



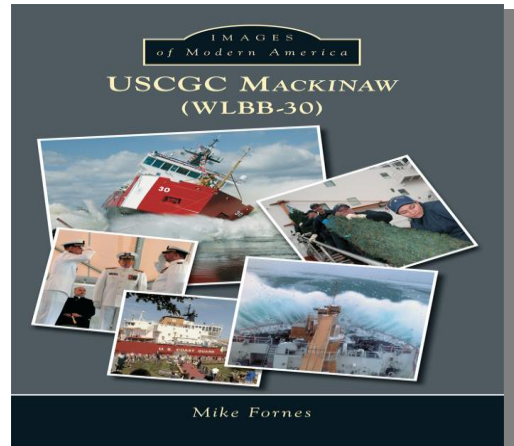
# Mike Fornes

PRESENTS

## ***USCGC MACKINAW – A Tale of Two Ships***



**The Original Mackinaw (WAGB-83)**



**The New Mackinaw (WLBB-30)**

An entertaining, informative presentation about Michigan's two iconic ships that became known as the "Queen of the Great Lakes". Since 1944, the Mackinaw has been on guard through gale-force winds, the pressure of crushing ice flows and blinding snowstorms. The original ship broke ice with brute force, and the new version does the same job with finesse and technology. The Mackinaw has always moved ships through ice-clogged passages and served as the public relations face of the U.S. Coast Guard. Today the ship also tends buoys, serves in a law enforcement capacity and can answer the call for an oil spill. Take a trip through the first six decades of the ship's history and experience unusual missions, drama and comedy. The new ship continues the legacy of the original as a Halloween "ghost ship," Chicago's "Christmas Tree Ship" and the star of the annual Coast Guard Festival. Hear the stories, see the photos and meet the people who have twice made this engineering wonder a symbol of strength and safety on the Great Lakes!

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### About the Author

Mike Fornes, a member of the Historical Society of Michigan, covered the USCGC Mackinaw for more than 25 years for several media outlets in Northern Michigan, including radio and television stations and the Cheboygan Daily Tribune. A resident of Mackinaw City, Fornes is frequently in demand as a guest speaker and presenter to tour groups, cruise ship organizations and historical societies. He has given more than 2,000 tours of the Mackinac Bridge, Grand Hotel and the USCGC Mackinaw from motorcoaches, cruise ships and shore-based presentations. He is the author of "*Mackinac Bridge – A 50 Year Chronicle 1957-2007*" and "*Mackinac Bridge*," both published in 2007, and "*USCGC Mackinaw (WAGB-83)*," published in 2005, "*USCGC Mackinaw (WLBB-30)*," published in 2015, and "*Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel*," new in 2021.

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### Booking Details

**\*Fee: \$300 \*Program length: 90 minutes \*All equipment provided**  
**\*For available dates, contact: Mike Fornes (231) 436-5050**  
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