

LINDA JOHANSEN

Coming from a long line of commercial fishermen, Linda Johansen came to the Academy with salt water in her veins and a fervent desire to go to sea which, unbeknownst to her in June of 1976, was not yet a CG guarantee. As a cadet, she majored in mathematics, participated in many and varied club activities, and was also a part of the Windjammers. She was perhaps most widely known at that time as the first woman to have commanded a Corps of Cadets at any of our nation's service academies.

Upon graduation, Linda spent the majority of her career afloat serving in buoy tenders, first as operations officer and navigator in BITTERSWEET in Woods Hole, MA, then as executive officer in RED OAK on the Delaware River. She returned to the academy as a company officer and, collaterally, as aide to two superintendents. Her final tour was as commanding officer of REDWOOD in New London where she earned her permanent Cutterman's Pin. Throughout her career she lived by the motto "mission first, people always." Among her awards, she is most humbled to have received the Jarvis Award for Inspirational Leadership and Professional Competence.

Linda's departure from the Coast Guard after ten years of commissioned service was a bit of a shock to all except those who knew her best. She moved on to a long and rewarding career in education, helping high school students make sense of mathematics and teaching them how to learn. She is proud that over a dozen of her former students have graduated from CGA and gone on to successful careers in the Coast Guard. When she retired from teaching, Linda shared these lines with her colleagues that are equally fitting for this occasion: "This learned I from the shadow of a tree that, to-and-fro, did sway upon a wall: our shadow selves – our influence – may reach where we ourselves can never be."

