



Association for Rescue at Sea, Inc.



RICHARD THOMAS KENNEY, USCG-Amver (Ret.) Biography

Mr. Richard T. (Rick) Kenney is a native of Brooklyn, New York. He graduated with a B.A. Degree in English from St. John's University in New York in 1970, and earned a Master of Science Degree in Radio and Television Broadcasting from Brooklyn College in 1976. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps (1970-1972).

Mr. Kenney began his federal civilian career in 1974 with the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command, Atlantic, headquartered at the Brooklyn Army Terminal in New York. There he became intimately acquainted with the workings of the merchant maritime industry. The command subsequently relocated to the Military Ocean Terminal in Bayonne, New Jersey. As a personnel staffing specialist, he assigned merchant seamen to civilian-manned ships of the Navy. In this position, he developed skills in recruiting, advertising and public speaking, preparing him for his next assignment, in 1976, as Legislative and Public Affairs Officer on the Admiral's staff.

A 1980 Navy promotional opportunity brought him back to the personnel field and to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, as Civilian Personnel Officer for the 1,000 employees of the 21 U.S. Navy activities located in the New York Metropolitan Area, including Navy inspectors at the Sperry and Grumman defense manufacturing plants.

In 1988, a major reorganization of the U.S. Coast Guard offered yet another promotional opportunity. Mr. Kenney reported to Governors Island, New York as Chief of Staffing and Placement for the Coast Guard's 4,000 civilian positions on the East Coast. The duties of this position introduced him to civilian wartime mobilization planning. He designed a survey to profile the impact of a call-up of military reservists on local federal civilian employment, which was used as a model by Federal Executive Boards during escalating Persian Gulf hostilities. He later became the first Coast Guard civilian to qualify as a watchstander in a Crisis Action Center.

However, like the title character in the movie "Mister Roberts," Mr. Kenney longed to return to the operational maritime environment. His unique background in public relations and the merchant marine brought him to the position of Maritime Relations Officer, promoting the U.S. Coast Guard's Automated Mutual-assistance Vessel Rescue (AMVER) search and rescue program worldwide. In this position, he traveled extensively abroad, addressing government officials, shipowners, international maritime organizations and trade groups about the reciprocal advantages of AMVER participation for the commercial maritime industry and the safety of life at sea. In 1995, he was reassigned on temporary detail to the position of Atlantic Area Civilian Personnel Officer during the Cuban/Haitian refugee interdiction, then the largest Coast Guard mobilization since World War II. Mr. Kenney was awarded the DOT Medal for his response at "Ground Zero" for twelve hours

following the World Trade Center attack in New York City on 9/11/01. He retired from Government service in 2005.

Mr. Kenney has successfully completed the National Sealift Readiness Training Program at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and was an alternate selectee to represent the United States Coast Guard at the Naval War College. He is presently employed as Executive Director of the New York Council, Navy League of the United States. He is on the Board of Directors of the Veteran Wireless Operators Association. He is also a Past Grand Knight, Former District Deputy, and currently New York State Pro-Life Chairman of the Knights of Columbus.