

# COMMANDING OFFICER



## Captain Robert Walker Durfey

Robert Walker Durfey was born in Oak Park, Ill. on Feb. 7, 1925, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Durfey. He attended Emerson Elementary School in Oak Park, and then graduated from Oak Park High School in 1942. He entered the U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn. in 1944 after attending Purdue University for two years, and was graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree and was awarded a Coast Guard commission on June 4, 1948.

His initial Coast Guard assignment was as a watch officer aboard the **CUTTER YAKUTAT**, an ocean station vessel operating out of Portland, Maine. Two years later he was transferred to the **CUTTER COWSLIP**, also out of Portland, first as a deck watch officer and later as executive officer.

From 1951 to 1952 he was a student and then an instructor at the Coast Guard Training Detachment at Camp Gordon, Ga. The next year was spent as a student engineer and then engineer officer aboard the **CUTTER MATAGORDA**, out of Boston.

Durfey was assigned as an instructor and company tactics officer at the Coast Guard Academy from 1953 until 1957, when he became engineer officer aboard the **CUTTER ABSECON**, out of Norfolk, Va. Two years later he began a four year stint in the Naval Engineering Division in Coast Guard Headquarters, Wash. D.C. From 1963 until 1965 he was executive officer of the **CUTTER DEXTER** based at Alameda, Calif., and he then became search and rescue officer on the staff of Commander, Coast Guard Western Area, in San Francisco.

The then Commander Durfey attended the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. in 1967, and then remained on until 1970 as an instructor and Coast Guard Liaison Officer. During that same period he studied at the George Washington University Center in Newport until 1968, when he was awarded a master of science degree in International Affairs. He became commanding officer of the Coast Guard **CUTTER RUSH**, stationed at Alameda, during July 1970.

Captain Durfey is married to the former Sally McCracken of Los Angeles. They have three children.