

Commander John H “Jack” Olthuis

U. S. Coast Guard (retired)

Executive Director

United New York & United New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots’ Association



CDR Jack Olthuis began his career with the Sandy Hook Pilots as their Director of Training on October 1, 1997 following retirement from the U. S. Coast Guard after over twenty-one years of commissioned service. On February 1, 2014 he was named as their Executive Director. He is responsible for managing operations of the association’s maritime pilots who, as independent contractors, are licensed by and accountable to the States for the safe movement of all sea-going ships sailing in foreign trade arriving and departing from the Port of New York and New Jersey. This includes dispatch services, training, marine operations, licensing, public relations, marine information and navigational services. His duties also include providing waterways

management expertise to the Associations, representing them to federal, state and local entities such as the Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers and the National Ocean Service on areas as diverse as dredging, aids to navigation, marine traffic management, charting, hydrographic surveys, risk management and recreational boating safety and education.

CDR Olthuis enjoyed a diverse Coast Guard career as a sea-going operations specialist. He graduated from the U. S. Coast Guard Academy in 1976 with a degree in History/Government. He served five tours afloat including USCGC Alert, Cape May, NJ as a deck watch officer and USCGC Point Franklin, Cape May NJ as Commanding Officer. He also served aboard USCGC Salvia, Mobile, AL as Executive Officer before his assignment to USCGC Gentian, Atlantic Beach, NC as Commanding Officer. CDR Olthuis’ final assignment was as Commanding Officer, USCGC Vigorous home ported in Cape May, NJ. Other assignments included Commanding Officer, Vessel Traffic Service New York; Instructor at the USCG Officer Candidate School and on the Operations Staff of the Commander, USCG Atlantic Area then headquartered on Governors Island. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (2), USCG Commendation Medal (3), USCG Achievement Medal and the U. S. Department of Transportation 9-11 Medal, awarded to him as a civilian for service connected with the evacuation of lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001. CDR Olthuis holds a USCG Merchant Mariner’s License as Master, Steam or Motor Vessels on Not More Than 1600 Tons on Near-coastal Waters.

CDR Olthuis was born and raised in Midland Park, NJ where he lived and attended school until his departure for the U. S. Coast Guard Academy in June 1972. He received a Master’s Degree in Education from the George Washington University in 1984. He is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, the Navy League of the United States, the Military Officers Association of American, the American Society of Training and Development, the National Maritime Historical Society and St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Stone Harbor, NJ. He serves on the Executive Steering Committee of the Harbor Operations, Safety and Navigation Committee of the Port of New York and New Jersey. In 2006, then Governor Jon Corzine nominated and the State Senate confirmed CDR Olthuis to the New Jersey Council on Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs. CDR Olthuis has been married to the former Yvonne Genovese of Cape May, NJ for over 33 years. Jack and Yvonne have three children. Their oldest daughter Elise is a special education teacher in Cape May County, NJ. Their daughter Jamie is married and teaches second grade in Charlotte, NC. Their son Garrett graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia with a degree in dance and musical theater and the Jean Madeline Aveda Institute in Philadelphia and is a licensed cosmetologist working at a salon in center city Philadelphia. Jack and Yvonne have resided in Cape May Court House, NJ since 1996.

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