

EULOGY FOR ROBERT DUNCAN

The time allotted us here on earth has lapsed for our shipmate, Robert Duncan, and we, his fellow members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, honor his memory.

Robert was a valued member of the Guam Flotilla, 140-02-24. During his Auxiliary career, which began in May 1993, he served the Auxiliary by performing excellently in the elected positions of Flotilla Vice Commander, Flotilla Commander, Division Vice Captain and Division Captain. He also served the Auxiliary well in the appointed positions of Flotilla Staff Officer Vessel Examiner, Marine Dealer Visitor, Member Training, and Public Education.

Robert was an exceptional and patient instructor; and, along with his wife, Hilda, who would almost always accompany him, they imparted their knowledge of the sometimes confusing topics of boating, boating laws, and boating related subjects to students in Auxiliary public education classes. Robert's presentations were always thorough, clear and understandable, which was very much appreciated by those enrolled in the classes.

Robert, along with Hilda, was also the solid base of our Flotilla's Vessel Safety Check program. And over the course of years, together they conducted thousands of vessel inspections on Guam, urging the owners to provide their vessels with not only the minimum required safety gear, but other devices which might, ultimately, be instrumental in saving lives.

Robert also served our Flotilla in many other capacities: by presenting boating safety programs to schools and CB units being deployed to neighboring islands, and by making time to stand watch at boating safety displays for numerous occasions such as the annual National Safe Boating Week, various Government and Military sponsored events, UOG's Charter Day celebrations, and, of course, by showcasing the Auxiliary's boat facilities in the Annual Liberation Day Parade. He, along with his grandchildren, would proudly "sail" the parade route, waving, distributing goodies, and always smiling. He was also always ready to help a fellow member to learn about their role in the Auxiliary, and guide them to qualify as a vessel examiner, or in another mission area.

While we honor and cherish the memory of our shipmate, Robert Duncan, it is for ourselves that we should mourn; for a good friend has slipped his moorings in the night and is no longer among us. We will miss his hand on the helm. We will miss his shoulder next to ours. We will miss his encouragement and counsel as we meet the storms of our life. We will miss his gentle nature and friendly persuasion.

We of the Coast Guard Auxiliary mourn our loss, but we are consoled by the abiding faith that, when the final watch changes for us and we too cross the bar, our shipmate will be waiting to guide us to safe anchorage. Adios, Robert. Adios amigo. Fair winds and following seas forever.