



“Reach for the Sky” tells the true story of Rod Coleman, who served as a Mystic Bridge Tender for 33 years. The book offers an insider’s perspective on the unique responsibilities and experiences of a bridge tender while exploring the history and charm of the Mystic River region. Readers will enjoy insights into the daily life, challenges, and community connections that define his role, along with a deeper appreciation for the area’s natural beauty and heritage.



**About the Author:** Rod Coleman, born in Philadelphia, PA, had a diverse upbringing, moving frequently and attending seven different high schools due to his father’s military career. He pursued an education at Thames Valley Tech and Barrington College, with additional classes at UConn.

Throughout his career, Rod held various roles, including part-time postal carrier in Mystic, a counselor for a boys’ home, and work at TVCCA before dedicating 33 years to the Connecticut Department of Transportation as a bridge tender at the Mystic Drawbridge. Retired since 2022, he is exploring opportunities in real estate while working on another book.

*Photo credit: Kaylee Wright ©*



**About the Illustrator:** Polly Seip is an award winning artist. Best known for her oil paintings of varying subjects. Seip holds a BFA from the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, and is represented by a few New England galleries.

**Reach for the Sky!**  
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