



Sky Pilot of the Great Lakes

John Kotzian

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This book tells the life story of the Reverend William H. Law, a story that has never been told before.

The Reverend Law was in peril on the Great Lakes and was rescued by a U.S. Life-Saving Service Station crew. As a result of that rescue, seeing their heroic efforts first hand, Reverend Law dedicated the rest of his life to the men and women stationed at Light and Life-Saving stations throughout the United States. Whether it was bringing his "Floating Library" to stations located on the Great Lakes, regular correspondence with the crews of stations far too remote for a personal visit, or his relentless pursuit of Congress to approve a bill to provide better pay and pensions, Reverend Law became a fast friend to those serving in the Lighthouse and Life-Saving services.

"Sky Pilot" was sailors' slang for a chaplain. To the men and women he served, Reverend Law was lovingly known as "The Sky Pilot of the Great Lakes." A tale of unconquerable optimism, the story of W. H. Law's life is as much the account of the brave men and women of the Lighthouse Service and Life-Saving Service as it is the saga of a long and rewarding life in the service of others.

Sky Pilot of the Great Lakes Details

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From Reader Review Sky Pilot of the Great Lakes for online ebook

John R. R. says

Being from Michigan, it was completely new territory but very close to home.

Harrison Withers says

The life of a lighthouse keeper is often presented as a romantic notion, as a noble, peaceful albeit solitary pursuit. The reality of those lighthouse keepers and the Life Saving Service Crews following the turn of the century was far less rosy than I ever could have imagined. The Reverend W.H. Law worked tirelessly to provide comfort to and lobby for the improvement of the situation of these important life-saving characters in our collective history. This book is a must-read for history buffs from a cross section in interests including but not limited to Detroit, Michigan, Great Lakes Maritime, The Coast Guard, and Lighthouses.

Barb says

I found this wonderful history gem in Cedarville, Michigan, very close to Hessel where the Rev. W. H. Law resided. This book would be of interest to anyone who loves Great Lakes history, lighthouses and their keepers, shipping stories, storms on the lakes. Rev. Law was blessed with faith, courage and a very caring nature. Having worked in elementary school libraries and a public library, I especially liked the special effort Rev. Law made to help the light keepers pass their lonely vigils on very remote stations. John Kotzian has paid a true tribute to his great-great-grandfather, and has done a splendid job in researching and organizing the volumes of written fliers, letters, Message booklets from each year of the Law's working life. Truly a Good Read!

Tyler Knight says

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway. I'm glad I did. This book was great. It was well written, and was easy to follow. I enjoyed reading about all the endeavors of W.H. Law. I thought this book would be full of religion, as Law was a reverend, but it did not have as much as one would think; He rather believed in the "Gospel of Humanity". My only regret is that there is a not many more people like him nowadays.
