

The Captain Hopley Yeaton Superior Cutterman Award

Hopley Yeaton was born near Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1740 and went to sea at an early age. He became a merchant captain as a young man and saw service in the Continental Navy during the War for Independence in 1776. He was active with the Sons of Liberty, served as an officer on board the Continental frigates *Raleigh* and *Deane*, and commanded the cutters *Scammel*, *New Hampshire*, and the *Governor Gilman* of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service.

Congress established the Revenue Marine—forerunner service to the U.S. Coast Guard—in 1790 at the behest of the first Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton. The Revenue Marine was initially comprised of ten cutters. On March 21, 1791, President George Washington appointed Hopley Yeaton as the first seagoing officer of the United States. Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson signed his commission. Captain Yeaton was assigned to command the Revenue Marine cutter *Scammel* for patrol duty along the coast from New Hampshire to Calais, Maine. His duties included countering smuggling and piracy and enforcing the maritime boundary with Canada. Captain Yeaton was also the first to propose formal training of young men for service aboard cutters. Today, Hopley Yeaton is regarded as the Father of the Coast Guard.

The Captain Hopley Yeaton Superior Cutterman Award annually recognizes one Coast Guard officer and one Coast Guard enlisted member who have most embodied the Coast Guard Core Values and contributed to furthering the Coast Guard's sea-going profession.

The Gold and Silver Ancient Mariners will present award plaques to the officer and enlisted award recipients at a Cuttermen's Call event at the annual Surface Navy Association National Symposium in Washington, D.C.

Award Criteria

The winner of this award will have made contributions in various dimensions, including (but not limited to) the following:

1. Permanent or temporary Cutterman with at least one year of sea time who is currently assigned to an afloat unit.
2. Played a direct role in the cutter's operational excellence
3. Made a significant contribution to the cutter's training and/or other administrative proficiency
4. Displayed exceptional leadership and adherence to Coast Guard core values
5. Exemplified the Cutterman "can-do" mentality
6. Distinguished him/herself through notable acts such as personal heroism or positive engagements with the public or professional mariners.
7. Displayed exceptional Cutterman skills/proficiency in the areas of ship handling, navigation, boat handling, deck operations, or cutter engineering.
8. Attained additional qualifications beyond normal expectations.
9. Increased sea duty attractiveness for his/her shipmates.

10. No NJP or other disciplinary actions within the previous five years.

Recommendations: The Coast Guard Cuttermen Association will solicit nominations via ALCOAST message annually. The award period will be adjusted based on the calendar year (January-December).

Nomination Procedures

- Nominations may be submitted by any Coast Guard member or civilian employee using the specified memorandum template, not to exceed two pages. Each nomination must be typed using Times New Roman (12 point) font with one inch margins. Do not deviate from the memo format.
- Nomination packages will include a Direct Access Personnel Data Extract (PDE).
- A signature endorsement from the recommended members' immediate chain of command must be included on memo (Unit CO/OIC). Note: If a cutter commanding officer is being nominated, the next level in the chain of command shall endorse the nomination.
- The nomination packages will be routed through the cutter's ADCON. No additional endorsement is required or desired from the ADCON, other than a forwarding signature. ADCONs can and should reject nominations that are not worthy of forwarding.
- The nomination package will be forwarded to COMDT CG-751 in accordance with the timelines specified in the ALCOAST. Specifically, scanned copies of signed/endorsed nominations may be sent by email to LCDR Craig Allen (craig.h.allen@uscg.mil).
- Please save PDF under the naming convention: cuttername_award_year (e.g. cgcingham_yeatonaward_2015)
- Address nominations mailed via USPS first class mail to the Coast Guard Cuttermen Association, c/o Commandant (CG-751), U.S. Coast Guard HQ, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE, Washington DC 20593-7907. Note: Commands using this method should allow sufficient time for security screening to meet the deadline.
- The National Cuttermen Association will convene a selection panel comprised of active duty officers, enlisted, and retired Cuttermen, representing all facets of cutter operations to review the nominations and make recommendations to the Coast Guard Cuttermen Association for approval.
- The winners will be announced via ALCOAST and will be recognized at the annual Surface Navy Association Symposium in Washington, DC in January of each year.