" Bowen presents the C-Port Award to Capt. Lins at a ceremony in January 2018.

## 2018 SEARCH AND RESCUE AWARD WINNERS SELECTED

We are proud to announce the winners of our 2018 maritime search and rescue awards. Our Board of Directors pored through numerous submissions, detailing heroic rescues, throughout the first half of the year, selecting the following for honors:

**Vice Admiral Thomas Sargent III Gold Medal:** U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technician Third Class Brendan T. Kiley and Aviation Survival Technician First Class Matthew Silvious, for two separate rescues;

**Chairman's Award:** U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary crewmembers from District 13 Flotillas 8-2 and 8-4;

**Amver Award:** Captain and crew of the m/v Joanna;

**Amver Special Award:** Captain and crew of the m/v Hercules Leader;

**Cruise Ship Humanitarian Award:** Captain and crew of the Carnival Elation;

**C-Port Award:** Captain Nathan Lins, of TowBoat U.S., Catalina;

**CAR/SAR Award:** Crewmembers of the Dominican Naval Auxiliary Santo Domingo Flotilla and Air Unit.



# AFRAS THANKS THE CORPORATE SPONSORS OF THE 2018 CAPITOL HILL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

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AFRAS is also pleased to announce that it presented its C-PORT Award in January for an act of extraordinary skill and determination in saving a life in the maritime environment. This year's award was presented to: **CAPTAIN NATHAN LINS** of TowBoat U.S. Catalina

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