



**Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services**

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## **The RTCM Chuck Husick Memorial Award**

The 2012 Chuck Husick Memorial Award is awarded to

### **Captain John C. (Jack) Fuechsel**

for outstanding contributions to the marine industry and safety of the boating public, through development of marine radio and electronic navigation systems.

Captain Fuechsel has led the U.S. Global Maritime Distress and Safety System Task Force since its inception. Under his skillful and knowledgeable leadership, it has become the most important forum for surfacing important maritime telecommunications issues and finding ways to resolve them. He has skillfully communicated with thousands of Task Force members to engender thoughtful discussions and creation of effective courses for the way forward. Dozens for well-articulated position papers have been provided to regulatory agencies, members of the Congress and Executives branches to lay the foundations for policy changes and new programs to aid those on the water.

He has served on U.S. delegations to the International Maritime Organization where his unique leadership abilities and vast professional knowledge have been key elements of influence. He was instrumental in the development of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, which revolutionized distress and safety systems for the mariner. He worked vigorously and successfully to ensure the Sarsat-Cospas system would serve smaller vessels in addition to merchant ships. Absent his skillful leadership, they would not have become part of the system.

As a Coast Guard officer and a communications specialist, he led efforts to:

- Transition the Coast Guard's medium frequency system from 2670 KHz to the internationally recognized distress system on 2182 KHz.
- Consolidate Coast Guard small and obsolete radio stations to a much more modern system of communications stations that provided vastly superior services to the mariner and the operational Coast Guard

- Lay the foundation for a major policy decision to base the nation's short range distress system on VHF-FM vice Citizens Band radio which was loudly and incorrectly promoted by many; this system served the mariner for many years effectively, and laid the basis for the current Rescue-21 system.

As Commander, Coast Guard activities Europe, he oversaw the provision of Loran services throughout Europe and implemented new capabilities in several countries. This system made innumerable contributions to maritime safety and NATO defense efforts.

Captain Fuechsel's dedication, professionalism, and leadership are hereby recognized as a most worthy recipient of the first Chuck Husick Memorial Award.