

Holyoke native is Coast Guard commanding officer in Astoria

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Douglas Kaup, son of Marian Kaup of Holyoke, recently assumed the esteemed position of commanding officer of United States Coast Guard Group/Air Station Astoria in Astoria, Ore.

Kaup is formerly of Holyoke, where he spent many days in his youth farming with his parents, until his graduation from Holyoke High School in 1975. He was married to Deborah Uptegrove, a 1981 Holyoke graduate, in 1986. Uptegrove is the daughter of Justine Likens of Holyoke.

Kaup attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins, graduating in 1979 with a bachelor of science degree in industrial construction management. Right away, he began serving his country as an Army aviator. In 1986 he was selected as a Coast Guard Direct Commission Aviator.

Now, 23 years later, Kaup continues to serve in the Coast Guard, now as commanding officer. In a Change of Command Ceremony held Friday, July 24 at the Air Station, he addressed the many supporters and community members in attendance, accepting his new position.

In his years with the Coast Guard, Kaup has held positions in states across the country. He first served in California, followed by Alabama, Alaska, North Carolina and now Oregon.

In 1998 Kaup received a master of science degree in industrial administration at Purdue University. He has earned a number of awards including two Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Medals and two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, among other recognitions. In 2001 he received the Coast Guard Helicopter Rescue Award for rescuing a stranded fisherman.

Kaup and his wife Deborah have three children, Levi, 19, Johanna, 16 and Jacob, 13.