



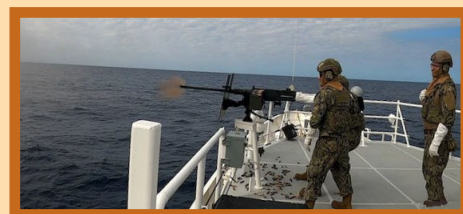
# the QUARTERDECK LOG

Membership publication of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association. Publishes quarterly—Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Not sold on a subscription basis. The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association is a Non-Profit Association of Active Duty, Retired, Reserve and Honorably Discharged Former Members of the United States Coast Guard who served in, or provided direct support to, combat situations recognized by an appropriate military award while serving as a member of the United States Coast Guard.

Volume 36, Number 1

Spring 2021

## WHAT IS PATFORSWA?



## WHAT IS THE U. S. COAST GUARD DOING PATROLLING THE PERSIAN GULF?

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## MISSION COMPLETE!

## 2021 CGCVA REUNION A SUCCESS!

# FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

## COAST GUARD COMBAT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

### ELECTED OFFICERS

National President—Terry O’Connell, LM

National Vice President—Bruce Bruni, LM

National Secretary/Treasurer—Gary Sherman, LM

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman—PNP Steve Petersen, LM

1st Term— Joe Prince, LM, Mark Pearson, LM

2nd Term—Floyd “Butch” Hampton, LM, Michael Johnson, LM

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE\*

CGCVA National Secretary / Treasurer

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Lansdale, PA 19446

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\*Use the Administrative Office for contact with the CGCVA on all matters

### THE QUARTERDECK LOG

Editor/Publisher — Bruce Bruni, LM bfb203@gmail.com

Publisher Emeritus—PNP Ed Swift, LM

### AUXILIARY OFFICERS

National President—Barbara Weeks

National Vice President—Linda Kay

National Secretary / Treasurer—Javaughn Miller

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

ByLaws—Gary Sherman, LM

Reunion Planners—PNP Michael Placencia, LM

Michael Johnson, LM, Bruce Bruni, LM, Joe Prince, LM

Membership—PNP Michael Placencia, LM

Historian—PNP/Founder Paul C. Scotti, LM

Service Officers—Thomas Huckelberry, LM,

Richard Hogan Jr., LM, and Larry Jones, LM

MAA— Russ Weeks

Chaplain—Vince Patton, LM

Parliamentarian—Michael Placencia, LM

Nominating Committee—Bill Femia, LM

Cape May Liaison—Thomas Dougherty

MEAP—Edward Bachand, LM, and

PNP Ed Swift, LM

Small Stores—Rich Hogan, Jr.

### COAST GUARD HISTORY CONTRIBUTOR

Dr. William Theisen, Ph.D, CG Historian.

My name is Terry O’Connell. I was elected to the position of CCGVA National President during the June reunion. I retired after a 30 year career which included eight years enlisted. I have had afloat and ashore commands including a tour as XO on *Point Orient* and CO on *Point Arden* in Vietnam. Additionally, I had a tour in a WAVP and five tours in 180’ buoy tenders, AtoN tours in CGHQ, D9 and D2. I also was an Officer-in-Charge of a Port Security Detachment and Commander Group Santa Barbara, CA. In the CGCVA, I have been a Trustee and twice served two 2 year terms as the National Vice President. I am now honored to take the helm of our Association until the next biennial reunion. The focus of my administration will be continued exposure to the next generation of combat veterans; they are the answer to our continued success.



Our 2021 Virginia Beach reunion was a social and financial success. We were fortunate to have timed our reunion to coincide with the Virginia Governor’s relaxation of the mask wearing rule for groups of our size. The Commander, Sector Virginia, Captain Samson Stevens welcomed us to his operational area. The CO, PSU 305, CDR James Lovenstein recognized the many PSU units and their members that were prominent in our hospitality room. CGCVA member Retired VADM James Hull helped us kick off the week with his joyous and informative speech.



**Terry with his new tiller for CGCVA rudder commands**

We were delighted to share a few moments with him in our hospitality room at the Holiday Inn Hotel. We did not have any scheduled tours due to scheduling complications associated with COVID19; however, the camaraderie enjoyed by sailors and airmen sharing stories and reminiscences of their Coast Guard experiences kept each of us busy throughout the week. Our auxiliary kept the coffee and snacks flowing at all times and

## FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

and their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Our annual awards banquet was well attended. We are grateful to have had Commander CGD5, RADL Laura Dickey as our keynote speaker. She amused us with her humor and educated us

about the current state of affairs of the USCG and her area of responsibility. And finally, we must thank Past NP Steve Peterson for his outstanding leadership and performance during the past four years. ~ Semper Paratus, Terry

## FROM THE NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

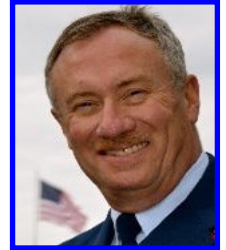
I want to thank everyone who supported my nomination as the new Vice President of the CGCVA. I will make every effort to live up to the trust and expectations that you have placed in my abilities to execute the duties of VP. I have some big shoes to fill and will not disappoint any of you.

A little bit about me, I have been a member of the CGCVA since 1991, now a Life Member and have served as a National Trustee. I joined the USCG in 1970, serving a year aboard *CGC Hamilton* before attending AE/A school. From there I was assigned to CGAS Brooklyn where I earned my SAR Aircrewman qualification pin. I was discharged in 1974 but then in 1980 I enlisted into the USCG Reserve as a Port Securityman with assignments to Station Niagara and MSO Buffalo. After earning my BS degree in criminal justice, I was commissioned in 1986. I served with PSU301 during Desert Shield/Storm at Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, and later at Cap Haitien, Haiti, for Operation Uphold Democracy.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, I was again called to active duty. I retired from my job as a Detective with the Amherst, NY, police department and reported for duty. Over the next 10 years I served at several locations including as Commanding Officer, PSU308 with another deployment in 2003-04 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as additional tours at D9, D8, DoD, CGHQ and as a plank owner of the Maritime Operations Centre (MSOC) at MARLANT Canada, located in Halifax, NS. I retired in September 2011 as Captain with a total of 37 years between active and reserve duty.

The 2021 reunion is now past and we will formulate the after-action report to determine what went well and what needs improvement. For the most part it was a success considering it required an unfortunate last minute change in venue from New Orleans to Virginia Beach due to COVID concerns, but, in the end, I think most, if not everyone, had a great time.

We are already looking forward to planning the 2023 reunion and have two viable locations identified for the event as recommended by the consensus of those in attendance at the biennial business meeting. Armed Forces Reunion Incorporated (AFRI) was instrumental in developing the venue for this year's reunion and we intend to retain the company for our reunion in 2023. They make the duties of the Reunion Planning Committee so much easier with their organizational expertise and lobbying power to find the best locations at the most reasonable prices. We expect to make an announcement in the fall edition of the QDL for the next reunion location. The only thing you need to do will be to make early plans to attend and to encourage other CGCVA members to do the same. Most importantly is the need to recruit new members to the CGCVA in order to keep the organization viable and meaningful. That will be the biggest challenge facing us for the considerable future but it is critical in keeping the CGCVA operating. Again, thanks for your support. ~ Bruce





## FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY / TREASURER

Just recently, at the 2021 Virginia Beach Reunion/Convention, I was honored to be selected by National President Steve Petersen as this year's CGCVA Donald Kneip Outstanding Service Award recipient.

In 2011, Past National President Paul Scotti initiated this honor to recognize outstanding service by a CGCVA member and to make it the highest award given by the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association. This award is presented at the Reunion Banquet, as the last event of the evening.

Let me say that this is a great honor for me and it makes the work I've done over the past 12 years worth every minute I've spent in both the Secretary and Treasurer positions.

It has been the custom, at the presentation of this award, that the recipient is given the microphone to thank the national president and comment on what the acknowledgement means to the honoree. Unfortunately, I'm sure our president, officers and trustees were scared to hand me the microphone for fear I'd start telling my life story, going way off script and they were justified in their fears. I tend to ramble.

Had I addressed the audience, I would have said the following:

In 2003, my best friend and shipmate, Stan Vilitski, called me at my office and said that he had found this organization on line, and that we were eligible to join. He had completed an application and had already sent in his money, and told me that I needed to drop everything and join immediately. You know, when your best friend tells you to do something, you just have to do it. Shortly after I submitted my application, we were now eligible to attend a CGCVA Mini-Reunion at Cape May. We were always looking for a way to visit TRACEN Cape May, which positively affected our lives, as very young men.

I read that the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association's purpose was to illuminate the gravesite of Medal of Honor recipient Douglas Munro, and to enjoy fellowship among its members. I remember talking with Founder Baker Herbert and he said that what we really do is inform the public of the US Coast Guard's participation in this nation's conflicts since 1790. This struck a nerve! So many times we've had people say, "You were in the Coast Guard? Well at least you didn't have to go to Vietnam!" Or "The Coast Guard was in Vietnam?" And I'm sure those who served in Desert Storm/Shield and the Global War on Terror have been hearing the same thing. It is not for our glory that we wish to be acknowledged for our service, but for the families and friends of our fallen, imagining how they might feel, losing a family member and having the public not know that they paid the ultimate sacrifice for this nation while serving in the United States Coast Guard.

I am proud to be a member of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans and I thank Steve Petersen and every member of the Association for the recognition and to be in such good company with previous recipients of the Don Kneip award. Thank you, Semper Paratus, ~ Gary Sherman



**Photo: Steve Petersen presenting Gary Sherman with the Donald Kneip Outstanding Service Award for his dedicated excellence to the CGCVA as Secretary/Treasurer**

## BOOSTER CLUB

### THE QDL BOOSTER CLUB

The QDL Booster Club is a tax-exempt opportunity to donate funding to offset the cost of printing and mailing the Quarterdeck Log. Donations can be sent to the Administrative Office and marking the memo section of your check with "QDL Booster Club." Contributed amounts will not be published, only the name of the individual making the donation. Since the publishing of the last edition of the QDL the following members have made contributions to the QDL Booster Club, which is greatly appreciated.

### CURRENT QDL BOOSTER DONATIONS

Harry Taylor; James W. Ashe; Thomas Patterson; Michael P. Niles; Michael A. Johnson; Bill Figone;  
Herbert Cohen; Edward Hludzenski; Geoffrey Ciereck; Joe Aills; Richard Pelley; Kenneth Dossett; Bill Femia

### IN MEMORY OF

Daniel Irwin, IMO Wally Chase, *CGC Hamilton*  
Bill Figone, IMO Robert Maxwell, Ed Burke and Gil "Frenchy" Benoit

## CROSSED THE BAR

**It is with sadness that we take note of the following members who have crossed the bar.**

Richard V. Alred, RVN; George V. Stauffer, WWII, RVN; Gene D. Costell, LM, WWII;  
Stanley Kubo, RVN; James M. Reynolds, WWII; Winfield J. Armstrong, LM, WWII;  
William E. Burns, LM, RVN; Marcel J. Bjarski, LM, RVN; Gilbert "Frenchy" Benoit, PNP, LM, RVN

## NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBER	SHIP/UNIT IN COMBAT ZONE	CONFLICT	SPONSOR
William Selby	OIF		
J.O.K. Walsh	Cat Lo	RVN	
Keith W. Brock	Lor Sta Tan My	RVN	Gary Sherman
Tyler Gantt	CGCVA POTY	AEF	
John P. Gregg	CGC WRANGLE	GWOT	
William Fistner, Jr.	CGC RUSH	RVN	
Adam A. Chamie	CGC MONOMOY	GWOT	
Peter J. Galley	PSU-301	DS/DST	Bruce Bruni
Ryan J. Detorres	CGC AQUIDNECK	GWOT	
Laura M. Dickey	PATFORSWA	GWOT	
Jody M. Fogle	CGC WRANGLE	GWOT	
Thomas G. Franke	PSU-302	DST	
Michael F. Kien	CGC PT. COMFORT	RVN	Ben Hughey
Steven A. Bilodeau	Op Urgent Fury	AEF	Samuel Skinner
Gregory S. Rogers	PSU-309	GWOT	PSU-307
Richard E. Neiman, Jr.	Op Noble Eagle	GWOT	Bruce Bruni
John I. Buck, Jr.	CGC PT. ELLIS	RVN	
Richard D'Augustino	PSU-301	DST	
Daniel J. McMahon	PSU-308/PSU-312	GWOT	Eric Bernstein

## The Passing of Past National President Gilbert “Frenchy” Benoit

On May 12, 2021, Past National President and Life Member of the CGCVA crossed the bar after suffering a heart attack. Frenchy, as Gil was known to all who attended the biennial reunions because of his thick Louisiana accent, sometimes complained about people not understanding him, while at the same time getting a chuckle out of “laying it on thick.”



**SR Gilbert “Frenchy” Benoit in boot camp 1965**

A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Gil “Frenchy” Benoit joined the U.S. Coast Guard in October of 1965. Assigned to the recommissioning crew of the icebreaker *USCGC Staten Island (WAGB-278)*, he was deployed to Antarctica from 1966 to 1967 as part of Operation Deep Freeze. In February of 1968, he was transferred to the patrol boat *USCGC Point Banks (WPB-82327)* and deployed to Vietnam. He reported aboard as a Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class, but filled the unoccupied 1st Class billet for a period of six months. Following this assignment, he was transferred to Division Operations where he operated in med-caps (Medical Care of the Civilian Population), coast watching, and small boat operations. It was while working in that last capacity during Operation Market Time patrols that he was wounded in an ambush on November 01, 1968, while attempting to interdict sampans that were infiltrating South Vietnam from neighboring Cambodia. After two-and-a-half years of convalescence in the hospital, he was temporarily retired from service in 1971 as a Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class. His awards include the Purple Heart, Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat V for valor, Combat Action Ribbon, the

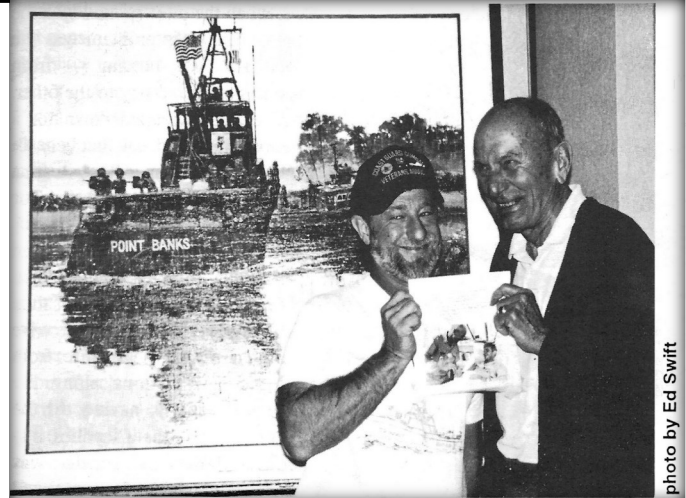


photo by Ed Swift

**Frenchy and CAPT John Austin met together for the first time in 28 years at the 1994 CGCVA reunion in San Diego. On November 2, 1968, CAPT Austin had presented the Purple Heart to Frenchy at a Saigon hospital for wounds incurred the day before.**

Navy Unit Commendation ribbon, CG Good Conduct, National Defense Medal, Antarctic Service Medal, CG Arctic Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Palm Unit Citation, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In later years, Frenchy Benoit was employed by the Louisiana Dept of Labor as a Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist. He joined the CGCVA in 1988 and had served as National President and trustee of the CGCVA.

Fair winds Frenchy. You are missed.



**Frenchy Benoit at one of the recent reunions**



# AUXILIARY NEWS

## AUXILIARY NEWS

By *National Aux President  
Barbara Weeks*

CGCVA June 2021  
Reunion/Convention



It was a wonderful Reunion/Convention this year in Virginia Beach, VA.

The hospitality room provided a setting for friendship and camaraderie. A special thank you to all the ladies who helped make this possible.

A special thanks to all who donated items to another successful silent auction.

We were so fortunate to have Dr. Darryl E. Elzie, Psy.D, MHA present “Managing Stress” at the Auxiliary Luncheon with 21 people in attendance.

Congratulations go out to our new CGCVA Auxiliary officers shown in the photo at the above right.



**Aux President Barbara Weeks accepting Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Mimi Placencia who had completed her tour as National Secretary / Treasurer of the Auxiliary**

A special thank you goes out to Javaughn Miller who held the office of CGCVA National Auxiliary President for the past 4 years. This year she graciously accepted the position of CGCVA National Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer.

To Bev Johnson, a special “Thank you” for her dedicated service in the office of Vice President of the CGCVA Auxiliary. To Mimi Placencia, a very special “Thank you”, for serving the past 10 years in the office of CGCVA National Auxiliary

**Barbara Weeks,  
President;  
Linda Kay,  
Vice President and  
Javaughn Miller,  
Secretary/Treasurer**



Secretary / Treasurer. At the Awards Banquet, Mimi was awarded both a Certificate of Appreciation as well as a Distinguished Service Award. Thank you Mimi for your always present smile and continued support. ~ Barbara

*From Past National Aux President  
Javaughn Miller*

It’s been such an honor to have served as your Auxiliary President this past four years. I want to thank Beverly Johnson - Vice President and Mimi Placencia - Secretary/Treasurer for so many years of service to the Auxiliary and the CGCVA. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Natthaya Talley, Barbara Weeks and Jessamy Lasher for their hard work and assistance in making this past 2021 reunion so memorable. We raised \$2,455.00 at the Auxiliary Silent Auction which may be a record for our association.

Thanks to all of you that generously donated items and bids. Wayne and I also became the new 2021-2023 Chieu Hoi caretakers. We will endeavor to fly the CGCVA flag to raise visibility to the association, as well as to have a little fun with him as we seek out more fun adventures and travel.



**Auxiliary Luncheon Attendees**

## AUXILIARY NEWS

During the reunion, we welcomed nine new Auxiliary members, verified member information, collected renewal dues. And a special thank you for our existing Auxiliary members who have been faithful in service and support to our Coasties and the CGCVA!

### A hearty welcome to the new members of the CGCVA Auxiliary.

Natthaya Talley; Cathy Watson; Linda Kay; Kathy Mackel; Bonnie Sanders; Claudia Van Gee; Linda Oneil; Marion Gaida; and Jessamy Lasher

I'm excited to be your new Secretary/Treasurer. I am excited to support and assist Barbara and Linda as they take the reins of our Auxiliary, and



thank them for stepping up. Feel free to contact me with news, membership dues or updates at [jallsmiller0@gmail.com](mailto:jallsmiller0@gmail.com). (That is a zero after Miller) And thank our veterans for all they have done in the service of our country!!! ~ Javaughn

## REUNION WRAP UP

### CGCVA 2021 CONVENTION PLANNERS

Bruce Bruni, Chairperson (3<sup>rd</sup> Convention)

Michael Johnson (1<sup>st</sup> Convention)

Michael Placencia (5<sup>th</sup> Convention)

Gary Sherman, Consultant (5<sup>th</sup> Convention)

### REUNION 2021 WRAP UP

The 2021 reunion is in the CGCVA history books as a success even when facing the challenges of COVID that required the change of venue from New Orleans to Virginia Beach at almost the last minute. Many were able to participate in all the activities and everyone said that they had a great time. Frankly, we were concerned that attendance would fall short of the necessary numbers to ensure a profit but we managed to finish in the black after all the bills were paid. We are now looking forward to the planning of the 2023 reunion and all of us hope that there will not be anything that will prevent all of you from attending.

The reunion also had a special presentation made by Jim Loomis and the CG Aviators Association. The association presented a bronze

bust of LT Jack Rittichier, the only Coast Guard aviator to be killed in combat during the Vietnam War. It was set upon a wooden pedestal that was purchased through a donation made by the CGCVA.

Also present at the reunion was historian Marc Henderson and his team from the History & Legacy Branch that were interviewing Vietnam Veterans of the CGCVA for the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. The team interviewed 18 members that resulted in many hours of testimony.

The following is a chronological breakdown of the reunion events on a day to day basis.

### Day One

The Ships office (Mike Placencia and Mike Johnson), Small Stores (Gary Sherman), and the Hospitality Room opened for members and guests. The Hospitality Room was set up the evening before by a crew consisting of the Petersen's, the O'Connell's, the Bruni's, the Johnson's, the Miller's, the Weeks', and Bill Figone.

The beverage counter was stocked, and Chieu



## REUNION WRAP UP

Hoi survived the trip from Long Beach, MS. Thank you, Phil Kies, for your guardianship. And it didn't take long for the Silent Auction to be up and running.

The Opening Ceremony was everything you could ask for and more and you will find the Opening Ceremony program in this issue. Association President Steve Petersen called order and directed the Coast Guard Sector Virginia Honor Guard to present the colors. The audience was treated to a fine rendition of the National Anthem performed by former USCG BM3 Rachael Smith, Bruce Bruni's daughter. Captain Samson Stevens, Commander, Sector Virginia welcomed the group to Virginia Beach and Norfolk, which is part of his geographical command.



**USCG Veteran  
Rachael Smith**

The next three Speakers (all CGCVA Members), MCPO (ret) Mark Pearson spoke about CG Patrol Forces Southwest Asia whose members are on one-year deployments; Commander James Lovenstein spoke about CG Port Security Units, and Vice Admiral (ret) James Hull spoke about the Commemoration of the Vietnam War. The program concluded with Admiral Hull presenting pins to those who had not previously received one.

### Day Two



**CAPT Samson Stevens,  
Commander Sector Virginia**

There were no designated CGCVA activities this day. Members and guests were free to do as they wished. The Planning Committee decided against arranging an organized tour – just too many choices of

**VADM Jim Hull, USCG (ret),  
LM, (left) presenting Butch  
Hampton with his Vietnam War  
Commemoration pin**



places to visit. Some opted to head to Colonial Williamsburg and/or Yorktown, site of the Coast Guard Training Center, where many may have gone to Class A School or Officer Candidate School. Some went to Virginia Beach's waterfront and others to downtown Norfolk for some shopping. Still others played a round of golf at one of the area's many golf courses. There was plenty to do and most found a way to take advantage of everything that the Hampton Roads area had to offer.

Upon return to the hotel, the hospitality room was in full swing. More silent auction items arrived as more member registered. Tables had to be added. Small Stores sales were brisk. It was nice to see people reconnecting after many reunions in between. A model of the CGC Point Welcome was up to \$250 (later sold for \$400) and a 1940's brass ship's clock was at \$180 (later sold for \$300). It was a great start for the auction with two days to go.

### Day Three

The Planning Committee decided to extend the Silent Auction deadline from Friday night to right after the Saturday evening Awards Banquet. More items had come in and bidding was very active.

The Business Luncheon began a half hour earlier due to the five Bylaws changes that needed to be read,

**VADM James Hull, USCG  
(ret) speaking at opening  
ceremony**



# REUNION WRAP UP

## CGCVA 2021 BYLAW CHANGES

Approved the following:

1. Added “Friend of the Association” membership category. Allows the National President, at his discretion, to add as a non-voting, dues paying individual, any Coast Guard active duty, reservist, retiree or veteran who has expressed an interest in supporting the Association.
2. Expands the title “Membership” to include: Members, Associate Members, Friends and Affiliates.
3. Adds the term “Descendants” to current bylaws that entitles spouses and children who have fallen in the line

of duty prior to the CGCVA establishment in 1985, to Associate Membership.

4. Allows members, who are not present at the Biennial Convention/Reunion to be nominated and elected/re-elected to office, if their intention was to serve and if the reason for such absence is excusable, such as illness, family emergency that prevents them from attending. It was determined at the business meeting that the Officers will determine the validity of a Trustee’s absence and the Trustees will determine the validity of an Officer’s absence.

5. Increased the authority of the National President to spend up to \$2000.00 without Board approval. The old limit was \$1999.99.

Discussed and voted on. President Steve Petersen called the meeting to order at approximately 1100 hours. Secretary/Treasurer Gary Sherman chaired the meeting.

Minutes of the 2019 Charleston Convention were read and approved.

Financial Reports for 2019 - 2020, previously reviewed by the Board of Trustees, were handed out, discussed, and approved.

The highly successful LIFE MEMBER CHALLENGE and subsequent investments were discussed. The Association is financially healthy.

Bylaws changes were read, discussed, and voted on. All were approved. A separate insert appears above.

Michael Placencia reported on membership programs that included annual recruitment packages sent to Patrol Forces Southwest Asia in Bahrain. In addition, packages were sent to all 37 CG Sector commands.

## CGCVA 2021 ELECTION RESULTS

### President

Terry O’Connell (CG Squadron One, Vietnam)

### Vice President

Bruce Bruni (CG Port Security Unit 301, Desert Shield/Desert Storm; Op Uphold Democracy Port Security Unit 308, GWOT)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Gary Sherman (CG Squadron Three, Vietnam)

### Trustee

Michael Johnson (CG Squadron Three, Vietnam) – 2 Year Term

Mark Pearson (CG Patrol Forces Southwest Asia) – 4 Year Term

Joe Prince (CG Port Security Unit 309, GWOT) – 4 Year Term

The new CGCVA officers for 2021 (L to R)

Terry O’Connell, President; Bruce Bruni, Vice President; Gary Sherman, Secretary-

Treasurer; Mike Johnson, Trustee; Joe Prince, Trustee; PNP Steve Petersen overlooking



Steve Petersen reported that the Association contributed funds to the CG Museum and to the CG Aviation Association to build a pedestal that will hold the sculpted bust of Jack Rittichier.

## REUNION WRAP UP

Michael Placencia reported on ship commissioning activities. Since 2013, the Association has participated in commissioning programs for 19 Sentinel Class Cutters and one Legend Class Cutter. A full listing will appear in a future issue of the Quarterdeck Log.

There was no new business.

Trustee and Nominations Chairman Bill Figone opened up nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and two 4-year Trustee positions. The results appear on page 10.

Steve Petersen adjourned the meeting at approximately 1430 hours.

### DAY FOUR AND AWARDS BANQUET

The morning of Day Four still allowed reunion attendees to catchup on last minute site-seeing and gave Marc Henderson's team an opportunity to complete their interviews with the CGCVA Vietnam Vets.

The is a good time to recognize the most familiar faces in the hospitality room, Bartenders Wayne Miller and Phil Kies. Always with a smile and steady hands mixing your favorite beverage. As usual, Wayne and Phil do an outstanding job for which we say, "Bravo Zulu!"



**Jim Hull checking out the bar service by Wayne Miller (L) and Phil Kies (R)**

The Reunion awards banquet began with cocktails then commenced sharply at 6pm.

National President Steve Petersen called the event to order and master at Arms Russ Weeks led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.



**Gary Sherman with his SK keys**

### CGCVA 2021 CONVENTION NOTABLE ATTENDEES

Vice Admiral (ret) James Hull (CGCVA Member)  
Presenter, American Vietnam War Commemoration

Rear Admiral Laura Dickey (CGCVA Member)  
Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District

Michael Voss, Public Affairs, Fifth Coast Guard District

Rear Admiral (ret) Rudy Peschel, CG Aviation Association

Rear Admiral (ret) Scott McKinley (CGCVA Member)  
Captain Samson Stevens, Commander, CG Sector Virginia

William Thiesen, Historian, CG Atlantic Area

Marc Henderson, Historian, The American Vietnam War Commemoration

LCDR (ret) James Loomis (CGCVA Member), CG Aviation Association

Presenter, Sculptured Bust of LT Jack Rittichier

Jennifer Holmer, Niece of LT Jack Rittichier

Matthew Holmer, Great Nephew of LT Jack Rittichier

MCPO Jaime Young, CG Aviation Association 2021 Silver Ancient Albatross Recipient

Commander James Lovenstein Commanding Officer, Port Security Unit 305

LCDR Dan McMahon, Executive Officer, Port Security Unit 305



## REUNION WRAP UP

Terry O'Connell gave the invocation, which was provided by CGCVA pastor and former MCOP-USCG Vince Patton.

Gary Sherman was master of ceremonies, and introduced the head table and various invited guests. Keynote speaker and CGCVA member Admiral Laura Dickey was introduced, along with other guests including RADM Rudy Peschel, RADM Scott McKinley and wife Cathy, Dr. William Thiesen, Ph.D, Coast Guard Historian for the Eastern Area, and others.



**Commander D5 and CGCVA member RDML Laura Dickey**

Bill Figone, who has attended every CGCVA reunion since our founding, led the Remembrance ceremony, with Russ weeks and Bill Femia.

CGCVA member Jim Loomis was asked to speak about LT. Jack Rittichier, the only Coast Guard aviator killed in action. Mr. Loomis unveiled a bronze bust that was created by an artist, rendering an incredible likeness to LT. Rittichier. Two of LT. Rittichier's family were in attendance and funding from the very expensive bust was donated by the Coast Guard Aviator Association, with many members present. The base for the bust was funded by the CGCVA.

After National President Steve Petersen's welcoming remarks and CGCVA Auxiliary President Javaughn Miller's address, Admiral Dickey gave a very interesting and informative speech on the U. S. Coast Guard, with emphasis on activity and changes in the Norfolk, Virginia area where she serves as Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District. Admiral Dickey is an Association member due to her service as Executive Officer, CG Patrol Forces Southwest Asia in Bahrain.

**Steve presenting USCG Historian, Dr. Bill Theisen, PhD, with the CGCVA Distinguished Service Award**

National President Steve Petersen presented certificates of appreciate to his Appointees, Officers and Trustees for their outstanding work in making the CGCVA what it is today.



**Jim Loomis on right of the CG Aviators with Alan Kaupinen, Kent State football teammate of Rittichier, with bronze bust of LT Jack Rittichier presented by the CG Aviators Association. The CGCVA donated funds for the wooden pedestal**

The newly elected officers were sworn into their office by President Steve Petersen and the new National President being Terry O'Connell with Bruce Bruni as National Vice President. Gary Sherman was re-elected for his 7<sup>th</sup> 2-year term and Michael Johnson was elected to a 2-year term as National Trustee along with Mark Pearson and Joseph Prince to four-year terms.

Special recognition was given to Gary Sherman, our Secretary/Treasurer, honoring him with the Donald Kniep Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding dedication to the CGCVA.

The Chieu Hoi Auction was won by Javaughn Miller and her husband and 2010 Person of the Year, Kenneth "Wayne" Miller. The 50/50 raffle was won by CAPT Phil Kies (USCG Ret.) and the benediction was performed by newly elected National President Terry O'Connell.

The reunion planning committee and attending members and guest made this event successful.

## REUNION WRAP UP

We conducted business, honored those who served, and paid tribute to those no longer with us. We hope to see you in 2023.

**Javaughn Miller winning again at "Shut the Box"**



**Four USCGC COOK INLET crew members of Squadron 3 who hadn't seen each other in 50 years. L-R: Russ Weeks, James Kay, Lester Sutton, Ron Gorney.**



**Wayne Miller with his "pet" Chieu Hoi again**



**L to R  
Rene` O`Connell, Jeannie Bruni, and Kay Petersen**



**CGCVA Mascot Chieu Hoi in his travel box. Auctioned off each reunion for a 2 year tour with the highest bidder**

**Terry O`Connell (R) talking with CDR Jim Lovenstein (CO PSU305) and LCDR Dan McMahon (XO PSU305)**

### THE DONALD KNIEP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Donald Kniep Distinguished Service Award is awarded to a member by the CGCVA President for "outstanding service to the association," as per Article VII.3 of the by laws of the CGCVA, and is presented at the biennial reunion as the final award of the evening. This year the honor of receiving the Donald Kniep Award was bestowed upon Gary Sherman. Gary has dedicated many hours in his duties as Secretary/Treasurer, ensuring that the organization is financially stable, that membership dues and other income is properly accounted for, and that all financial investments are properly administered. His recognition is well deserved. Congratulations to Gary for a job well done.

### PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE DONALD KNIEP AWARD

YEAR	RECIPIENT'S NAME	AWARDED BY	LOCATION
2011	Joseph Kleinpeter	Paul Scotti	Herndon, VA
2012	Edward Burke	Edward Swift	Private presentation
2013	Baker Herbert	Edward Swift	Reno, NV
2015	Edward Swift	Michael Placencia	Buffalo, NY
2016	Paul Scotti	Michael Placencia	Florida
2017	Gil "Frenchy" Benoit	Michael Placencia	San Diego, CA
2019	Terry O`Connell	Stephen Petersen	Charleston, SC
2021	Gary Sherman	Stephen Petersen	Virginia Beach, VA



# THE LONG BLUE LINE: TIP OF THE SPEAR—COMBAT OPERATIONS OF ADAK IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

By William H. Theisen, Atlantic Area Historian  
(Reprinted from the Coast Guard Compass)



**CGC Adak performs maritime interdiction operations. The cutter is seen here with a local dhow typically used for regional commerce.**  
*USCG Photo*

The maritime conditions of Iraq and the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG) can greatly limit the operations of large naval vessels and warships. Due to this and the U.S. Navy’s lack of in-shore patrol craft, a large part of the Navy’s request for Coast Guard assistance in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) centered on the service’s shallow-draft patrol boats. Cutters of the 110-foot Island Class, also known as WPBs, would serve as a mainstay of shallow-water operations. The deployment of the 110-foot patrol boat *CGC Adak* serves as a snapshot of WPB operations in OIF. Deployment of the WPBs overseas would represent the first combat deployment of Coast Guard patrol boats since the Vietnam War, even though other Coast Guard assets had served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the 1990s.

In early February 2003, the Coast Guard’s Atlantic Area Command deployed to the NAG the WPBs *Adak*, *Aquidneck*, *Baranof* and *Wrangell*. The 110s arrived in Bahrain at the beginning of March having ridden aboard the motor vessel *Industrial Challenger* for 35 days. On Wednesday, March 5, a heavy-lift crane off-loaded the WPBs, taking only about six hours to set all four in the water. LT. Sean Mackenzie and his crew ran *Adak* through sea trials for two days and on Sunday and sister ship *Aquidneck* deployed to the NAG followed by *Baranof* and *Wrangell* on March 12.

**110-foot CGC Adak being loaded on board a Military Sealift Command vessel destined for the Middle East.**  
*USCG Photo*



In the days leading up to combat operations, *Adak* focused on maritime interdiction

operations. Coalition vessels had restricted passage of local watercraft out of the Khwar Abd Allah (KAA) Waterway, thinking that these vessels might carry mines or escaping Iraqi officials. By mid-March, local watercraft had attempted several breakouts with fleets of dhows and small boats and, on March 17, a large breakout of 60 Iraqi watercraft attempted to evade coalition units. With the vessels scattering in all directions, *Adak*, *Wrangell* and their small boats, aided by other coalition units, managed to corral all of the Iraqi watercraft and board them. None of the vessels carried escaping Iraqi leaders or any illegal cargoes typical of small smuggling vessels. After boarding teams had thoroughly searched the dhows, *Adak* and the other patrol vessels allowed the watercraft to proceed along a specific route into the NAG.



## COVER STORY

In the early morning hours of Thursday, March 20, coalition initiated combat operations with air attacks against key military targets in Baghdad. In addition, coalition forces had to secure Iraq's Khor al-Amaya Oil Terminal and Mina al Bakr Oil Terminal to prevent an environmental attack by the Iraqi regime. That evening, Navy special operations forces support by Polish special forces personnel stormed the oil facilities. During the operation, LT. Mackenzie and *Adak*, along with *Baranof*, maintained security around the terminals to prevent reinforcement or escape by Iraqi military forces. After the special operations forces cleared the terminals of Iraqi personnel, weapons and explosives, Coast Guard personnel from Port Security Units (PSU) 311 and 313 arrived to secure the facilities.

Next, Mackenzie received orders to patrol the KAA waterway, so by the early morning hours of Friday, March 21, *Adak* had steamed up the KAA to serve as guard ship. In fact, of the 246 coalition naval units in the NAG, *Adak* served deepest in enemy territory and served as the "tip of the spear" for coalition naval forces. During her early morning patrol, *Adak* and Navy patrol craft *Chinook* surprised and stopped two down-bound Iraqi tugboats, including one towing a barge, and ordered them to anchor. At first, the vessels seemed harmless since they ordinarily serviced tankers and other vessels that plied local waters. But the two patrol vessels continued guarding the tugs and a special boarding team composed of Australian and American explosive experts searched the tugs and barge and found concealed within them a total of 70 contact and acoustic mines; had they been released, the mines could have sunk or heavily damaged dozens of coalition naval vessels. The team secured the tugs and *Chinook* transported the enemy crews back to a coalition naval vessel for processing. The captain of one of the mine-laying tugs admitted that the sight of Mackenzie's "white patrol boat" had prevented him from deploying his

deadly cargo.

Throughout the day, the captain and crew of *Adak* experienced a great deal of excitement. At 6:00 am, Australian and British frigates began naval fire support operations in what became known as "Five-inch Friday." The warships poured nearly 200 rounds of 4 1/2 and 5-inch shells into the Iraqi defenses while *Adak* screened the vessels against unauthorized watercraft. During this time, Mackenzie and his men felt the buffeting of explosions of hundreds of bombs and shells lobbed on the shore. British Royal Marines, supported by U.S. Navy and Royal Navy hovercraft, commenced the amphibious assault on the Al Faw Peninsula, the largest amphibious operation carried out since the Korean War.



**A captured Iraqi Republican Guard crew member from an Iraqi *PB-90* gunboat. The POW suffered from hypothermia when rescued from the Khwar Abd Allah Waterway, and he was one of the first maritime POWs of the war.**

*USCG Photo*

During the landings, an Iraqi patrol boat (PB-90) had been cruising upstream on the KAA Waterway in a position where it could threaten low-flying coalition helicopters and provide early

## COVER STORY

warning reports to land-based Iraqi forces on the Al Faw Peninsula. To engage *PB-90*, the coalition command center vectored in an AC-130 gunship, which destroyed the enemy vessel. Afterward, a coalition helicopter spotted three survivors floating down the KAA and notified *Adak* of their location. The WPB recovered the hypothermic Iraqis at 8:30 a.m. and transferred the prisoners to an Australian naval vessel for processing. Coalition experts later identified the men as warrant officers from Iraq's Republican Guard.

After coalition forces wrapped up the initial phase of combat operations, naval planners focused on opening the KAA Waterway to vessel traffic. Wrecks from the Iran-Iraq War and the first Gulf War still littered the KAA and its shores, but mines proved a greater concern. Some mines remained in the waterway from Operation Desert Storm. Mine sweeping operations began on Sunday, March 22, with Navy Sea Dragon helicopters towing minesweeping sleds along the waterway. Mackenzie received orders for *Adak* to join sister-ship *Wrangell*, and Navy patrol craft *Chinook* and *Firebolt* to escort Navy and Royal Marine minesweepers up the KAA. The process proved slow as the minesweepers proceeded at a rate of only three knots up the 40-mile channel to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. The patrol boats had to stand off 1,000 yards from the minesweeping vessels, often stationing themselves upriver from the mine-sweepers. On several occasions, the minesweepers located mines in waters previously navigated by the WPBs and, on one occasion, *Adak's* crew listened as the

patrol boat contacted a mine that came to the surface but failed to detonate.

It took a week to complete minesweeping operations on the KAA and with Umm Qasr in coalition hands, cargo vessels could begin steaming into the Iraqi port. Naval combat operations concluded near the end of March, but Mackenzie and *Adak* joined the other WPBs to continue their force protection role and serve as escorts while Navy salvage vessels *Catawba* and *Grapple* removed obstructions in the waterway. On March 28, coalition forces sent the first shipment of humanitarian aid into Umm Qasr on board the shallow-draft Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Sir Galahad* under the escort of *Adak*, *Wrangell*, a minesweeper and patrol craft *Firebolt*. *Adak* and its crew continued escort duties along the KAA into April. On April 11, *Adak* escorted Iraq's first commercial shipment on board motor vessel *Manar* which carried 700 tons of Red Crescent Society aid



Crew of *CGC Adak* posed for a group photo on the bow of the 110-foot cutter. *USCG Photo*

## COVER STORY

of food, water, medical supplies and transport vehicles.

On April 12, Mackenzie received orders to return to base and *Adak* redeployed to Bahrain after completing a 35-day non-stop deployment to the NAG. On April 9, organized resistance had ceased in Baghdad, followed in mid-April by a cessation of resistance in most other Iraqi cities. On May 1, President George Bush announced the end of combat operations in Iraq and the coalition's offensive operations came to a close.

During OIF, *Adak*, its sister-ships and their crews brought many vital capabilities to the theater of operations. The patrol boats operated for many

hours without maintenance in waters too shallow for most naval vessels and served as the fleet's workhorses in boarding, escort duty, force protection and maritime interdiction operations. The characteristic white hulls of the WPBs also provided a less antagonizing presence in a highly volatile region. As they had on previous Coast Guard combat missions, Coast Guard patrol boats and personnel exceeded all expectations for shallow-water and in-shore maritime operations. Shallow-draft Coast Guard units and their personnel have played an important role in the long blue line and will remain a part in future naval operations wherever hostilities erupt in the world's littoral regions.

**(May 24, 2021) – Fast response cutters *USCGC Robert Goldman (WPC 1142)* and *USCGC Charles Moulthroppe (WPC 1141)*, and patrol boats *USCGC Maui (WPB 1304)* and *Adak (WPB 1333)* transit the Arabian Gulf en route to Bahrain, May 24. *Robert Goldman* and *Charles Moulthroppe* are the newest additions to Patrol Forces Southwest Asia (PATFORSWA), which is comprised of six 110' cutters, the Maritime Engagement Team, shore side support personnel, and is the Coast Guard's largest unit outside of the U.S. playing a key role in supporting Navy security cooperation, maritime security, and maritime infrastructure protection operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.**

*(U.S. Coast Guard photo by Seaman Logan Kaczmarek)*





## FEATURED ARTICLES

### PENSACOLA DOCUMENTARY 'BACK TO CHINA BEACH' CHRONICLES VIETNAM WAR SURFING CLUB

By Jack Newby, Pensacola News Journal

During the Vietnam War in the late 1960s, soldiers from all branches found reprieve from the rigors of war by riding the waves of the China Sea. Immortalized in museums across the country for decades, the club was shaped by Pensacola resident Larry Martin, a Navy storekeeper during Vietnam.

"Being able to be in the water and to be away from the war that's happening right on the beach, it was like a relief," Martin said Thursday. "That's the



**Vietnam Vets Larry Martin, Al Daniels and China Beach Club Dan Emerson pose for photo.**  
*Courtesy of Mike Cotton and Dave Barnes*

only thing that kept their sanity."

Pensacola-based producers Mike Cotton and Dave Barnes spoke to over 100 Vietnam veterans familiar or involved with the club for their documentary. "Back to China Beach" covers everything from Martin's initiative to better organize the club and protect surfers from themselves, to the healing power of wave-riding, which many vets practiced long after they returned home.

"They had tried to start a club up originally before I was there and it didn't really amount to a



**The China Beach Surf Club was a band of Vietnam Vets who spent their down time in Da Nang surfing the China Sea.**  
*Courtesy of Mike Cotton and Dave Barnes*

lot, I think they had 15 to 20 members," the 73-year-old Martin recalled. "But it didn't really advance to anything."

When Martin was deployed to Da Nang, Vietnam, in November 1967, he soon made friends with the lifeguards and gained access to the lifeguard building.

Martin gained permission from his commanding officer to organize the club, agreeing to repair surfboards and take some of the burden off of the lifeguards who cared for China Beach surfers in



**1968 Vietnam veteran surfers**  
*Courtesy of Mike Cotton and Dave Barnes*

addition to their standard duties.

Soldiers looking to surf during their down time were assigned a card by Martin, who would personally vet their surfing abilities — or lack thereof — before giving them the green light.

"There were not that many surfboards and we just didn't really want every Joe Blow to have use of a board that didn't really know how to surf,"

## FEATURED ARTICLES

Martin said. "What I would do is I would actually take the people out to the water, and I would be in the water and watch them to see if they have any skills or anything. And if they surfed well enough and they could use a board without damaging it, I'd issue them a card."

During his deployment from the end of 1967 to the beginning of 1969, Martin kept a log and found he had issued cards to between 170-180 servicemen.

"Anywhere where we have a strong military presence and we have veterans, particularly from the Vietnam era, we think it's important because it's authentic," said Cotton, who co-produced "Back to China Beach." "It's not Dave (Barnes) and I telling the story — they're telling their story. And obviously when you interview over 100 of them, you pretty much get dialed into what was really happening there and what their feelings are and what they're going through today."

Studio interviews with about 25 of the vets will be featured in the documentary, pieced together between clips and still images shot in Da Nang.

After the premiere screening in Pensacola toward the end of November, Cotton said he plans to take "Back to China Beach" on the road and partner with nonprofit charities across the country



**China Beach  
(officially called  
My Khe Beach)  
in the late 1960s.**



that Cotton and Barnes hope will facilitate a venue for a screening in exchange for 50% of the ticket proceeds.

"We're going to partner with nonprofit organizations everywhere we go," Cotton said. "We'll of course give veteran groups priority dibs on being our nonprofit partner."

Cotton said East and West Coast screenings are already in the works. The location of the Pensacola premiere is still being negotiated.

*Jake Newby can be reached at [jnewby@pnj.com](mailto:jnewby@pnj.com) or 850-435-8538.*



**My Khe Beach 2021**



**My Khe Beach—Da Nang 2021**



## FEATURED ARTICLES

### Dick Swanson – Humility in Action

by

**LCDR Dennis Branson (USCG, Retired)**

**Mrs. Joan Swanson (Spouse of Coast Guard Veteran Richard Swanson)**

Early in the morning of February 3, 1943, the Coast Guard was involved in an epic WWII story of survival and sacrifice when cutters *Escanaba* and *Comanche* performed search and rescue operations following the sinking of the transport ship *USAT Dorchester* near Greenland. Many accounts have been given of the heroic “Immortal” Four Chaplains, who literally went down with the ship, along with over 600 other men. One of the Coast Guard *Comanche* rescuers—Petty Officer Charles W. David—died of pneumonia due to his heroic rescue efforts that night.

One of David’s shipmates—Richard Swanson—has often been quoted or referred to in the *Dorchester* story; but little has been dedicated (in print) solely to him. To that end, this article is dedicated to him as we remember the 77th anniversary of the *Dorchester* event.



**Richard Swanson**

#### MEET SK1 DICK SWANSON

Richard “Dick” Swanson was born on Mother’s Day - May 14, 1922, in Des Moines, Iowa. When he was four, his parents moved to the family farm in Mead, Nebraska, where Dick and his brother Lyle grew up. Although seven years younger than Lyle, Dick grew very close to his only brother working together on the farm. Dick's dad was a traveling salesman so Dick and his mother spent many weeks together on the farm while Dick’s father traveled across the Midwest. One of Dick’s happiest memories was when the Mead bank

would show free movies on Saturday night on the side of the barn. Dick and his mother had what he called a “portable popcorn machine” and the two of them made popcorn and sold nickel sacks to the movie goers.

From an early age, Dick had a passion for music. He learned to play saxophone from his brother Lyle and became a standout performer in the Mead high school band and bands around the area. He later added the clarinet to his craft at a time when the Big Band era was taking off. The summer after his high school graduation, Dick actually filled in for one of the regular clarinetists for the famous Lawrence Welk band!

Dick graduated from Mead (Class of 1939) and, within the year, began planning to join the military with some close friends – a common practice in those days. On August 10, 1940, Dick left home for Coast Guard boot camp at Port Townsend, WA. Dick recalled through the years that it broke his mother’s heart when he left for the Coast Guard. He vividly remembered her running alongside the train as it was leaving as far as she could.

After completing boot camp, Dick’s first assignment was the *Coast Guard Cutter Aurora* (WPC-103). He fondly recalled how one of their operations involved escorting a seal herd from Cordova, Alaska, to Mexico: “*The seals went north to breed and then go down to Mexico to give birth*” “*We escorted them to protect from poachers who killed the mother to take the baby seal that was pure white before birth.*”

Following his unique northern duties aboard *Aurora*, Dick returned to San Pedro, CA, where he was assigned to the *Coast Guard Cutter Cahoone* (WSC-131) As he described it: “*We would go out to tow in pleasure boats that were stranded, and also fishing boats. We used surf boats to take people rescued from disabled boats onto beaches where there were no docks.*”



## FEATURED ARTICLES

Before leaving California, Dick completed SONAR training at the Navy Fleet Sound School.

He then received orders to report to the Storekeeper Office at the Coast Guard Receiving Station on Ellis Island, New York. In March 1942, Dick was assigned to the cutter *Comanche*, an icebreaking Cutter working the convoy routes around Greenland and Iceland to escort Allied troop and cargo.

### SHIPMATES

Dick's primary duties as a Storekeeper (SK) were in the ship's office, but he also had a small space to perform his new skills as a SONAR operator. The space provided Dick a place to play his saxophone without disturbing anyone. One day, Charles W. David overheard the music from his gunnery locker. After knocking, he explained his love of music and pulled out a harmonica. According to Dick, they bonded immediately and spent hours together talking about their lives and families and making music. From these "jam sessions" the shipmates composed what they called the "Comanche Blues" - a lively ode to life aboard a ship in the Coast Guard.



**Charles David**

The Swanson—David relationship is a classic example of two young Americans from very different backgrounds who came together to serve their country. Although the men met in the progressive atmosphere of NYC - it was far from "in vogue" for close relationships between men of different color. President Roosevelt wanted to see African-Americans become integrated into the general ranks of the Coast Guard and Navy. In December 1942, President Roosevelt ended volunteer enlistment of most military personnel

which caused the Coast Guard to fall under the Selective Service Law - which sadly included a racial quota system.

In the midst of this segregated environment, Charles and Dick came together over the common love of music. During *Comanche's* NYC port calls, Dick would close the door of the ship's office and Charles would pull out his harmonica. Swanson described it well—

*"We would get together and jam! We became really good friends. Charles would say - 'let's go up to Harlem and I would say I can't go there, so let's go up to 52<sup>nd</sup> street. Charles would reply back - I can't go there so we would have to find someplace we both could go."*

Dick continued his tour on *Comanche*, making five escort trips in the trade lanes between Iceland and Greenland. Although the arctic weather was brutal, the routes in this area - called the Labrador Sea - had been a much less eventful part of the raging war in the North Atlantic. In late January, *Comanche* transited to St. John's Newfoundland to pick up a small (termed "runt") convoy of two Norwegian freighters and a heavily loaded Army troopship - the *Dorchester* - bound for Greenland.

### A FATEFUL, HISTORICAL MISSION

There were over 900 U.S. Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Merchant Mariners on board *Dorchester* for this transit. Of those men, there was a unique band of four Army Chaplains sent to provide spiritual support to the growing Allied operations in Greenland. The men, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Father John Washington, Reverend Clark Poling and Reverend George Fox, were all well-established clergy, yet made the decision to serve as Army Chaplains. During the voyage from their point of departure (New York, NY), they had endeared themselves to their shipboard congregation.

## FEATURED ARTICLES

Just before 1:00 am - with less than 90 miles left to the safety of Greenland - German *U-Boat 233* attacked and sank the troopship *Dorchester* in what would become an epic night of loss, sacrifice and faith.

That night also brought these two shipmates together in a historical way.

Following *Dorchester's* rapid sinking - by all accounts less than 20 minutes - *Comanche's* Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Curry, made a command decision to divert from orders/naval procedure to "screen" the area around the remaining transports and support *Escanaba* in search and rescue of *Dorchester*.

At this, the *Comanche* crewmembers scrambled to perform a harrowing life and death operation to retrieve the souls of *Dorchester* from sub arctic water with no specialized equipment. When the benumbed survivors were unable (because of heavy seas and freezing wind) to climb aboard the rescuing ship, Swanson and his Shipmate Charles David volunteered for the dangerous task of "going over the rail, using a makeshift cargo net to bring the hypothermic, exhausted survivors to the safety of the *Comanche*. Dick's memoirs say it all:

*"During the third night out, [February 3, 1943] I was on watch operating the SONAR and heard the explosion when the Dorchester was hit. One of the Comanche lookouts reported seeing a torpedo going right across our bow, narrowly missing us. When I reported the explosion, we were immediately called to quarters and my station was to man a 50-caliber gun. We were about a mile off the port side and could see the Dorchester. Our immediate orders were to search for the submarine while our sister ship, Escanaba, picked up survivors. As I looked out over the sea, I saw acres of red lights on life jackets, which meant the men had been alive when they hit the water and turned them on. After about half an hour of searching, we lost contact*

*with the sub and starting picking up survivors. In the end, the only ones who were alive were in the two lifeboats or rafts - all those in the water were already dead."*

Unlike the *Escanaba's* crew, who were tethered to specialized rubberized suits the ten *Comanche* rescuers had only blue jeans and jackets to fight the 34-degree water; as well as 6 to 8-foot rolling seas. Dick continued his memoirs, describing it as follows:

*"We spent over an hour taking on all we could find. I found myself too exhausted to climb up the net and two buddies came down to help. My jeans were soaked with sea water and heavy. On board we stripped off the wet clothes and got into hot showers. We wrapped the survivors in blankets and gave them our bunks until we arrived at Blue West One on Greenland, where ambulances came down to the docks and took them to the Army hospital on base."*

That night the torpedo's explosion and freezing conditions took over 600 souls -one of the greatest single losses in the north Atlantic to date in the conflict. Dick would never forget the "blinking red lights" that all aboard the cutters witnessed that night. The lights they saw were lifejacket detection devices - each representing a life, which in most cases, was already extinguished.

The great friendship between Dick and his shipmate Charles was also cut short. After finishing rescue operations that morning, Charles W. David collapsed on the voyage into Greenland and was taken to the base hospital. Prior to the rescue, he had been nursing what he thought was a cold and his condition took a quick turn to pneumonia. Nearly two months later, SM1 Charles W. David succumbed to a fatal case of pneumonia from his exposure during the rescue operations. Dick's only memoir comment was: *"My buddy, Charles W David, died on Greenland as a result of*

## FEATURED ARTICLES

*pneumonia he contracted after his heroic efforts saving survivors. I will never forget him.”*

The story of the Four Chaplains became an American story of courage and self-sacrifice. A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Dwight Eisenhower on January 18, 1961.

### RETURN TO DUTY IN THE U.S

In the spring of 1943 Petty Officer Swanson left the Comanche, bound for the USCG Academy at New London, Connecticut. He had been nominated for an appointment as an officer, but, upon arrival, Dick failed the physical exam due to eye damage related to his service in the Arctic. Dick was temporarily assigned to the First District Office in Boston.

Swanson’s love of music also went on. During his time in Boston (late 1943) he had another rendezvous with American musical history – Ella Fitzgerald was performing at a small lounge when Dick and two Coastie friends went to see her. The following happened:

*“We sat down in front of the stage, in uniform of course, and at the end of her first set she came down and sat at our table between me and the other fellows. I was telling her how much I enjoyed her music, especially when she went into the scat singing, and I imitated one of her runs. She said, “You mean when I do” - and broke into another riff. We went back and forth like that for several minutes. She was so gracious to three young servicemen. It was a highlight of my youth and I’ve never forgotten it.”*

Dick never stopped playing the sax, becoming a fixture at regional events over the years around Mead. He was asked to play the National Anthem for the College World Series four years in a row!

Swanson’s request to “go anywhere on the

west coast” was honored when the Coast Guard transferred him to USCG Repair Base in San Pedro CA. Upon reporting, Dick was put in charge of an active supply depot, serving as Storekeeper procuring supplies for patrol boats and other small ships. As Dick stated:

*“A lot of fellows had turned their small ships over to the CG and were in charge of their own ships during the war and were given ranks from Boatswain Mate First Class to Chief Petty Officer. They cruised the coastline doing rescue efforts of civilian small craft and were docked at the Repair Base (San Pedro) where we serviced them.”*

### TRANSITION TO FAMILY LIFE (His, Hers and Theirs)

In June 1944, Dick met a young lady named Dorothy in San Pedro, California. After asking her out to dinner they were married 3 weeks later. The following April, their daughter Jan Dee was born. When his USCG re-enlistment papers came, Dick decided that with a new wife and baby girl to care for it was time to start a new chapter. Dick and “Dottie” moved back to Dallas to be around her family, adding a second child, Scott. Sadly, Dick again experienced great loss as Dottie died of leukemia in 1959.

In 1966 Dick married Mrs. Joan Weaver and added her three sons to the Swanson family. When Joan’s sister died in 1972, Dick and Joan adopted her (the sister’s) three children. “His, hers, and theirs...and they’re all ours” is how Dick would also lovingly referred to his blended family.

### HUMILITY IN RECOGNITION

Initially only six of the ten *Comanche* sailors that participated in the *Dorchester* rescue operations received recognition – and Dick Swanson wasn’t one of them. He went for 50



## FEATURED ARTICLES

years without talking or referring to the *Dorchester* sinking, or even much of his service in WWII. In 1999 that changed when one of the Four Chaplains family members, Mr. David Fox, contacted Dick from the [former] Immortal Chaplain's Foundation (ICF). The annual ICF award was for "individuals who helped others at the risk of their own lives, and without regard to racial, ethnic, or other differences." Sadly, no relatives of Charles David were located so Swanson was asked to keep the award, hopeful that someday he could get it to the Charles' family. Swanson was asked to receive the honor on behalf of his friend. He told the foundation, "I will go anywhere to deliver it." For five years it sat in the most appropriate place possible – on the Swanson piano.

The German *U-Boat (U-223)* was sunk a year after the *Dorchester* event by British destroyers, yet some of the crew that were on her that fateful February night, survived and were contacted by ICF in 2000 for a special reconciliation ceremony. The *U-223*'s First Officer, Gerhard Buske, and fellow crewmember Kurt Rosser represented the *U-223* in front of an audience at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, Buske stated:

*"We the sailors of U-223 regret the deep sorrows and pains caused by the torpedo...wives lost their husbands, parents their sons, and children waited for their fathers in vain. I once more ask forgiveness, as we had to fight for our country, as your soldiers had to do for theirs."*

In yet another musical irony - Buske then proceeded to pull out his instrument of choice – a harmonica not unlike that of Charles David – and performed "Amazing Grace" in honor of his shipmates and all those lost when the *U-223* sunk and those lost on the *Dorchester*.

### A SHIPMATE NEVER FORGETS

Not only did Dick Swanson never forget his

close friend and shipmate Charles David, but he didn't want his memory forgotten. After he received the ICF Prize for Humanity, he longed to get it to David's family, but none could be found. During this time, a retired federal Judge, Barry Sax, became very involved in the Swanson-David story and reached out to Dick. Judge Sax began to garner support from the Coast Guard's basic training at Training Center (TRACEN) Cape May to honor Charles David. In preparation for the TRACEN ceremony, USCG personnel and Judge Sax broke through and were able to identify and contact members of Charles David's family - including his widow, Kathleen David, and his granddaughter - Sharon David.

In November 2004, Judge Sax orchestrated a reunion of sorts between with the Swansons and Kathleen David and Sharon David. Sax and the Swansons drove to pick up the David relatives and the group traveled to TRACEN Cape May for a recognition ceremony where a duplicate of the ICF Prize for Humanity bearing David's name was placed on permanent display in the TRACEN Cape May Chapel.

Following the TRACEN ceremony, Sax took Kathleen, Sharon and a few other David family members to the resting place of Charles W. David, a Long Island national cemetery near Farmingdale, NY. In an ironic twist of fate, Charles W. David's family had lived for many years in the New York area - mostly in the Bronx. Since 1947, Charles David had been buried less than 40 miles away, and they had never known it! As Judge Sax stated:

*"I took the entourage for a ride up the Garden State Parkway - across Staten Island - and stopped at the former pier from which the Dorchester had sailed north in late January 1943 – then out to the National Cemetery near Farmingdale, located on Long Island. Although records showed section and plot numbers, the headstone numbers were out of sequence. After wandering for a while, and walking*

## FEATURED ARTICLES

*up and down the rows of uniform headstones, the group found the one bearing David's name...tears were shed and the circle of history was complete."*

### RECOGNIZING THE HUMBLE

Full recognition for Dick's heroic actions in the rescue of 103 *Dorchester* survivors came in January 2010 when the Coast Guard awarded him the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. This was the award initially given to 6 of the 10 recorded rescuers (including Charles David) in 1944. Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman presented Dick with the award which he joked "*was only about 65 years late.*"

In March 2013, Dick and Barry Sax gave a presentation at the WWII Museum in New Orleans. Dick's humility is obvious. When the audience



**Dick Swanson receiving  
Navy & Marine Corps  
Medal from Governor Dave  
Heineman in 2010**

asked about the medal that Joan had pinned on his jacket, Dick quipped - "*I'm not much on awards...my wife made me wear it.*"

Dick was also present in 2013 when the Coast Guard bestowed the greatest honor to his Shipmate Charles David – naming a new Sentinel Class patrol boat the *USCGC Charles W. David*. At the dedication ceremony in Key West, FL Dick commented - "*It was a thrill seeing my old shipmate so honored. I will never forget him.*"

### CROSSING THE BAR

After living 40 years in Dallas, Dick returned with his family to his Nebraska hometown of Mead to retire. Always a servant, Dick served on the

Mead Village Board for over a decade and was on the Mead Planning Commission and Community Group. Dick also dedicated many hours to his community as a member of the Mead Evangelical Church. He was also heavily involved in the Wahoo Area Kiwanis Club, the Yutan VFW Post No. 9844, the Yutan American Legion Post No. 262 and an anti-drinking and driving program called "Project Extra Mile."

On November 16, 2018, Dick Swanson "crossed the bar." Joan reflected to me just how much she will miss "Papa" as he was known around their home. Joan lives in Texas with her son and carries the Swanson torch of humility that Dick earned for a lifetime.

### ENDNOTE

In 2016, I (Dennis) had the honor of meeting the humble hero and his bride - Joan (Co-Author of this article) - at their Mead, Nebraska home. It was a special day with the Swansons that culminated in the completion of an amazing final tribute to Dick's life and service, called a "Patriot Feature."

Please take a moment to watch this "Patriot Feature" at <https://www.patriotfeatures.org/portfolio/dick-swanson/>

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

*Joan Swanson is living in central Texas with her family and fondly retelling the stories of "my Papa" and all that he meant to her. Dick's legacy of "His, Hers and Theirs" in the lives of 8 children, 10 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.*

*Dennis Branson is a retired U.S. Coast Guardsman with over 20 years of enlisted/officer experience. Dennis has been telling the epic story of the *Dorchester* and Coast Guard rescue for the past 7 years. He currently works for the Center for Army Profession & Leadership (CAPL).*

## NEWS AND NOTICES

### USCGC ROBERT GOLDMAN (WPC 1142) JOINS THE FLEET

As of March 12, 2021, the newest addition to the fleet of Coast Guard cutter is *USCGC Robert Goldman (WPC-1142)*. Commissioned at Sector Key West, the newest 154 foot Fast Response Cutter (FRC) was named after Pharmacist's Mate Second Class (PhM2) Robert Goldman, USCG. It will be homeported in Bahrain.



**PhM2 Robert  
Goldman  
USCG**

Goldman was born in New York City in 1920 and raised in Woodstock, CT. He graduated from the University of Connecticut and taught at the Nation Farm School before enlisting into the Coast Guard in October, 1942, as a Pharmacist Mate, with similar duties to that of a Corpsman.

On August 9, 1944, Goldman reported aboard the Coast Guard manned Landing Ship Tank—USS LST-66 destined to land supplies to the Army forces involved in the retaking of the Philippines from the Japanese. It was during the resupplying of Army troops at Leyte Island that PhM2 Goldman demonstrated his heroism and dedication to his shipmates above his own well being that earned his Bronze Star for heroism. From the Secretary of the Navy his citation reads:

*“For heroic achievement as crewman aboard the USS LST-66 in action against enemy Japanese forces on Leyte Islands, Philippine Islands, on November 12, 1944. Although seriously injured when an enemy fighter crashed into the starboard quarter of his ship, Goldman administered medical aid to the wounded, refusing treatment for his own wounds until all others had been treated. His unselfish devotion to duty was in the keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”*

Vice Admiral Scott Bushman, USCG, Deputy Commandant for Operations was the presiding official for the commissioning ceremony, with Ms. Elly Goldman selected as the cutter's sponsor.

The Commanding Officer of USCGC ROBERT GOLDMAN is Lieutenant Commander Samuel Blasé. Blasé had previously served aboard several cutters, including USCGC MONOMY, performing PATFORSWA duties in the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His Executive Officer is Lieutenant Junior Grade Alicia Evans, USCG.



**LCDR Samuel  
Blasé, USCG**

#### THE SHIP'S BLAZON



The shield, or a poplar tree couped Vert, has two serpents entwined round the trunk Tenne`, head to chief, in a chief's mullet of the last.

The crest, from a wreath Or and Vert, between two waves Azure, an escallop demi-expanded Or, interior Tenne`, therein a Pearl Proper, below an arc of eight mullets of the fifth, all within a wreath of two palm leaver Proper.

The supporters, behind the shield, a Coast Guard Officer's sword and a Chief Petty Officer's cutlass in saltire, points downward Proper.

The motto, in a scroll Azure, doubled Tenne`, inscribed *“BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY”* Argent.

USCGC *Robert Goldman* is the second FRC to be assigned to PATFORSWA and is the 42nd FRC to be built for the Coast Guard.



## NEWS AND NOTICES

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2021

#### **VA to readjudicate Veteran and survivor claims for possible herbicide exposure**

WASHINGTON — Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will have their claims automatically readjudicated by VA.

The department began readjudicating claims in April for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War but were denied for one or more herbicide related conditions, on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways.

“Readjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection benefits,” said Acting VA Under Secretary for Benefits Thomas

Murphy. “We have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Veteran community and will ensure all eligible Veterans’ and their survivors’ claims are examined thoroughly and fairly.”

The review also applies to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam-era Veterans and is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration’s implementation of the Nov. 5, 2020, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California order in *Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*, requiring VA to readjudicate previously denied claims.

VA will determine if benefits for qualifying disabilities can now be paid retroactively to the date of previously denied claims. The court’s decision requires automatic readjudication in such cases without requiring a new claim, and potentially paying benefits to the survivors or estates of deceased beneficiaries.

More information is available regarding VA disability benefits based on Agent Orange exposure.

###

#### **BURIAL IN A NATIONAL OR STATE CEMETERY**

Many veterans are unaware of their benefit to be buried in a National Cemetery or State Cemetery, not only for the veteran but for a spouse and dependent child at a significantly minor cost when compared to that of a private cemetery.

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration maintains 155 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico as well as 34 soldier's lots and monument sites. Please

note that there is not a VA national cemetery in every state.

Many states have established state veterans cemeteries. Eligibility is similar to Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) national cemeteries, but may include residency requirements. Even though they may have been established or improved with Government funds through VA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program, state veterans cemeteries are run solely by the states.

Burial benefits available for spouses and

## NEWS AND NOTICES

dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

You can apply to find out in advance if you can be buried in a VA national cemetery. This is called

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration would like to thank those CGCVA veterans of the Vietnam War that participated in its Oral History Program. In four days in Virginia Beach, the Commemoration's oral history team met and recorded interviews with twelve CGCVA members representing a variety of experiences: Participants included four officers and eight enlisted; four men described their experiences aboard 82-foot patrol boats, three described white-hulled high-endurance cutters, one described his role as a SAR pilot flying with the Air Force, one described his year with the Explosive Loading Detachment in Da Nang, and one maintained the ship's office at Cat Lo. Several men also included descriptions of the LORAN-C stations. A variety of enlisted ratings included Boatswain's Mates, an Operations Specialist, a Yeoman, Enginemen, Electronics Technicians, and strikers. Perspectives based on ranks while in Vietnam varied from seaman and fireman to lieutenant.

These twelve interviews, added with the seven other Coast Guard veteran interviews previously recorded, brings the Commemoration's total to 19 first-person perspectives of Coast Guard participation during the Vietnam War, and they greatly expand the breadth and depth of experiences available for future generations. The Commemoration's History and Legacy team will archive all of the interviews within the Library of Congress Veteran's History Project, and many will also be publicly accessible through the

a pre-need determination of eligibility—and it can help make the burial planning process easier for your family members in their time of need. The time for this determination is BEFORE the need.

See the VA's National Cemetery Administration for more information about burial and memorial benefits and survivor pensions at:

[www.cem.va.gov/index.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/index.asp)

Commemoration's website.

Vietnam Veterans are encouraged to participate in future oral history events. The Vietnam War Commemoration's Oral History Team has plans to travel to the following venues in 2021:

- August – USS Midway Museum, San Diego, California
- September – Mobile Riverine Force Association, St. Louis, Missouri
- October – Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, DC

Please contact Marc Henderson at [marc.r.henderson.civ@mail.mil](mailto:marc.r.henderson.civ@mail.mil) with questions or to schedule an in-person interview.

Thank you!

Marc

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History & Legacy Branch  
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Mobile - 571.225.1645

*"Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!"*

## NEWS AND NOTICES

### DESERT STORM, OIF, OEF, OND VETERANS HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH THE BURN PIT REGISTRY YET?

As a method to track their health, the Burn Pit Registry was created. However, it was soon expanded to include all veterans, not just those involved in burn pit operations, who have served in the Middle East, Africa and Afghanistan, which covered Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, as well as those

who served in Djibouti, on or after September 11, 2001, or in the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990.

The Burn Pit Registry can be found at: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>. It takes about 40 minutes to complete and it can be downloaded for discussion with your healthcare provider. There is no cost to participate in the registry. Participation is not required for other VA disability compensation. Enrollment in the VA health program is not required.

### GULF WAR SYNDROME

A prominent condition affecting Gulf War Veterans is a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, and memory problems. VA refers to these illnesses as "chronic multisymptomatic illness" and "undiagnosed illnesses." This is what is commonly known as "Gulf War Syndrome" because it was first reported by Gulf War Veterans.

The VA presumes certain chronic, unexplained symptoms existing for 6 months or more are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These "presumptive" illnesses must have appeared during active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations or by Dec. 31, 2021, and be at least 10% disabling. These illnesses include:

- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that isn't relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.
- Fibromyalgia, a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.
- Functional gastrointestinal disorders, a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent

symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.

- Undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.

Gulf War Veterans who meet these criteria don't need to prove a connection between their military service and illnesses to get VA disability compensation.

### PERSIAN GULF WAR ILLNESS

**Symptoms:** Vary somewhat among individuals and include fatigue, headaches, cognitive dysfunction, musculoskeletal pain, insomnia, and respiratory, gastrointestinal and dermatologic complaints.

**Causes:** Toxic exposures during 1990-91 Gulf War

**diagnosis:** **Differential** Chronic fatigue syndrome / myalgic encephalitis (CFS/ME); fibromyalgia; multiple sclerosis (MS)

**Frequency:** 25% to 34% of the 697,000 U.S. troops of the 1990-91 Gulf War



## SHIP'S STORE

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**www.coastguardcombatvets.org**

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**CGCVA GARRISON CAP:** (Must specify size) Fore'n aft cap with embroidered CGCVA color logo and in white lettering "COAST GUARD COMBAT VETERANS ASSOCIATION". \$27.50

**CGCVA CHALLENGE COIN:** CGCVA logo on obverse, U.S. Coast Guard logo on reverse. \$12.00

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**USCG ACTION IN VIETNAM:** By Paul Scotti, PNP, LM. A great history of the U.S. Coast Guard's participation in the Vietnam War. \$22.00

**CGCVA AND USCG VIETNAM PATCHES:** CGCVA (small) \$4.00, CGCVA (large) \$5.00, RONONE, CON-SON, ELD—Eagle, Market Time, Squadron Three, USCG LORSTA Sattahip, Thailand, ELD CG Vietnam, \$5.00 each, Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club \$6.00





# COAST GUARD COMBAT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

### PERSONAL INFORMATION



Last Name	First Name	MI	Suffix	DOB
Street Address	City	State	Zip	
Telephone: Cell	Home	Other	Primary Email	

Many members have dual addresses, relocating to the south during winter months and back to the north in summer. In order to receive the Quarterdeck Log at your current location, it is important that you notify the CGCVA Secretary/Treasurer when you travel between residences at [cgcva@comcast.net](mailto:cgcva@comcast.net) to ensure delivery. All change of address requests is made to the same email account.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Applicants must have been a member of the U.S. Coast Guard at the time of deployment during a qualifying period for CGCVA membership. This application MUST be accompanied by a copy of one or more of the following documents that indicates your participation in or in direct support of combat operations: DD-214 (all pages), DD-215, NAV/CG-523, Letter(s) of awards or other "official" documentation of your participation. Active Duty may submit their Employee Summary Sheet which lists duty stations and awards. If there is no documentation available to validate eligible service for membership, a certified statement from a former shipmate who is a CGCVA member in "Good Standing" will serve as your sponsor and affirm that you served with them with a specific unit, in a theatre of operations that qualifies for CGCVA membership. All CGCVA applications are verified. For all applications, please provide the sponsor's name if necessary or that of someone who is referring you for membership.

Qualifying Service Medal Awarded	Dates in Theatre of Operations and Campaign Name	Ship(s) or Unit(s) at time of deployment and Authorized Period

**Dues: \$40.00 for two (2) years membership**  
**Current active duty members, including SELRES on Title 10, receive four years membership for \$40.00. SELRES on Title 10 or LONG TERM ADOS must submit a copy of their orders along with their DD214.**

**Send membership application to:**  
 Gary Sherman (CGCVA Secretary-Treasurer)  
 P.O. Box 969, Lansdale, PA 19446  
**Make check or money order payable to:**  
**CGCVA**

Print name of CGCVA sponsor or referral	Signature of applicant	Date
---	------------------------	------

Indicate in check box if applying for: Regular membership  Associate membership  Other



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*Photo by CWO Alan Zack, USCG (ret)*