 Louise Burke, Contributions to the sailing community

* 1976 - First woman Sailing Coach, US Naval Academy
* 1985-1991 - Director, US Naval Academy Varsity Offshore Sailing Program. First, and only woman to date, to fill that position.  It was at the time the largest program of its kind in the world, with over 190 team members year after year.
* Directly coached, mentored, and developed leadership skills in over 1,100 Naval Academy midshipmen who were members of the Naval Academy Varsity sailing team.
* Influenced thousands more midshipmen in the programs she developed and ran for midshipmen outside the sailing team; enrolled in ‘professional development through sailing’ programs. Responsible for teaching all areas of safety, seamanship, celestial navigation, and leadership.
* Key proponent of a then-novel new program to establish ‘sailing cruise credit’ program where midshipman would spend weeks/months aboard a sailing vessel in lieu of traditional indoctrination cruises aboard Navy commissioned vessels.
* Principal architect in developing this deep, rich sailing professional development program expansion; ultimately allowing thousands of midshipmen to participate during her tenure as coach and Director. The program was envisioned by CAPT Alexander Grosvenor and placed in her hands she molded that vision into a reality.
* Her passion was teaching other women to be successful sailors. As an example, she would help charter a boat in the Caribbean, fill it with women students from all over the country, and sail and teach for weeks on end the virtues of sailing.
* Following the Fastnet Race storm of 1979, she was a founding organizer of what ultimately became US Sailing’s Safety at Sea program – started in 1979, Louise lectured on boating safety, storm survival at sea, man overboard recoveries, firefighting, collisions, and flooding. She participated in the program most years through at least 2000.
* Key architect in development of first man-overboard recovery system
* Charter member of Eastport Yacht Club in Annapolis, MD
* After her retirement from Navy Sailing in 1991, she threw her talents into teaching Celestial Navigation and piloting courses at Anne Arundel Community College.
* Annapolis to Bermuda Race - Safety Inspector for past 2 decades
* In mid 80’s, instructor for ‘Womanship’, a sailing school for women started by Suzanne Pogell, credited with teaching over 90,000 women to sail.
* 1979 - Founding partner of ‘Ladies Under Sail Together’ (L.U.S.T.) with Judy Billage and Judly Lawson, another female Annapolis sailing legend, to teach women how to take charge and run a sailing vessel.
* Louise developed and ran the Storm Trysail Club Safety at Sea program for junior sailors in the Annapolis area for over 5 years. The program, for young 12 to 17 year old dinghy sailors, taught skills on 40 to 45 foot boats with big heavy gear.  Louise enlisted help from throughout the sailing community, demonstrating recoveries, reefing, tacks and jibes before letting them do a fun race.
* Louise instructed Sea Scouts out of Mystic Conn. She led one of two boats sailing for a week around Block Island, Buzzards Bay, the Elizabeth Islands through thick fog and Buzzards famous confused seas. They sailed to Martha’s Vineyard in thick fog and heavy seas which gave the kids a great picture of what sailing is all about. At the end of the trip they sailed into Newport Harbor at night and spotted the lights of a Tall Ship event in the harbor. The next morning Louise headed for the largest training ship in the harbor which was the British Brig “Prince William”. She found the Captan and arranged a private tour of the entire ship. Which was a real treat for the kids. In conversation she discovered that the captain was aboard the Winston Churchill at the Queen Elizabeth 25 Jubilee and reminisced that Mistral (with Louise aboard) was alongside at the starting line of the parade.
* Louise also was active with US Navy Sailing Association’s " Vets on the Bay “  which provided vets returning from the wars in the Middle East, along with family members, a chance to experience a fun day of sailing on the Chesapeake followed by a food, swimming and socializing at a local marina.
* Louise was a prolific lecturer in numerable venues, presenting topics including:
  + Preparation for offshore sailing
  + Handling heavy weather offshore
  + Boat overhaul for the winter
  + Yacht maintenance for systems
  + Man overboard instruction
  + Boat electronics
  + Damage control - fire, flooding, collision, taking to the life raft, hypothermia and rescue
  + Stormsail handling
  + Heaving too
  + Reefing drills for speed
  + Radio procedures in emergency
  + Piloting, celestial, dead reckoning
  + Mental preparation for offshore voyages