



Connecticut Harbor Management Association

December 6th 2011

Ron D. Aliano Leadership Award

to

Patrick L. Carroll

Harbor Master for Southport Harbor in the Town of Fairfield

The Ron D. Aliano Leadership Award is presented to an individual who has shown leadership, initiative and made significant contributions to advancing the cause of managing Connecticut's ports and harbors. Ron Aliano was one of the founding members of the Connecticut Harbor Management Association who passed away in 2009. This award is presented in his honor. The CHMA Board of Directors first presented this award last year at its 15th Annual Meeting. Mr. Ed O'Donnell, Chief of the Navigation Section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' New England District was the first recipient of the Award. Ed is here tonight and continues to assist and educate us in many ways. In addition, the Board of Directors presented a plaque to the City of Norwich in memory of Ron's significant contribution to advancing the cause of managing our harbors in the public interest. That plaque hangs in their City Hall.

At this time, it is my pleasure to announce that the Board's selection as the second recipient of the Ron D. Aliano Leadership Award is Capt. Patrick L Carroll Jr., Harbor Master for Southport Harbor in the Town of Fairfield. Unfortunately, Pat has some health issues and could not be here tonight. But that will not stop us from praising the qualities of this remarkable man. Representatives of the Fairfield Harbor Management Commission are here to accept the award on his behalf.

Pat is a lifelong resident of the Town of Fairfield; a World War II Veteran who served in the European Theater of Operation and then remained in the U.S. Army Reserves until 1968 when he retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel. After the War, he returned to Fairfield and joined the Police Department. He served the public as a police officer for 30 years, retiring as Captain. His many accomplishments are clearly a tribute to his overall legacies. Pat created the Fairfield Police Athletic League, was President of the Wakeman Boys and Girls Club, served as Fairfield Fire Commissioner and Shellfish Commissioner. He is a 70 year member of the volunteer Fairfield Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 and has been its Chief since 1984. He is a leader for all local Veteran's activities and organizations and was Master of Ceremonies for the Fairfield Memorial Day Parade for over 20 years. Always an avid boater, fisherman, and hunter, he is the outdoor columnist for Fairfield's two local newspapers, was a charter member of the Citizens Advisory Council to the Connecticut DEP, and served for many years as a member of the New England Fishery Management Council. He has received the highest awards given by the Town for contributions to the community.

In 1992, Pat received his "calling" and got the opportunity to apply ALL of his past experiences to ONE job when Governor Lowell Weicker appointed him as Harbor Master for Southport. When Governor M. Jodi Rell reappointed him some years later she simply said "Pat has spent his life looking for ways to give back to Fairfield and to the State of Connecticut and I thank him very much."

When Pat became Harbor Master, the Fairfield Harbor Management Commission was involved in a difficult 10-year process to prepare and adopt the Town's Harbor Management Plan for Southport Harbor. Southport Harbor adjoins a National Historic District and is served by one of the first Congressionally authorized navigation projects in the United States. In the 1700s, Southport was one of Connecticut's major ports. Today, it is a center of recreational boating activity and one of the most scenic locations on the coast. Because of Southport Harbor's idyllic setting, the exceptional value of its natural and historic resources, coupled with the pressures for access to the harbor, management of the harbor at times has been very challenging. Issues that are often inconsequential within larger harbors become greatly magnified and, at times, highly contentious within Southport.

When the Town finally adopted its Harbor Management Plan in 1995, Pat played a major role. Working closely with the Harbor Management Commission, he helped develop solutions to what seemed to be unsolvable conflicts among the Town, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the DEP. Pat also served as the main conduit for open dialogue of those solutions with the general public. That's because there are very few people in Fairfield who don't know him and absolutely no one who doesn't have respect for Pat's devotion to his office and duties as Harbor Master.

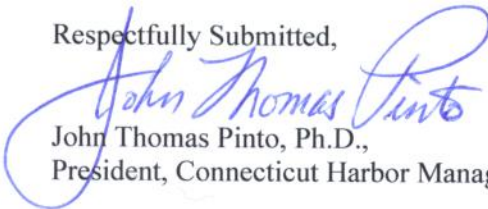
But of course, management of the Harbor doesn't end with adoption of a Harbor Management Plan. Having a Plan is the beginning of what Pat recognizes as an ongoing and ever challenging process. He helps maintain a safe and beneficial use of Southport Harbor and strives to protect its natural and historic resources while trying to balance the need for recreational boating and access to the harbor in the public interest. Important decisions impact Southport Harbor every day and Pat is involved in virtually all of them.

Some of those decisions involve the management of boat moorings. There are about 150 permitted mooring locations in the small Harbor and about that number of people on the waiting list for mooring permits from the Harbor Master. Pat deals personally with everyone with a permit and everyone on the list, resolving disputes and seeing to it that the Harbor Management Commission's mooring rules are properly enforced.

But managing moorings is only part of Pat's responsibilities for helping the Fairfield Harbor Management Commission implement the Harbor Management Plan. For almost 20 years he has brought the same exceptional personal qualities to every harbor management task, whether it be dredging, improvement of public access facilities, protection of shellfish resources, and review of property owners' plans for docks, piers, and seawalls. Those qualities include fairness, honesty in policy, and good judgment, along with respect for everyone. And that's why he's trusted and respected by everyone in return.

As we continue to pursue positive changes in the way Connecticut manages its ports and harbors, we're grateful for Pat's leadership, initiative and dedication, and for the example he sets for all of us. For these reasons, I wish to present to him the Connecticut Harbor Management Association's Ron D. Aliano Leadership Award for 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Thomas Pinto, Ph.D.,
President, Connecticut Harbor Management Association