



Spokespeople Biographies

Holly Agra

Holly Agra is president of Chicago's First Lady Cruises and vice president for Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline. Managing a fleet of eight U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Passenger vessels and a seasonal team of 120 employees, Holly and her husband/business partner, Captain Bob Agra, continue an 84-year family tradition of showcasing Chicago's skyline to visitors and residents from their home port on Chicago's Magnificent Mile. Holly is deeply committed to promoting Chicago as a world-class tourist destination and is an active member of numerous organizations, including Choose Chicago, The Magnificent Mile Association, Chicago Economic Club, and the International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions, among others. Holly and Captain Agra both reside in Chicago and were thrilled to have their oldest son, Bob III, vice president, join the family business in 2011 as a fourth-generation owner-operator. Their son Tim, a recent graduate of USC Gould School of Law, is a new USCG Captain.

Captain Bob Agra

Captain Agra is a 44-year veteran of Chicago's waterways and is the third-generation owner of the Mercury Cruises family. He began working for his father and grandfather while living in Barrington, Illinois at the age of 15 and took the helm at the age of 18. He has piloted all of the vessels, and led the construction of five Chicago's First Lady Cruises vessels designed and built in U.S. shipyards. His fondest memory is piloting the First Lady from Bayou La Batre, Alabama up the Mississippi River in 1991 on a seven-day journey to Chicago, which included traversing through 27 sets of locks. Captain Agra is very proud of the young men and women he has trained throughout his career, included those listed below. He also serves as the company Chief Financial Officer. He is an avid Cubs and Bears fan and resides in Chicago with his wife, Holly.

Captain Gabriel Argumedo

Captain Argumedo began working with Mercury Cruises and Chicago's First Lady Cruises when he was 15 years old and began piloting at 19 years old. In addition to piloting the vessels, he serves as the Director of Vessel Operations and manages the winter maintenance team during the off-season. Captain Argumedo's brother, David, also works as a captain for the company and is the Manager of the Paint Department during the offseason. Both are from Barrington, Illinois and reside in Chicago.

Captain Tom Hacker

Captain Hacker is a 12-year veteran of Mercury Cruises and Chicago's First Lady Cruises and serves as the Company Security Officer, as prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard. Captain Hacker is also a member of The Magnificent Mile Association's Safety & Security Committee. He is from Barrington, Illinois and currently resides in Lincoln Park.

Captain Jennifer Kramer

Captain Kramer began sailing with Mercury Cruises and Chicago's First Lady Cruises five years ago and is the fourth female captain in the companies' history. She got her start with the company as a Mercury Cruises tour

guide and continues to share her enthusiasm for Chicago by helping train new guides. Captain Kramer is originally from Washington D.C. and currently lives in Chicago. She is an avid runner in her free time.

Captain Christy Fell

Captain Fell began sailing with Mercury Cruises and Chicago's First Lady Cruises seven years ago and is the third female captain in the company's history. During the cruise line off-season, she serves as Manager of the Wood Varnishing Department. Captain Fell also once served as president of the Chicago Lodge/Chapter of International Shipmasters Association. She resides in Chicago and enjoys roller skating, refurbishing her home and spending time with her two adopted dogs.

Captain Jorge Navarrete

Captain Jorge is proud to have worked with Mercury Cruises for the past six years. As a dual citizen of the U.S. and Mexico he is fluent in both English and Spanish. Captain Jorge is celebrating his fourth year as a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captain. He works in the Winter Maintenance Department in the off-season and also takes time to visit his family in Sahuayo Michoacan, Mexico. He is an avid fisherman and loves being on the water whenever possible.