

# Charles H. Kinnear II - 2023 Biography

Maritime Executive, Consultant, Surveyor, Military Officer



6 Years:	Expert Witness and Consultant
7 Years:	Owner - Reliable Maritime Solutions, LLC
8 Years:	Owner - Kinnear Maritime Services, LLC
1 Year:	President - Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line
5 Years:	President - Celebration Cruise Line
3 Years:	President - Celebration Cargo Line
3 Years:	DNV Senior Classification Surveyor
8 Years:	U.S. Coast Guard - Senior Marine Inspector
18 Years:	U.S. Coast Guard - Rescue and Law Enforcement

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## Introduction:

**Charles H. Kinnear II**, better known as “Charlie”, has one of the most unique and in-depth backgrounds in the maritime industry. As a U.S. Mariner with 40 years of experience as a U.S. Coast Guard Officer, Classification Surveyor, Maritime Executive, Independent Surveyor, and Consultant, he has earned a reputation for integrity and loyalty. Since 2015, Charlie has made his vast experience, dedication, and in-depth knowledge of the maritime environment available as a Surveyor, Consultant, and Expert Witness. His career started in 1980 when he joined the U.S. Coast Guard and now encompasses a wide range of experiences.

## Career Summary:

**2015-Present: Owner Reliable Maritime Solutions, LLC.** Charlie formed Reliable Maritime Solutions (RMS) after the successful startup of a second cruise line, parlaying thirty years of experience and knowledge into his own company. With an extensive network of qualified and highly experienced individuals, Reliable Maritime Solutions offers a wide range of services, including maritime consulting, expert witness, ship and project management, compliance management, and training. RMS has conducted numerous pre-purchase and valuation surveys on passenger and cargo vessels, assisted with various issues with Maritime Authorities, and provided consulting services to operations of all sizes. As a third-party auditor, Charlie provided in-depth and effective environmental compliance audits worldwide for a high-profile environmental criminal case. These audits identify vulnerabilities onboard the vessels and gaps in the company’s policies and procedures. These efforts were critical in reducing the risk of potential violations and harm to our precious oceans.

**2014-Present: Owner of Kinnear Maritime Services, LLC.** After resigning as President of Celebration Cruise Line, Charlie formed Kinnear Maritime Services (KMS). The company was quickly sought after for surveying, consulting, and project management by companies such as Royal Caribbean. KMS also served as a vessel agent and stevedore for the Port of Palm Beach until 2016 and now operates as a Consulting and Expert Witness firm. To date, Charlie has served as an Expert Witness in numerous maritime cases, including Charter mitigation, Jones Act, and passenger injury cases.

**2014-15: President Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line.** Late in 2014, Charlie was invited to take on the role of President again and participate in the startup of the new company “Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line”, now known as “Margaritaville at Sea”. The new line operated one of the largest independent cruise ships on the high seas. The purchase took place on December 2014 and, under Charlie’s expert guidance, was brought into service in less than forty-five days, passing all safety and compliance inspections in record time, including a change of owner, flag, classification society, and an initial U.S. Coast Guard exam. The new line started operations from Port of Palm Beach to Grand Bahamas Island in February 2015, exceeding expectations.

**2010-14: President Celebration Cargo Line.** Charlie was responsible for creating Celebration Cargo Line and negotiated all services and agency contracts. As General Manager and President of the new line, he managed all U.S. and Bahamian operations. In just 3 years, the newly formed company exceeded all financial expectations and had a growing manifest of cargo to Grand Bahama Island.

**2009-14: President Celebration Cruise Line.** Served as President for the newly formed Celebration Cruise Line, responsible for all aspects of management for the shoreside and vessel operations, including Finance, Marketing, Sales, Hotel, Casino, and Marine Operations. Also acted as the direct liaison to U.S. and Bahamian authorities. During the startup operations in Port Everglades, and later when the entire operation moved to the Port of Palm Beach, Charlie played the lead role in negotiating all port and service contracts for the new operation, completing the change of home port in less than forty days. Despite the economic downturn at the time and the challenges of managing an independent cruise line, during Charlie’s tenure, the company thrived, boasting a 95% occupancy, a 5-star rating, and profit margins that exceeded expectations.

**2006-09: Senior Passenger Ship Surveyor, Det Norske Veritas (DNV).** After receiving some of the Coast Guard’s highest awards in recognition for dedicated service, Charlie retired from the USCG and took another leadership role as a senior surveyor and instructor with Det Norske Veritas (DNV) Passenger Ship Center. He was involved in instructing courses and conducting complex surveys throughout Europe and the U.S. He was responsible for surveying some of the newest and largest ships operating at the time, ensuring compliance and safety of passengers/crew.

**2002-06: U.S. Coast Guard Senior Marine Inspector.** Charlie’s passion for the Cruise Industry led him to Miami as a lead instructor and inspector for the USCG National Cruise Ships Center of Excellence, where he launched a career that would profoundly influence the industry. Charlie conducted courses for USCG Inspectors, Ship Managers, and Class Surveyors from around the world. He also conducted numerous initial new build inspections on Passenger Ships in European Yards as well as numerous exams on older vessels returning to U.S. service.

**1998-02: Marine Safety Office New York.** After serving in command positions for nine years, Charlie earned a Congressional Commission to Chief Warrant Officer and entered the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Program in New York. As a Senior Marine Inspector, he conducted hundreds of SOLAS inspections on small and large U.S. Passenger Vessels, including vintage wood boats. He was also the Lead Inspector for foreign-flagged Product Tankers, LNG Vessels, Chemical tankers, and some of the largest cruise ships operating in the world at the time. Following the 9/11 attacks, he assisted with organizing and managing USCG units and all vessels entering the New York Area. As the lead MARPOL Inspector, he was directly responsible for criminal Oily Water Separator bypass investigations working closely with the U.S. Attorney, DEA, U.S. Marshals, and Customs.

**1982-98: U.S. Coast Guard Operational Experience.** Charlie's Coast Guard operational career included twelve years of sea time on three different Cutters. During that time, he served as a Rescue Swimmer, Law Enforcement Boarding Officer, Team Member, Boatswain's Mate of the Watch (BMOW), Quarter Master of the Watch (QMOW), Officer of the Deck, Executive Petty Officer (XPO) and Officer in Charge (OIC). He also served eight years ashore as a Small Boat Crewman, Coxswain, Training Officer, Boarding Officer, Operations Officer, and Executive Petty Officer.

**1980-82: U.S. Coast Guard Presidential Honor Guard.** Upon completing basic training, Charlie was selected to serve in the Presidential Honor Guard in Washington DC, conducting ceremonies at the White House, Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery, and D.C. area. He was issued a **Top-Secret** Clearance at age 20 and maintained it for 30 years. During this time, he also participated in the recovery operation during the crash of Flight 90 in the Potomac River.

**Conclusion:** Charlie has been in management and leadership roles for his entire diverse and far-reaching career. He has played a key role in successfully starting two cruise lines and a cargo line and served as President for all three. He has used his considerable experience and leadership skills to successfully operate his own companies assisting the Maritime Industry in a multitude of disciplines, including consulting, Dry Docking and maintenance, expert witness, surveying, and training.

**Skills and Knowledge:**

- Experienced Manager and Leader: In management and leadership positions for over 35 years.
- Received formal training in numerous areas of management, leadership and training.
- Experienced with Multi-National situations and work environments.
- Experienced and skilled at negotiating large contracts with Government and Maritime service providers.
- In depth knowledge of international and domestic regulations.
- High level of computer skills in operating systems, Microsoft Office applications and limited networking.
- Experienced managing large and small budgets.

**Speaker and Publication:**

- Several live and taped television and newspaper interviews.
- Experienced Speaker/Instructor with hundreds of hours of podium time.
- Published in several Coast Guard publications and informational letters, including "USCG Proceeding".
- Guest or keynote speaker at numerous formal events including "Maritime Day" at UN Facility New York.

**Awards and Citations:**

(1) Department of Transportation 9/11 Medal	(2) National Defense Service Medal	(1) Global War on Terror Service Medal
(2) Humanitarian Service Medal	(6) Coast Guard Good Conduct Medals	(5) USCG Special Operations Service Ribbon
(1) Coast Guard Commendation Medal	(2) Coast Guard Achievement Medal	(2) DOT Outstanding Unit Award
(3) Commandant Letter of Commendation	(4) USCG Sea Service Ribbon	(5) USCG Unit Commendation Award
(2) USCG Meritorious Team Commendation	(1) Bicentennial Unit Commendation	(1)USCG Pistol Marksman Ribbon
(2) USCG Meritorious Unit Commendation	(1) USCG Rifle Expert Medal	

**College Level Training & Education:**

USCG Senior Marine Inspector Course	DNV Hull General design and surveying	USCG Passenger Control Verification Course
USCG Rights/Human Relations Awareness	DNV Machinery General	USCG Wooden Boat Inspection
USCG Sexual Harassment Prevention	DNV Electrical Systems	DNV Thrusters for Propulsion
USCG Law Enforcement Officer Course	DNV Control and Monitoring Systems	DNV Survey Arrangements Machinery
USCG Rescue Summer Course	DNV Electrical and Instrumentation	DNV Survey Arrangement Mach. PMS
USCG Basic Procurement Course	DNV Electrical - high voltage	DNV Class Notation TMON A3.23.1
USCG Leadership/Management	USCG Coxswain "C" School	DNV Passenger ship - SIO
USCG PCO/PXO Ship handling	USCG Boatswain's Mate "A" School	DNV Additional class surveys - SIO
USCG Officer in Charge/XPO School,	USCG Training-Coordination Unit	Thrusters for Propulsion
USCG Vessel Damage Control Team Training	USCG Deck Watch Officer Course	DNV Machinery General - SIO
USCG System Administration	USCG Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic	

Qualifications & Certifications		
DVN Class Surveyor - Passenger Vessels	DVN Class Surveyor - Car Carriers	DVN Class Surveyor - General Cargo Vessels
DNV Pan Review Engineer - Fire Control	DNV Pan Review Engineer - Life Saving	USCG Law Enforcement Officer
USCG Small Passenger Vessel Inspector	USCG Foreign Freight Vessel Inspector	USCG Barge Inspector
USCG Foreign Chem Tank Vessel Inspector	USCG Control Verification Inspector	USCG K-Boat Inspector
USCG Hull Inspector Tankship	USCG Hull Inspector Freight	USCG General Vessel Inspection
USCG Officer in Charge Ashore & Afloat	USCG IT System Manager	USCG Cutter Rescue Swimmer
USCG Coxswain Ashore & Afloat	USCG Officer of the Deck	USCG Rifle & Pistol Qualifications

Expert Witness Case History:				Plaintiff	Defendant	Report	Deposition	Arbitration	Trial
Date	Case Name	Case Client	Case Topic						
2023	Morgan v. Joseph LaCorte	Gordon & Partners	Boating Accident	X	X				
2023	Putu Sugiarta v. RCCL	Meister Law, LLC	Crew Covid-19 Death	X	X				
2022	Cannarozzo v. Princess	Nelson & Fraenkel, LLP	Passenger Covid-19	X	X				
2022	House v. Princess	Nelson & Fraenkel, LLP	Passenger Covid-19	X	X				
2021	Green v. Royal Caribbean Cruises	LAL Law Firm, LLP	Passenger Covid-19	X	X				
2021	Archer v. Carnival Corporation	Rusty Hardin & Associates, LLP	Passenger Covid-19 Death	X	X				
2021	Dorety v. Princess Cruise Line	David W. Singer & Assoc., PA	Passenger Covid-19	X	X	X			
2021	Dhillon v. Princess	Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP	Passenger Covid-19	X	X				
2020	Hooks v. Holland America Line	Spangenberg Shibley & Liber, LLP	Passenger Covid-19	X	X				
2020	Bland v. Carnival Corporation	Georgelin Law PLLC	Passenger Injury Case	X	X	X			
2020	Saridakis v. Officer Beard	Myers & Company, PLLC	MLE Use of Force	X	X	X			
2019	Fulton v. Globalia	Preston Turnbull LLP	Charter Mitigation		X	X	X	X	
2018	PGCL v. Paul Gauguin Cruise	Cox, Wootton, LLP	Charter Mitigation		X	X		X	
2015	Palermo v. Bright Touch	Kandell & Kandell	Boat Damage	X	X				

