



Eric "Rick" Barrett

CWO4

USCG-Ret.

January 30, 2009

President
Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, USCG
200 V Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear CWO Joanne M. Lopez:

In accordance with Article II, Section 2.b. of the Association by-laws, I hereby nominate **CWO4 William "Bill" Mattoon, USCG-Ret.**, for Distinguished Membership in the CWOA. Since his promotion to Warrant Officer on March 1st, 1977, and becoming an Association member on April 1st, 1977 he has been a very strong and active supporter of the CWOA, and the Warrant corps as a whole. He holds the distinctive titles of: Past President, Vice President, and the last Purser title of the Association. CWO Mattoon was also a member of the Cape Island Chapter, Founder of the Little Club on the Prairie Chapter, and is currently an active member of the Rocky Coast Club Chapter. He continues to be active and has served with distinction in each chapter and the numerous Local Chapter, and Association Committees he has volunteered to serve on.

CWO Mattoon was transferred to Coast Guard Headquarters in 1992 and immediately distinguished himself by becoming active in leadership roles in the Association when he volunteered, and was appointed Purser from 1992-1993, at which time the office was disestablished. He was then elected to serve as Vice President of the Association in 1993 and served with then President, CWO4 George Borlase. Of noteworthy mention, they were the first CWOA Officers to approach the Chief of Personnel, Chief of Staff and the Commandant of the Coast Guard to establish a CWO Training Course. It was due to his efforts and support, of this program, that the program exists today. It goes without saying just how beneficial this has been to our Association Membership since its inception!

CWO Mattoon was then elected to the honorable position of President of the Association in 1994 and held the office with distinction for 3 years, until just prior to his retirement in 1997.

During the reign of his Presidency, he:

1. Established the presentation of the Sword Plaques to the top student of the newly established CG CWO Indoctrination Course in Pensacola, FL, and he presented the first plaque to be given.
2. Represented the CWOA at all of the graduations of OCS classes by presenting a sword plaque to the top students;
3. It was also during his tenure as President that the Academy established a new degree program, and he took advantage of this opportunity to bring a greater visible presence of the CWOA by presenting a watch to the top student in the Engineering Industrial Arts Program.
4. Probably one of his most significant acts while President was when the Coast Guard again was moving to bring the Warrant Officer Management Act (WOMA) into play. He recognized that with the state of the Coast Guard and the slow downsizing of personnel, he knew that we (the CWOA) would not be able to prevent WOMA from eventually being implemented. He did everything within his power to ensure that the Commandant and the Office of Personnel knew the concerns of the CWOA and that the same rules would be adhered to in the promotion process and that deep selection of officers would not be put in place to the detriment of the Warrants. He was instrumental in doing away with the temporary grade structure that had been so confusing over the years. As part of WOMA the 15-year mark as a warrant officer, which had been the permanent appointment to CWO-4, a retention board was put in the place allowing (basically) no change in the way the Warrant Officer Corps had been managed. This process took a number of meetings with the Office of Personnel to ensure that the Warrant Corps would not lose its status, importance, and standing traditions within the Coast Guard.

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5. CWO Mattoon was also one of two Warrant Officers to be selected to serve on the "first ever" Selection and Retention Board after (WOMA) was put in place; this was a very significant turn of events, in that this was the first time in Coast Guard History that a Warrant Officer had been part of a selection board for promotions of Warrant Officers.
6. The financial situation of the CWOA was on the decline, to the point that one of the annual meetings had to be horribly curtailed due to the lack of finances, which he vowed would never happen again. Under his direction, he and the Association Officers, the finance committee, and the Director began implementing changes in the investments methods. One move was to place the Scholarship funds in a rotating money market to improve the earning power of the funds and provide a greater amount of grant money available. Investments in US Savings Bonds and USAA mutual funds were chosen to provide a greater diversity of funds, which proved to be sound judgment, and are evidenced by the solid financial state our Association enjoys today.
7. It was also during his term as President that there was a near sinking of the Barge, improvements that were badly needed were identified, funded, and were accomplished. A process of depreciation was also established, and implemented to provide for more realistic valuation of the barge and the Association assets, which had not been done in previous years.

Also worthy of mention, CWO Mattoon was an advocate and instrumental in having the Scholarship selections committee moved out to the Chapters, on a rotating basis, to provide more chapter ownership in the program. Also, while President of the Little Club on the Prairie; he was an advocate for, and instrumental in moving the annual meetings out of Washington to host Chapters.

He continues to be active today in the Association and the Rocky Coast Club Chapter, by volunteering to be a member of (and is a driving force) the 2008/2009 By-Laws Committee.

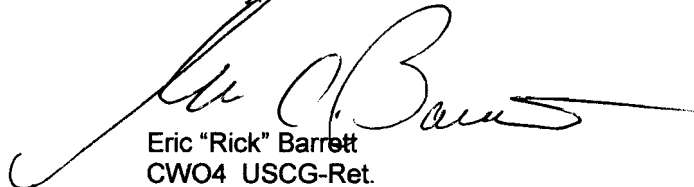
Before I close this letter, I would like to quote a comment made to me, in an email last year, dated *Wednesday, March 12, 2008* (just prior to the Annual Meetings):

"These are two of the best nominees we have had in several years." - Bob Lewis

This comment was made, by the Distinguished Member, Mr. Bob Lewis to me while he was referring to Bob Dudley's recommendations for Distinguished Member nominations of CWO Bill Mattoon and CWO Jerry Lewis!

It is my distinct honor to recommend and support CWO4 William (Bill) Mattoon, USCG, ret. for Distinguished Membership in the Chief Warrant & Warrant Officer Association. It has been a unique privilege to serve with him, and I feel very strongly that he is most deserving of this very "Long Overdue" recognition. I sincerely urge the Special Committee voting at our annual meeting in April to affirm his nomination.

Sincerely,



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