



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
P.O. Box 500368
Marathon, FL 33050
Phone: (305) 743-2437
Fax: (305) 743-2357 Fax

July 14, 2001

Melanie and Jim Gaensslen
9828 159 Court, North
Jupiter Farms, FL 33478

Dear Melanie and Jim,

The designation of the coral reefs and surrounding waters of the Florida Keys as a National Marine Sanctuary in 1990 was due, in large part, to the unprecedented and unique research focused on understanding the dynamic geological and biological processes governing this precious marine ecosystem. Captain Roy Gaensslen's nautical expertise was an instrumental part of these efforts. Dating back to 1974, Captain Roy's two boats, *Sea Angel* and *Captains Lady* provided platforms for numerous scientific investigations beneficial to the understanding and management of the Florida Keys marine environment. His passing in 1997 has left a void that remains unfilled. Researchers who worked with him unanimously agree that we would know far less about this area today had they not benefited from Captain Roy's expert navigation, diving, mechanical skills, and his general good humor to stay the course when frustration mounted. While there were many individuals involved in these efforts, Captain Roy stands out as an icon of reef discovery.

In recognition of these many contributions, Mr. Harold Hudson, has selected an unnamed reef located at 25°-07.730'N, 080°-18.484'W, to be named in honor of Captain Roy. This area contains a cluster of three mountainous star corals, *Montastrea annularis*. The largest specimen is 8 feet high and greater than 77 feet in width. This is the largest of this species known in Sanctuary waters and is befitting of Captain Roy's life work. As Superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, it is hereby my privilege to designate this reef to be hereafter known as "Captain Roy's Reef".

I have initiated the process to have this area formally named through the United States Board on Geographic Names in order that all publications relating to this area reflect the name "Captain Roy's Reef". The rules of the US Board on Geographic Names require a five year waiting period from the time of an individual passing before a memorial name can take effect. Upon arrival of that date, I will endeavor to ensure that the Board adopts this designation and places "Captain Roy's Reef" in the database of geographic names.

Please know that the entire Florida Keys Sanctuary Team recognizes the contributions of Captain Roy and joins you in commemorating his life. While he will continue to be missed by all of you, he will be remembered by countless future visitors to the area he worked to help understand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy D. Causey", written over a horizontal line.

Billy D. Causey, Superintendent
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary