

ISLAND continued to improve the channel and keep it clear for further logistics operation.

From California to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, and back again, your perseverance and dedication over 20,000 miles of sailing and freezing temperatures, stormy and calm seas have been exemplary. Your professionalism and personal support of the mission are sincerely appreciated and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard, WELL DONE.



Commander Robert Farmer began his Coast Guard career in 1954 as an enlisted man. He served as a seaman in the USCGC WHITE LUPINE, then homeported in Detroit, Michigan. After attaining petty officer rank at the Ninth Coast Guard District Office, Cleveland, Ohio, he served in the USCGC TUPELO, Toledo, Ohio, until designated an Officer Candidate. Upon receiving a temporary commission from OCS in 1957, he was assigned as Operations Officer in the USCGC ACACIA, a 180-foot buoy tender, first homeported in Detroit, then in Port Huron, Michigan.

From 1960 to 1963, he gained served on the Ninth Coast Guard District Staff, this time as a Search and Rescue Controller in the District Rescue Coordination Center. There, he attained a permanent commission. After serving as Operations Officer in the Boston based, 311-foot ocean station vessels, USCGC HUMBOLDT and USCGC CASTLE ROCK, he commanded Coast Guard Group, Duluth, Minnesota from 1965 to 1967. In 1966 he earned a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree through independent study. From September 1967 to August 1969 he was Commanding Officer of the USCGC IRIS in Galveston, Texas.

In August of 1969 he assumed duties as Chief Readiness Branch of the Eighth Coast Guard District, New Orleans, Louisiana. Commander Farmer continued his off-duty education program and earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from LaSalle Extension University in December 1971. In 1973 he was graduated from the College of Naval Command and Staff, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, concurrently acquiring a Master of Marine Affairs degree from the University of Rhode Island at Kingston, Rhode Island. From September 1973 to August 1975, he was assigned as Executive Officer of USCGC MACKINAW and participated in the first fully extended navigation season in Great Lake History. As Chief, Readiness Branch, Twelfth Coast Guard District, San Francisco, from September 1975 to November 1976, he was assigned temporarily to USCGC BURTON ISLAND as Executive Officer for Operation Deep Freeze 77, and fleeted up to Commanding Officer in May 1977.

Mrs. Farmer is the former Mary Lou Marshall of Ferndale, Michigan, The Commander and his wife have 6 children, and make their home at Hamilton AFB, California.