



Vice Adm. John Currier speaks during the vice commandant change of watch ceremony at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Tuesday, May 20, 2014. (U.S. Coast Guard photo Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley)

Vice Admiral John Currier, 28th Coast Guard Vice Commandant, Dies at Age 68

March 3, 2020 — Bridget Johnson

Vice Admiral John P. Currier, who served as the 28th vice commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard until his 2014 retirement, died March 1 at age 68.

Currier passed away accompanied by family at his home in Traverse City, Mich.

His Coast Guard career began in 1976 when he was commissioned from Officer Candidate School; he was designated a Naval Aviator in 1977 and logged more than 6,000 flight hours over his career. Currier stood the watch at six Coast Guard Air Stations throughout his decades as a Coastie; he was commanding officer of Air Stations Detroit and Miami, served as Pacific Area chief of operations, and became area chief of staff. Promoted to flag rank in 2005, Currier served as assistant commandant for acquisition at headquarters and then as commander of the 13th District in the Pacific Northwest. In 2009, he assumed the duties of the Coast Guard's chief of staff, and later transitioned that position to USCG's first deputy commandant for mission support.



VICE ADM. JOHN CURRIER ARRIVES AT THE ANCIENT ALBATROSS CHANGE OF WATCH CEREMONY VIA DOLPHIN HELICOPTER AT COAST GUARD AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY, JUNE 4, 2014. (U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS LEVI READ)

Currier assumed the position of vice commandant on May 18, 2012, relieving Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara. On May 20, 2014, Currier was relieved by Vice Admiral Peter Neffenger.

His awards include the Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Commendation Medal, and Achievement Medal. On July 14, 2011, he was designated the Ancient Albatross, the honor bestowed upon the longest-serving Coast Guard aviator on active duty.

The vice admiral's professional recognition included the Harmon International Aviation Trophy, the Alaska Air Command SAR Pilot of the Year Award, American Helicopter Society, Fredrick L. Feinberg Award and the Naval Helicopter Association SAR Aircrew of the Year, all awarded for rescue operations.

Currier was from Westbrook, Maine, and graduated from the University of Southern Maine before earning a master's degree in business from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He was a 1996 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Air War College.

Currier leaves behind his wife, Mary Jane, and their sons, Benjamin and Andrew.

A funeral Mass will be held March 6 at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 12675 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, 49686. Military honors will take place immediately following Mass with a luncheon afterward.

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Bridget Johnson is the Managing Editor for Homeland Security Today. A veteran journalist whose news articles and analyses have run in dozens of news outlets across the globe, Bridget first came to Washington to be online editor and a foreign policy writer at The Hill. Previously she was an editorial board member at the Rocky Mountain News and syndicated nation/world news columnist at the Los Angeles Daily News. Bridget is a senior fellow specializing in terrorism analysis at the Haym Salomon Center. She is a Senior Risk Analyst for Gate 15, a private investigator and a security consultant. She is an NPR on-air contributor and has contributed to USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, New York Observer, National Review Online, Politico, New York Daily News, The Jerusalem Post, The Hill, Washington Times, RealClearWorld and more, and has myriad television and radio credits including Al-Jazeera and SiriusXM.



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