



## **Vice Admiral Vivien S. Crea, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret)**



Vice Admiral Vivien S. Crea retired after 36 years in the Coast Guard on 1 October 2009, serving as the Vice Commandant since 2006. As second in command and Chief Operating Officer of the Coast Guard, she oversaw the operations management of the organization and was responsible for the efficient and effective daily functioning of the Service, development of Coast Guard policies, mission execution, and mission support delivery. As the Component Acquisition Executive, Vice Admiral Crea provided acquisition program management oversight and guidance to ensure regulatory and statutory requirements are fulfilled for all acquisitions. She chaired the Coast Guard's Flag and Senior Executive Leadership Council. She is the first woman of any service to ascend to the post of second in command of an armed service. Vice Admiral Crea was also the Coast Guard's 21st "Ancient Albatross," the longest serving, active-duty Coast Guard aviator.

Prior Flag assignments include Commander of Atlantic Area and Coast Guard Defense Forces East where she was the operational commander for all of the Coast Guard activities from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf. As the First District Commander she oversaw all Coast Guard missions across eight states in the Northeast and 2,000 miles of coastline from the U.S.-Canadian border to northern New Jersey.

Vice Admiral Crea previously served as the Coast Guard's Chief Information Officer & Director of Research and Development, and on the Board of Trustees for the Coast Guard Academy. She was the Chief of the Coast Guard's Office of Programs for budget development, oversight and advocacy. She also served as the Coast Guard's Military Aide to President Reagan, and was the Executive Assistant to the twentieth Commandant of the Coast Guard. She commanded Air Stations Clearwater and Detroit, along with numerous other operational aviation assignments, flying the HC-130 Hercules turboprop, the HH-65 Dolphin helicopter, and the Gulfstream II jet.

Vice Admiral Crea's personal awards include the Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal, Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards), and others. Designated Coast Guard aviator #1820, she earned her naval aviator wings (pilot) in 1977, and is one of a few Coast Guard pilots who were also sent to USAF navigator school, where she earned her wings of silver (navigator).

Vice Admiral Crea is a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Sloan Fellow. She holds master's degrees from MIT and Central Michigan University, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas, where she was selected as a 2009 University of Texas Distinguished Alumni. She has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the National Graduate School and an honorary master's from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.