

Lillian M. "Lil" Haines DSO-VE 1SR 2009

Lil has been the District Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations since 2003. When she first was appointed Vessel Examinations in the First Southern were in a steady decline. It took some doing, but she has been successful in turning the numbers around. Vessel Examinations showed an increase of 5% in 2004; 8% in 2005; 10% in 2006; 15% in 2007; and an outstanding increase in 2008 of 20%. She credits this to enhanced communication, strong management skills, and the cooperation of the 1SR Excom in approving suggested incentives. Special thanks go out as well to the superb work of our dedicated ADSO-VE's. Most have served for some time and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. **"First and Foremost"**, the success of the Vessel Examination Program goes to *the wonderful and dedicated members of the First District Southern Region.*

Lil has completely integrated the USCG Auxiliary as a part of her lifestyle. Along with her better half Mark Haines they have worked tirelessly to advance the missions of the USCG Auxiliary. The rewards have been immense and she always looks to share these experiences and opportunities, noting any member can achieve greatness if they have the desire.

Lil offers an extensive Auxiliary resume. Her achievements include past elected offices of Flotilla Commander 17-01 1983-1984, Division 17 Captain 1985 to 1986, and Division 24 Captain 2001, 2002. In addition Lil has held many staff positions in an effort to be a well rounded Auxiliarist.

These positions have included; FSO-SR, FSO-CM, FSO-PA, FSO-PB, FSO-MT, SO-MT, ADSO-MT, FSO-AN, SO-AN, FSO-OP, SO-OP, FSO-VE, FSO-FN, SO-FN, SO-CC, FSO-PE, SO-PE, FSO-IS and FSO-PS.

Lil is very proud of her achievements. Through the years she has qualified as Master Instructor, Vessel Examiner and Coxswain. Awards have been many, but some are especially prized. In 2006 Lil was awarded the President's Call to Service Award for volunteerism. She also earned the Commandant of the Coast Guard Personal Letter of Commendation for Outstanding Administrative Achievement as Division 24 Captain 2001, 2002. The 2002 DOT and USCG 911 Personal and Unit Commendations are most prized. After 911 Lil was SO-OP and worked tirelessly with the FSO-OP's within the Division to provide 24/7 coverage for Station New Haven. Lil and Mark spent many hours on the 373757, their vessel "Norddorf" during our nation's time of need.

Most recently Lil was again awarded the Auxiliary Commandant's letter of Commendation for performance of duty as DSO-VE from January 2007 to September 2008 for spearheading the efforts to perform quality VSC's within the First District Southern Region.

Ms. Haines has as active a professional life as she does as an Auxiliarist. A graduate of the University of Connecticut was followed with career as a Business Development and Outside Sales Executive for McBee Systems followed by Deluxe Financial Services. Deluxe you ask; the answer is the company with the red box you receive your checks from.

The greatest advice Lil can give to any member new or old is to think from the heart, decide what you want to contribute and GO FOR IT! This is the Best Volunteer Organization anywhere and your talents, whatever they are will be APPRECIATED.