

Nomination of Wiliford C. Mintz, RMC (retired), for consideration of 100 Great Coast Guard Chiefs

RMC Mintz enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1950 and attended basic training in Groton, CT. Upon graduation he was assigned to the USCGC CHEROKEE (WAT-165) in Norfolk, VA. SN Mintz attended radio school in 1951 and was assigned to the USCGC ACHUSHNET (WAGO-167) in Ketchikan, AK. Petty Officer Mintz advanced through the ranks over the years completing tours at USCG Radio Station, Washington DC; Fifth CG District; USCGC CHINCOTEAGUE (WAVP-375); USCG Radio Station, Norfolk VA and in 1960 he was advanced to Chief Radioman. His first assignment as a CPO was CG Loran Station, Carolina Beach NC. In 1962 RMC Mintz was selected to be a plankowner of Loran Station, Marcus Island, Japan.

On Marcus Island RMC Mintz was critical in the establishment of the loran station and the 1,350 ft antenna (this mast until 1985 was one of the tallest structures in the Pacific area) that was critical for the safe navigation of U.S. Warships and U.S. allies operating in the isolated area. RMC Mintz was responsible for the well-being of 22 enlisted members while assigned to the most isolated duty station in the service. Marcus Island is located 700 miles Southeast of Japan and has an area of 740 acres. The station was in service for thirty years and decommissioned in 1963. It was turned over to the Japanese government.

After the completion of his assignment on LORANSTA Marcus Island RMC Mintz was assigned to the Seventh Coast Guard District and later CG Air Station St. Petersburg, FL. He retired from service on April 22nd 1970. He was the first of three generations to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard. His son, Winkie Mintz, served for four years in Chincoteague, VA and his grandson, Jason Norris is currently serving as Officer in Charge of CG Station Wachapreague.