

Commanding Officer



CAPTAIN W. M. BENKERT, USCG

William M. Benkert was born on April 24, 1923, in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Horace Greeley High School, Chappaqua, New York, and was appointed to the Coast Guard Academy in July, 1940. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering and was commissioned an Ensign in June, 1943.

From the Academy he was assigned to the **CGC Haida**. From 1944 to 1946, he was stationed aboard the **CGC Aurora** as Executive Officer and later, Commanding Officer. From August 1946 until October 1947 he was Commanding Officer of the **CGC Ewing**.

In December 1947 he was assigned to the Marine Inspection Office in San Francisco. From there he became Executive Officer and later, Commanding Officer of **CGC Coos Bay**. From November 1953 to March 1957 he was stationed at the Academy as a head instructor in Merchant Marine Inspection. He was then transferred to the **CGC Minnetonka** as Commanding Officer. In June 1959 he was stationed at MIO San Diego. After serving at Headquarters Washington, he became Commanding Officer of the **CGC Eastwind** on August 13, 1965.