



Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services

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The RTCM Chuck Husick Memorial Award

The 2014 Chuck Husick Memorial Award is awarded to
Rear Admiral Marshall E. (Ed) Gilbert, Retired
for outstanding contributions to the marine industry and safety of the boating public, through development of marine radio and electronic navigation systems.

RADM Marshall E. "Ed" Gilbert is hereby recognized by RTCM for his lifetime of contributions to maritime communications and related safety issues spanning over 35 years. Rear Admiral Gilbert was, and continues to be, in the forefront of work related to the IMO's Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

As Chief of Coast Guard Telecommunications beginning in 1981 to his promotion in 1986 to Rear Admiral, he was heavily involved in international regulatory matters on behalf of the United States. During that period, he headed the U.S. Delegation to the IMO Radiocommunications Subcommittee during which time the Subcommittee was formulating Rules for the new Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS); served as Senior Technical Advisor to U.S. Delegation to ITU World Administrative Radio Conference and served as the Coast Guard's member of the RTCM Executive Committee.

In those early days, there were many new technologies that had been developed such as 406 Mhz EPIRBs plus those still in relative infancy such as INMARSAT. All of this required both an expert knowledge of the capabilities of the new systems and the foresight necessary to implement the change of the century regarding communications at sea. To that end, RADM Gilbert proved himself more than equal to the task, and the success of the transition from Morse Code to GMDSS is a credit to men such as RADM Gilbert and an international host of others who worked tirelessly to develop the GMDSS.

Following his retirement in 1993, RADM Gilbert started the consulting firm Gilbert and Associates and immediately joined the RTCM as a member. Subsequently, he was appointed as a Charter Member of the Coast Guard sponsored GMDSS Task Force and has continued his involvement to this day.

RADM Gilbert has also continued his international work as an Industry Advisor to the USCG's delegation to the IMO COMSAR (NCSR) and is deeply involved with the GMDSS Task Force's GMDSS Modernization Group which is now part of an internationally approved IMO workgroup for modernization of the system that he worked to help develop originally.

Rear Admiral Marshal E. Gilbert, through his dedication, professionalism, and leadership, is hereby recognized as a most worthy recipient of RTCM's Chuck Husick Memorial Award*.

***This award honors the memory of Mr. Chuck Husick
who made lasting contribution to the
goals of the RTCM.**