



Dear Maritime Community,

I regret to inform you that Rear Adm. Floyd "Hoss" Miller passed away the morning of Aug. 15. He is survived by his son and daughter and their families.

Rear Adm. Miller graduated from Fort Schuyler in 1953 and returned to his alma mater, serving as president from 1982 to 1995 after a successful 29-year career in the U.S. Navy. He remains one of the longest-serving presidents in Maritime's history and his contributions to his alma mater have had a lasting impact that are still felt today.

Rear Adm. Miller entered the Navy after graduation and served in various leadership positions including as commanding officer of a destroyer, first commanding officer of the nuclear powered cruiser California, commander of a cruiser destroyer group, and commander of the U.S. Naval Recruiting Command. It was there, as he tried to recruit Maritime College students to the Navy, that he reconnected with his alma mater. He was promoted to rear admiral in 1977 and retired from the Navy in 1982.

As president of Maritime College, Rear Adm. Miller coined the phrase, "First and Foremost," to distinguish the college among its peers. This mantra continues today. His hands-on leadership style resulted in a strong regiment of cadets and an increase in minority enrollment. In 1990, his efforts resulted in the college receiving the Training Ship Empire State VI, which recently returned from yet another successful summer sea term.

He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Maritime Industry Museum at Fort Schuyler, which provides a unique opportunity to learn more about the maritime industry and history. Since its opening, the museum has welcomed thousands of school groups and other visitors.

As a Maritime community, we are grateful for all that Rear Adm. Miller did for our college. Though we have lost a great friend and leader, I am confident that his influence and the fond memories many of us have of him will remain strong for years to come.

On behalf of the entire SUNY Maritime College community, Kim and I send our sincere condolences, prayers and best wishes to Admiral Miller's family and friends. We will send information about services and how to send letters of condolence to the family when arrangements have been made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Alfultis". The signature is written in a cursive style.

RADM Michael Alfultis, USMS, Ph.D.
President
State University of New York, Maritime College