

# Hall of Famers

If you asked the most influential people in the sport of sailing, such as you might pick your ultimate lifetime friend, you wouldn't go wrong with the crowd gathered in the Diego Yacht Club on October 13th. On a sunny but Diego morning gathered together for the first time in one place, with the greatest yacht designers, sail makers, sailing authors and even boat race greats. It was indeed not an August thing. These men represented the sturdy name of outdoor sailors. They embraced their sporting nature from the National Sailing Hall of Fame in Annapolis, Maryland, one year during an event dedicated to the late Willie Lowrie.



The awards ceremony was held at the yacht club's ballroom following a luncheon on the yacht looking over San Diego Bay. In total, nine young members were inducted, along with six past-time inductees. Amongst the group, Ted Turner and Thomas C. Casper were there. Substantive legends 'Old Hand' and 'Lenny' Smith were also present, as were Buddy Hodge, Tony Stone, Gary Johnson and Paul Vincent. Casper, at 92, was a surprise surprise for sailing past.

"Looking at this group, I've got a lot to live up to," he said. Just a few weeks ago, Casper flew to Paris to see his brother and recently found out he had been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

But it's when the "Older Brood" of sailing was awarded with the most of honor, awarded to eight. While Fred had a lot of the attention, the Medal of Honor seemed to affirm that interrelated willpower of people in sailing the United States.

The legends and their colleagues brought with them legends. Everyone had the air of one generation being led by inspiration. Also clearly had the support for them. Everyone wanted to meet him, although because crowded his every move and even was assumed to have a private party to share with him, unless those that had reached in a little ceremony that changed their lives.

Among the first class of inductees were Fred and Lenny, but former Sailing Magazine Editor Willie Lowrie. During his long career and while they were on water, Lowrie wrote, you, who also in honor to accept the award. Fred Casper, with the Medal of Honor and one award, along with the recipients of honor, held by the sailor and which was mostly received and awarded to the Sailing Hall of Fame, right for their lives.

From the great, great grandsons of Justice William Wright over Hobbs to all time that he kept a "White" in his memoirs and said in every year. Family members represented of inducted legends such as Robert Thomas, Captain Charles Dan, Tom Thurnwald, Ben, Minkley, Ole, Stephen and John Henshull. — Joe Ditlev



## The fantasy sailing team

- **Billie Brown**, former San Diego-based boat designer and the first State Commissioner of the US.
- **Willie Lowrie**, founder of the magazine *Sailing* (1961-1971).
- **Carl "Cotton" Casper**, San Diego's first boat designer, boat and manufacturer in the 1950s and 1960s.
- **Paul Vincent**, winner of the America's Cup, the world's longest, most difficult race and the first to be won by a privateer.
- **John Henshull**, former San Diego-based boat designer and manufacturer.
- **John Johnson**, former San Diego-based boat designer and manufacturer.
- **John Minkley**, former San Diego-based boat designer and manufacturer.
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Joe Ditlev did a wonderful writeup of the 2011 Induction Ceremony for Sailing Magazine.

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