



Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services

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The RTCM Chuck Husick Memorial Award

The 2016 Chuck Husick Memorial Award is awarded to

Mr. Ralph Sponar Jr.

For outstanding contributions to the marine industry and safety of the boating public through advocacy of marine radio and electronic navigation systems.

Mr. Ralph Sponar Jr. is hereby recognized by RTCM for his lifetime contributions to maritime telecommunications and related safety issues spanning over 40 years.

As a technical specialist and supervising officer in the U.S. Coast Guard for a full career, he supported Coast Guard operations and provided electronic navigation services to the maritime public.

Following his retirement from the Coast Guard in 1990, he bought United Radio Services of Baltimore, Maryland, a marine sales and service company serving government, commercial and recreational vessels. In this capacity, he also became an active member of the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA).

NMEA invited Ralph to represent their interests as liaison to the Coast Guard sponsored Task Force for Implementation of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) that operates through a contract with RTCM. In working with the GMDSS Task Force, Ralph became the leader of the Task Group dedicated to Service Agents and Manufacturers and served in that capacity through 2015.

In 2002, as a result of this association thru the GMDSS Task Force with RTCM, United Radio Services became a member of the RTCM and, in 2006, Ralph was elected to the RTCM Board of Directors.

While serving in capacities with NMEA, the GMDSS Task Force, and RTCM, Ralph soon became the contact person for information on real world practices relative to telecommunications systems on various classes of vessels.

Under his leadership, the Task Force addressed numerous industry problems including development of FCC approved inspection check lists and the elusive procedures for connecting GPS receivers to DSC radios. He is also well versed in FCC Regulations and has made valuable contributions to petitions to update these regulations.

Ralph Sponar Jr. 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.**