



Capt. David Herbert Freeborn USCG

July 2, 1935 - August 22, 2013

David H. Freeborn, age 78, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan passed away Thursday, August 22, 2013 at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey. David was born July 2, 1935 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to the late Earl and Reeta (VanDusen) Freeborn. David married Doreen Yost of February 22, 1969 in Ludington, Michigan. He graduated from Western Michigan University and is a distinguished alumnus of Lake Superior State University. David was a lifelong supporter and booster of Sault Sainte Marie high school and collegiate sports. After graduating from college he attended Coast Guard Officer Candidate School and upon graduation went to his first duty station as the operations officer on the cutter USCG Tupelo in Toledo, Ohio. After that he did a tour at the USCG station Sault Ste. Marie. His next assignment was as the Executive Officer on the sea going buoy tender USCG Cowslip out of Portland, Maine. After the USCG Cowslip David was assigned command of a LORAN station in the Philippines. While in the Philippines David traveled often to the leper colonies for US good will. After leaving the Philippines David served as the commanding officer of what was known as Group Houghton. David left Houghton for a tour in Vietnam as the Chief of Aids to Navigation and came back to the US as the Captain of the buoy tender USCG Woodrush based out of Duluth, Minnesota where he served as the Executive Officer. David's next tour was a Chief of Aids to Navigation for the Inland River System of the United States, based out of St. Louis, Missouri, formerly called District 2. Following that David was the Executive Officer on

the ice-breaker USCG Westwind, traveling to the Arctic Circle and Greenland in support of both Coast Guard and scientific missions. He later served in Washington D.C. at US Coast Guard Headquarters as a member of the Aids to Navigation team. David's next tour took him to Kodiak, Alaska as the Commanding Officer of the light icebreaker and medium endurance cutter USCG Storis serving across the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska and Pacific Ocean. David then moved to Cleveland, Ohio and served in the 9th District Aids to Navigation branch before coming home to Sault Sainte Marie. His final assignment was Commanding Officer of Group Sault (now known as Sault Sector) which covered all Coast Guard assets assigned to Lake Superior and the northern half of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. In addition, David's career included assignments such as the support of rebuilding the aids to navigation system on the Suez Canal with Egypt after the October War of 1973 and working with the government of Haiti. David retired in 1986 and after refining his golf game for a few weeks he joined his wife at Tri-County Appraisals, working with her in a second career till 2004. David is survived by his wife: Doreen (Yost) Freeborn of Sault Ste. Marie, MI; children: Robert (Katie) Freeborn of New York City, NY, Timothy (Braudi) Freeborn of Dearborn, MI; grandchildren: Miranda, Amber, Grace, and Andrew; one sister: Susan Trombley of Sault Ste. Marie, MI. David was preceded in death by his parents: Earl and Reeta Freeborn; and brother-in-law: James Victor Trombley. A memorial serviced will be held 11:00 am on Saturday August 24, 2013 at at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home with Mark Gabbard officiating. Friends may call at the funeral home from 10:00 am until the time of services. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left Lake State Athletic Fund, USO, or the charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

CW

“*"Dynamite Dave" was my first, and best, CO in the Guard. https://content.fbed1-1.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/27540256_421633964939508_5415994708289288615_n.jpg?oh=051c801cacc8f8334d828bcbaf3d4db3&oe=5AE34BC5*”

Chris Van der Wolk - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LT

“*Finest skipper I ever sailed under. Even 30 years later, I've never segued under a better boss on land. I just found out about his passing. The world is a smaller place without him.*”

Len Turk - February 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RA

“*I am saddened to learn today that my former ship's captain is no longer with us. I served with him on the USCGC Storis (WMEC38) in 1979. I came aboard shortly after he had taken command and I quickly learned that he was always concerned about the welfare of his crew. Once a month or so he would go to the enlisted men's galley and with his fellow officers, he served pizza and other treats to the crew from behind the serving line. I was fairly new to the Coast Guard and really felt like I was part of something special because he took the time to think about his crew. My thoughts are with his family and even though I know he is in a better place, I feel the world is a less desirable place to live in without him.*”

Ron Akers - August 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Rob, I never met your dad, but if you are anything like him, then surely he was a wonderful man. He must have been very proud of you.

Marianna Rothbard - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Doreen, just read about the capt.
Sorry to hear of your loss. He was a great Skipper, and one of the greatest. Skippers I have every had. May he sail the seas
And have smooth sailing.

Your friend

Karl Behnke

Karl. Behnke - November 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I served aboard the Westwind 74 to 76 didn't have the pleasure but once you are an icebreaker men always and ice breaker men rest in peace captaine

John R Hill BM2 - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Doreen, We are so sorry to hear of David's passing. You are in our thoughts.

Dan & Deb Green - August 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ So sorry to hear about Dave and am sending my thoughts and prayers to his family.

Arlene Cagle - August 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Doreen and family -
Know that my heart is with your family. God's peace to you.

Pamela Chipman Andersen - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Dear Family. Thank you for your sacrifices during David's amazing USCG career. I am in gratitude to his service, especially at Houghton Portage. I would love to know the dates of his service here. I am on the Maritime Committee of the Keweenaw County Historical Society and interested in those serving at Station Portage and Station Eagle Harbor. My thoughts and prayers to the family.

Barb Koski - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Full many a sailor points with pride
To cruises o'er the ocean wide;
But they cannot compare with me,
For I have sailed the Bering Sea.
While though you've weathered fiercest gale
And every ocean you have sailed;
You cannot a salty sailor be
Until you've sailed the Bering Sea

Captain Freeborn you will forever in our hearts

Daniel Service - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ My deepest condolences to Doreen and her family on the loss of Dave. I met Dave only once at a party that Dave and Doreen hosted for the local amateur radio community. Dave took the time to show a few of us "hams" how he could watch marine traffic around the world, on his computer. I found Dave to be a charming and engaging man, despite the difficulties of his illness. Now, when my radio friends speak of the AIS system Dave used on his computer, I think fondly of that afternoon spent with him.

Brent MacMillan VE3OTL

Brent MacMillan - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ To the family of David Freeborn:

Our deepest sympathy to each of you as you cope with the loss of your loved one. We hope your memories and family support will help you through this difficult time.

We will miss David too. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

John and Jeri Campbell - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ *To the family of David Freeborn*

David was a fine man. A college graduate who had an impressive career in the USCG rising to Captain and Commanding Officer with assignments all over the world.

He loved Tiger baseball, Lions football and Red Wing hockey. He followed all LSSU sports, was a member of the alumni, and enjoyed all Eastern UP high school games.

He also loved travel and spent winters in Orange Beach, Alabama, playing golf and dining on Oysters. He enjoyed watching the ships travel along the St. Marys River in front of his Soo home.

A very friendly and personable man. Devoted to family, humble in all aspects. It was a pleasure to know him and an honor to be his friend.

Kathy & Charlie Nye - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *David and I were fellow Coast Guard officers, serving together at CGHQ and in the 9th CG District. David was my successor as the Commanding Officer in Sault Ste. Marie in 1984.*

David was a true friend loved by many. He will be sorely missed.

I regret I will be unable to attend the memorial service.

Leonard W. Garrett - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM