



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 Corporation 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 28, Number 4

Winter 2013

New USCG Headquarters Building Named

St. Elizabeth's Complex Formally Pays Tribute to Memory of Coast Guard Hero Douglas A. Munro

“By his outstanding leadership, expert planning, and dauntless devotion to duty, he and his courageous comrades undoubtedly saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished. He gallantly gave up his life in defense of his country.”

So ends the Medal of Honor citation for Signalman 1st Class Douglas A. Munro, the only member of the nation's oldest continuous sea-going service to be awarded America's highest military honor.

On Nov. 13th, the Coast Guard paid tribute to this legendary hero, designating its new headquarters the Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building.

The ceremony came just two days after Veterans Day, a day in which we honor those who have worn the uniform and defended our freedoms. This significance was not lost on U.S. Marine Corps Col. Barney Barnum, a Medal of Honor recipient who attended the ceremony. For him, both Veterans Day and the ceremony served as a perfect time to rededicate “to the principles our great country stands for and what veterans have fought to protect and preserve.”

As a Medal of Honor recipient himself, Barnum shared his thoughts on why it is important to educate the public about the dignity and honor behind the Medal of Honor and recipients like Munro.

“The Medal of Honor stands for, or represents, the metal of



PNP Ed Swift admires the bronze bust of Douglas A. Munro at the Nov. 13th Coast Guard Headquarters Building Naming Ceremony.

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Coast Guard Combat Veterans Assn.

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THE QUARTERDECK LOG

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National Vice President — Beverly Johnson
National Secretary/Treasurer — Mimi Placencia

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From the President

Greetings Shipmates:

We are nearing one year since we held the 2013 Reno Reunion. I take great pleasure in announcing two items that were brought up at the membership meeting have been accomplished. First and foremost, the Association has produced a challenge coin, and you will want to get yours now. A special ad appears in this issue and every coin purchased benefits the Association. Also, in this issue you will find the ad we ran in the Vietnam Veterans of America magazine in the Nov/Dec 2013 issue and it will repeat in their Mar/Apr 2014 issue.



Mike Placencia



President Placencia stands proudly next to the USCG flag at the Bakersfield, Calif. Veterans' Day parade.

Next QD Log deadline is May 1, 2014.
Please email articles and photos to the editor at: swiftie1@verizon.net

From the President (cont.)

I cannot recall a time when I have been prouder, as I am today, to be associated with the Coast Guard. A generation has passed since I wore the uniform, but riding on a Veterans' Day parade float (built by veterans of all services) will always be special — and in my adopted hometown of Bakersfield, Calif. Naturally, I chose the seat next to the USCG flag. Later in the month, I attended the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veteran Memorial in Sacramento, Calif. — my real hometown. A couple of things bear mentioning: 1) When the Army Band played *Semper Paratus*, I was the only one standing representing OUR service (another proud moment); and 2), I ran into four high school classmates — two Army and two Navy. And in a moment of reflection, it was 30 years ago that I was a Senior Chief Yeoman at CG Air Station Sacramento. It seemed like it was only yesterday.

The Association will be celebrating its 30th anniversary at our 2015 Reunion. The Planning Committee reviewed 13 proposals from hotels in 10 cities up and down the east coast. Many were respectable and worthy of consideration. It was agreed to narrow the list to only four and continue our negotiations. The four semi-finalists are: Buffalo, N.Y.;

Cape Cod, Mass.; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Tampa, Fla. The winning bid will be announced on the CGCVA website and registration information will be available in the upcoming *Quarterdeck Log* magazines. If we can get at least 120 registrations, who attend all the events, and stay at the host hotel, we can definitely have one outstanding 30th anniversary celebration. Let's make it happen!

Finally, I am pleased to make the following appointment: **Terry Lee**, our Cape May Liaison, has agreed to be the Association Parliamentarian. Thanks Terry.

Until next time, I wish you good health and high spirits.
Your Shipmate in Service, **Michael Placencia**



CGCVA President Mike Placencia flanked by two high school classmates; Dennis "Doc" Kaufman (Navy) on the left and Phil Rios (Army) on the right. They reunited at the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Vet Memorial in Sacramento, Calif.

From the Vice President



Steve Petersen

Greetings Mates:

The 2015 Reunion/Convention continues to be a challenge for Mike and myself. By the time of this printing, the four site finalists will all have been visited by our membership. A first hand evaluation of the facilities is most helpful and we are fortunate to have members living in the areas being considered conduct visits at no cost to our

association.

Since 2015 is the CGCVA's 30th Anniversary, we trust that we will have an event that will be long remembered. It will also be a time where the newer combat vet members will have an active role during the reunion. Their inclusion in our association will be an asset that will enhance us in the coming years. Hopefully, each of you will be able to recruit at least one new member to help sustain our membership. Please keep this in your thoughts.

Mike and I are totally committed to carrying out the missions that we were assigned. *Semper Paratus*.

Steve Petersen

We Could Really Use YOUR Help!

I remember going into the Coast Guard and someone told me the general rule for anyone entering the military was “never volunteer for anything”. Maybe that was good advice upon entering active duty but the “general rule” for after your tour of duty is “Please volunteer!”.

We need your help, specifically for the duties of Small Stores Manager and Webmaster. For those of us who serve on committees and hold office, we signed up for those duties and are happy to carry them out. What we were not expecting was that some of those who volunteered just can't fit these duties into their busy schedules, especially if they are still working full time. Or in the case of our Webmaster, they have been doing it for so long, they deserve a break and someone else needs to step up.

Small Stores Manager Needed

The Small Stores job has come back to my office and I am filling orders as quickly as I can. This is an easy job where you receive orders, forward the payment to the National Treasurer, stuff the order in an envelope and take it to the post office. The Association pays all the expenses (except for the gas you'll use, driving to the post office). I'm still working full time and as National Secretary/Treasurer and Budget Committee chairman, and if I continue to handle the Small Stores as well the membership will start calling me “Baker Herbert, Jr.” (Not that I wouldn't be proud of that, for sure!).

Welcome New Members

<u>New Member</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Peter C. Lewia	Joe Kleinpeter
Kim Lorrigan	Mike Placencia
Franklin J. Bullock	The Association
Kary W. Goetz	Al Mason
Jens H. Hansen	Thom Weber
Jason R. Lombard	The Association
Dale L. Veach	VVA Magazine
Roddy W. Whitaker	Fred Armstrong
Raymond A. Lindahl	Gary Sherman
Michael R. Franco	2012 POTY

Anyway, if you can stuff and mail an envelope, the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association needs you. I hope you will please consider volunteering for this vital Association job.

BTW, I will be the stock point of our new CGCVA Challenge Coins so see the description and photos of this beautiful coin on page 30 of this issue and order one for yourself (or do some early Christmas shopping for next year).



Gary Sherman

Webmaster Needed

As for Webmaster, some tech experience is necessary. You do not have to be able to write computer code but some advanced computer experience is required. If you have designed and maintain your own website on sites like Networksolutions.com or other do-it-yourself websites, you have the skills needed to take this job over and relieve **Bill Wells**. Please consider volunteering. Just notify me at the Administration office if you're interested in either job. Thanks in advance!

BTW, in the “One Man on a Mission... Honoring the Troops” main story in the last *QD Log*, it said that CGCVA member **Tom Huckelberry** had served in Vietnam as a master chief. In actuality, Tom served there as a petty officer first class but he is a retired E-9.

All for now... gotta get back to digging out after all the snowfall. Semper Paratus! **Gary Sherman**

Crossed The Bar

Eugene J. Dugan, LM
William G. Gaskill
Vincent A. Grobbel, LM
Herbert W. Steinbaugh
RADM Norman C. Venzke, LM

From the Auxiliary President

Greetings Fellow Auxiliarists:

This is hoping that all of you had a Blessed Christmas and that your New Year, which is now happening, is a healthy and happy one. I have been informed that the site of our 2015 Reunion is now narrowed to the **FINAL FOUR**. I am so looking forward to seeing **ALL** of you at it. Remember to keep in mind our silent auction and what you might be able to contribute to it.

My husband Jerry's office, "International Ship Management," sponsored a table at the Propeller Club — Port of Tampa 2014 Salute to the Coast Guard. The Tampa Propeller Club is the largest one in the country and we were pleased to have Adm. Robert J. Papp, USCG Commandant, as the guest speaker. During the reception prior to the dinner I had the privilege to meet Adm. Papp.

The admiral spoke in a Paul Harvey commentary style. You could tell he's a "cutterman" at heart as he likes to refer to all his Coast Guard men and women as "shipmates". He explained that he is a strong supporter of spouses and families of Coast Guard personnel and he continued to reference and compliment them throughout his speech. He also spoke of his passion, which is the U.S. Coast Guard Museum to be built in New London, Connecticut.

Jerry & I also attended the 34th annual Service of Remembrance for the *USCGC Blackthorn* in St. Petersburg, Fla., at the edge of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. The service was so impressive, from the number of uniformed Coast Guard (more than 200), the flyover of Coast Guard aircraft, the placing of wreaths from various organizations, and the USCG's National Honor Guard posting the colors. The *CGC William Flores* crew was in attendance. This cutter was named after SA William R. Flores who died during the sinking of the *Blackthorn*. As

the C.O. of the *Flores* read the names of the deceased crewmembers a crewman from the *Flores* placed a red

rose on the monument as the bell was tolled and members of the CG Academy Glee Club sang the National Anthem. Adm. Papp then made his remarks and in his address he stated that this was the Coast Guard's greatest peacetime loss of life. He said many lessons were learned from this incident that lead to improved training and safety requirements for future crews and vessels. He ended his address with the notation that "Remembering is Important". This truly was a very moving service of remembrance.

The Auxiliary Application is on page 29. Until the next quarter, yours truly,

Betty Schambeau, Auxiliary President



Betty Schambeau with Adm. Papp at the Propeller Club 2014 Salute to the Coast Guard in Tampa, FL.



Betty Schambeau



Betty and Jerry Schambeau at the CGC Blackthorn Memorial in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Veterans' Day 2013

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. That day, U.S. Army Gen. John Pershing led a parade of 25,000 U.S. heroes of World War I down Fifth Avenue in New York City before thousands of cheering citizens. Pershing's legacy continues to this day as America's Parade — the largest Veterans Day parade in the country. My shipmates and I had the privilege to march in this parade allowing me to reflect on Veterans Days past.

Over the last 26 years of my Coast Guard career, Veterans Day observances have come in many forms. As a petty officer 3rd class, there was the parade in which I pulled our station's 22-foot boat, full of crewman holding on for dear life. There were cemetery services, honor guard details, rifle teams, 21-gun salutes, the placement of flags on graves and sometimes even a free dinner at a local restaurant.

The most memorable ceremony was at Union Street Elementary School in South Weymouth, Mass., when military parents were invited to an assembly in their service's uniform. The students honored us with patriotic songs, plays and cupcakes, of course. It was a very touching tribute and probably the first time I felt as though I was being honored as a veteran.

When it comes down to it, honoring Veterans is all about remembrance. People need to understand that the worst thing in the world is to feel as though you have been forgotten by the people and country for which you've served. Something as simple as stopping to talk to a veteran in the park would mean the world to them.

I was walking with my father-in-law, a Vietnam-era Marine, over the weekend and a young man stopped him, noticing his Marine Corps hat. He told him, "Happy birthday, sir," referring to the Marine Corps' upcoming birthday on November 10. This young man, as it turned out is a Marine himself and took the time to make that old Marine feel as though he was serving in the Corps once again.

Many years ago, Fireman David Boron and I were approached by an elderly man who silently appeared to be conducting his own uniform inspection. After a few minutes his eyes welled up, he nodded to the two of us and walked away. Boron and I looked at each other wondering what just happened when the man's wife approached. Sensing our confusion, she told us her husband served in



Coast Guardsmen, from Coast Guard Sector New York, march in the Veterans Day Parade, also known as America's Parade, Nov. 11, 2013. (photo by PO2 LaNola Stone)

the Coast Guard during World War II on the Greenland Patrol and lost good friends during the war. She went on to explain that he becomes very emotional every time he sees the Coast Guard.

Taking the time to meet a veteran, laying a wreath on a veteran's grave and, most of all, learning about what these veterans have gone through, are ways to keep their memories alive and preserve our nation's history.

Now as I settle in to my "twilight tour" as command master chief of Coast Guard Sector New York, I note with excitement my participation in this year's Veterans Day. Why the excitement? Because New Yorkers love veterans as much as they love a good parade. Iconic images of ticker-tape parades down the "Canyon of Heroes" are some of the most recognizable images in our history and this year's parade was nothing less than spectacular. I'm proud to have been one of roughly 350 men, women and children from the greater New York Coast Guard community who participated in this year's Veterans Day parade.

MCPO Eric Heimburger

Congratulations Graduates

Each week at graduation ceremonies at USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J., the CGCVA sponsors the Physical Fitness Award to a graduating recruit.

A CGCVA watch and certificate are presented, often by an attending CGCVA member. The below listed Cape May graduates have been awarded the PNP Jack Campbell — CGCVA Physical Fitness Award since the last listing:

SN Ryan M. Haynes of Irving, Tx.

FN Philip C. Cantin of Memphis, Tenn.

SN April M. Uzdevenes of Atlantic City, N.J.

SN Mykayla R. Sorensen of Kansas City, Mo.

Notices & Association News

SN Roman G. Len of Vancouver, Wash.
SN Kristopher A. Bolcer of Detroit, Mich.
SN Jorge D. Abreu of Miami, Fla.
SN Nicole L. Fontes of Miami, Fla.
SN Lori E. Scheel of Chicago, Ill.
SA Lionel G. Verrier, III of Providence, R.I.
SN Adam L. Rodriguez of Corpus Christi, Tx.
SA August L. Reyna of San Antonio, Tx.
SN Katherine A. Aisenbrey of Tampa Bay, Fla.
FN Timothy C. Garger of Manhattan, N.Y.
SN Michaela A. Nunez of Alameda, Calif.
SN Jon M. Cerecerez of Los Angeles, Calif.
SN Derek J. Samuelson of Vancouver, Wash.
SN Evan D. Samuelson of Vancouver, Wash.
SN Dean R. Nazar of Norwalk, Calif.
SN James E. Tatham of Miami, Fla.
SN Travis J. Unema of Seatac, Wash.

SN Andrew V. Rubel of Norwalk, Calif.
SA Jeffrey M. Reyna of Atlantic City, N.J.
FA Cody J. Miller of Los Angeles, Calif.
SN Johnathan R. Tromp of Providence, R.I.
SN Michael A. Matos of Manhattan, N.Y.
SN Lisa M. Urnaitis of Detroit, Mich.
SN Sarah A. Scudder of Charleston, S.C.
SN Meghan A. Carr of Portland, Maine.
SN Russel J. Hennessy of Greensboro, N.C.
FN Matthew J. Souther of Manhattan, N.Y.
SA Samuel A. Barragan of San Diego, Calif.
SN Craig A. Snow of Norwalk, Calif.
SN James A. Rotz of Aiea, Hi.
SN Marquis D. Barefield, Jr., of Tampa Bay, Fla.
SN Brenden T. Kiley of Detroit, Mich.
SN Dwight M. Bassett, Jr., of Memphis, Tenn.
SN Michael L. Graves of Honolulu, Hi.

QD Log Booster Club

The printing and postage for the *QD Log* is by far the largest expense item we have and it was determined that if every member contributed \$5.00 to the CGCVA each year it would pay for all the expenses that go into the magazine. The idea was hatched at our Tampa Convention and several members contributed at that time, thereby creating the QD Log Boosters Club. Donations can be sent to the Administrative Office (marked as "QD Log Booster Club") and all those contributing will have their names listed in the subsequent magazine. Contribution amounts will not be published but all contributions are greatly appreciated. We have been told many times we have the best reunion magazine out there and we'd like to keep it that way.

Since publication of our last magazine, the following individuals have made donations and become members of the QD Log Boosters Club:

Gordon Landon

Lois R. Csontos Nielsen

John S. Small

Carmond Fitzgerald

John Stevens

William E. Burns, Jr.

Steve Hines

Wallace J. Kilmer

Clifton Bennett

George C. Wert, Sr.

Chris Murphy

Nathan Bruckenthal Memorial Trust IMO Nathan Bruckenthal
Baker & Marylou Herbert IMO USCG WWII and Vietnam KIA & Wounded
Thomas J. Johnson IMO AM2 George Kohnen, USN WWII Veteran

Thanks to all to have become QD Log Booster Club members so far! All contributions are appreciated! And remember, these deductions are tax deductible as we are 501.c.

Welcome Home PSU 313

In September 2013, the CGCVA office received an invitation to participate at a post-deployment Yellow Ribbon Event for Port Security Unit 311, scheduled for Long Beach, Calif. later in the year. I contacted Lt (j.g.) Luke Maleski, Yellow Ribbon Event Coordinator, at CGHQ. He painted a detailed picture of the Yellow Ribbon Program and steered me to Issue 4, 2013 of the *CG Reservist*. I accepted the invitation without any reservation.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) was authorized by Congress in 2008 to assist the military member and family help navigate the challenges of deployment and reintegration. The YRRP is composed of three stages: (1) Pre-Deployment where the member receives deployment orders and learns about legal considerations, financial planning, healthcare, benefits and family well-being; (2) During Deployment focuses on family members connecting to community groups and resource networks; and (3) Post-Deployment enables the service member a smoother transition upon return. This includes facing the issues of returning to civilian employment, strengthening relationships, and hearing from members that have been there before.

The Welcome Home for PSU 311 was held in Long Beach, Calif. on December 6-8, 2013. Well over 150 Coast Guard men and women and their families attended. I was immediately impressed by the returning veterans and the support staff from CGHQ and Pacific Area. The following



Mike Placencia with Lt (j.g.) Luke Maleski, Yellow Ribbon Event Coordinator.



CGCVA President Mike Placencia with MST2 Chris Newton, one of our newest members.



Cmdr. John Caraballo, Commanding Officer of PSU 311 and PACAREA - RCMC George Williamson.

support groups gave short presentations: California Veterans Affairs, American Red Cross, CG Legal, TRICARE, and CG Mutual Assistance. Discussions centered around operational stress control, finding balance, and suicide prevention. An adjacent room had several tables set up to provide outreach services and I staffed one such table. Many of the returnees were deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Afghanistan. They participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and in maritime security. They are today's heroes. They are smart, sharp, and displayed a dedication to duty.

The Yellow Ribbon Program you have read about does not just happen. It takes a concerted effort by a lot of

people and a strong commitment from the top. It is important to mention a few that I met along the way. Luke Maleski provided me unfettered access to the event and returnees. It was more than an invitation, we were strongly encouraged to attend and participate. Bravo Zulu to you and we look forward to doing this again. Pacific Area Reserve Command Master Chief George Williamson and Senior Chief Erica Graeber, who were on hand to provide one-on-one assistance to anyone who was willing to take them up on it. A special thank you goes to Commander John Caraballo, Commanding Officer of PSU 311. Without his generous sharing of information, this story could not be told.

We will be invited to other post deployment events. And when the time comes, we will be looking to other CGCVA Veterans to attend, staff the table, and share a story. I was honored to be in their presence — and I know you will be. Semper Paratus!

Michael Placencia

Congratulations to Our 2013 Scholarship Recipient



The \$2,000 CGCVA/Philips Van Campen Taylor 2013 Scholarship is presented to Dillon de Medeiros, by his grandfather, CGCVA Life Member Baker Herbert. Dillon received a HS 4.1 GPA and is pursuing a STEM program with a physics major at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Congrats and best wishes Dillon!

New TRICARE

Customer Service Features

TRICARE beneficiaries now have an easy way to access customer service features. The TRICARE.mil home page has a new “I want to...” section offering beneficiaries a gateway to links that help them manage their health care from prescriptions to enrollment and much more.

The “I want to...” section of TRICARE.mil launched Dec. 1. The redesigned home page focuses on tools for beneficiaries to manage their health care benefits. “I want to...” has quick links to secure login portals for more than a dozen customer service features including:

- Enrolling in or purchasing a plan
- Filing a check or claim
- Viewing referrals and prior authorizations
- Finding a doctor
- Changing primary care managers
- Comparing plans
- Managing prescriptions
- Updating personal information
- Paying a bill
- Viewing military health records
- Seeing what services and procedures are covered by their health plans
- Booking appointments at a military hospital or clinic

Compilation of USCG

Purple Heart Recipients

For the past few years Bob Pendleton has been assisting Dr. William Thiesen, the Atlantic Area Historian, by meticulously compiling data regarding the accounting of all Coast Guard MIA, KIA and WIA since WWI, one case at a time. The nearly 2,000 cases he’s compiled includes names, rank/rate, date of death or injury, and the combat action involved. Vietnam accounting is nearly complete but help is needed with Korea and WWII vets. If you remember a Purple Heart recipient from those wars please contact Dr. Thiesen at: william.h.thiesen@uscg.mil.

Beware Marketing Scam

A marketing company has acquired and is using two toll free numbers which are very familiar to Veterans Benefits Association (VBA) toll free numbers. The marketer is

trying to get callers to sign up to receive a Wal-Mart gift card, and is asking for personal information, to include credit card information. When asked if they are the VA, they reply vaguely, and explain that the VA is very busy and the call was directed to them. They don't say they are the VA, but if asked if they can help with VA benefits, they say yes. In addition, they even offer to transfer the call to the VA, after the caller provides the credit card information to get the free Wal-Mart gift card.

This issue has been reported to the Office of the Inspector General and the Federal Trade Commission for review.

The two numbers identified in this alert are:

- **1-800-872-1000** which is very close to the VBA main number of **1-800-827-1000**.
- **1-888-442-4511** which is very close to the VBA GI-Bill number of **1-888-442-4551**.

TRICARE to Close 189 Walk-In Facilities

On April 1, TRICARE will close 189 walk-in facilities in the United States. The reason? The majority of beneficiaries use the Internet or phone to make changes, and closing

San Diego Veteran of the Year



CGCVA Life Member Angel Aviles was selected as San Diego's Veteran of the Year. Congrats Angel!



the contractor-operated CONUS facilities would save \$254 million over five years. The change does not affect TRICARE benefits or healthcare services, and overseas walk-in facilities will remain open. According to TRICARE officials, all of the administrative services that walk-in TSCs currently provide can be handled by TRICARE websites, mobile apps and toll-free phone centers.

Remembering Vincent A. Grobbel

I'm sorry to have to inform you that my father, Vincent A. Grobbel, passed away on July 29, 2013 at the age of 90. He was proud of his service in the USCG from 1941

2015 Reunion Update

The CGCVA Reunion Committee has narrowed the choices from 13 proposals in 10 cities to four. Still in contention are: Buffalo, N.Y.; Cape Cod, Mass.; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Tampa, Fla. We will be celebrating the Association's 30th Anniversary so you won't want to miss this one. More information in upcoming QD Logs and the CGCVA website.

through 1946 and also proud to have been a member of the CGCVA.

Dad was a BM1/c who served in the North Atlantic aboard the USCG-crewed *USS Davenport (PF-69)* from Feb. 1945 through Feb 1946.

With help from him, some of his former shipmates and the records at the National Archives, I have created this web site that tells the story of the *USS Davenport* and her crew: <http://pf69.grobbel.org>.

I particularly like the quote from the commanding officer of the *USS Davenport* that was included in the ship's commissioning program and addressed to the officers and men of the *PF-69*: "As Coast Guardsmen, serving on a Navy ship, we have the double duty of carrying out the highest traditions of both services. We know what our job is. We will do it well. Together."

Based on my research, I think it can be safely said that they did indeed, do their job well, together!

Best regards, **Mike Grobbel**

CGC Mackinaw

Former *CGC Mackinaw* sailors and other interested parties may be interested to know that the ship, though decommissioned in 2006, now resides at her namesake home of Mackinaw City, Mich., and is open to the public for tours and group events. For more information, visit <http://www.themackinaw.org/>.

Rolling Thunder XXVII

The 27th annual Rolling Thunder motorcycle "Ride for Freedom" will take place on May 25, 2014, in Washington, D.C. Assembly area will be in the North Pentagon parking lot at 8 a.m. and departure for the ride through Washington, D.C. to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial will commence at noon. As always, Rolling Thunder is to pay respect to brothers and sisters who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy every day, for the full accounting of all POW-MIA's, and for veterans rights. We will never forget!

For additional information, go to the website: www.rollingthunder1.com.

CGC Rockaway Reunion

A reunion for the *USCGC Rockaway (W-3777)* will be held Apr. 27-30, 2014 in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact: **F. Carlsson** at (352) 253-0588 or adseline@aol.com.

CGC Androscoggin Reunion

If you or a family member served aboard the *USCGC Androscoggin (WHEC-68)*, you are invited to attend the ship reunion at the Dolphin Beach Resort, St. Pete Beach, Fla., May 18-21, 2014. Contact: androscoggin-reunion@tampabay.rr.com or <http://www.fishing-boating.com/androscoggin/>.

CGC Wrangell in Bahrain



CGC Wrangell wanted to send your magazine a few photos of our time in Bahrain. One shows our crew undergoing fire fighting training and the other of Wrangell underway. On the back cover of the magazine is a photo of the Wrangell crew with Coast Guard Commandant



Adm. Papp during his visit to Bahrain. We send our best wishes to all members of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association. Happy New Year!

Lt. Elizabeth Gillis, Commanding Officer

Coast Guard Enlisted Memorial

The CGCVA recently received an acknowledgement and thank you letter from the Coast Guard Enlisted Memorial Foundation, Inc., for our \$1,000 donation toward the memorial. Our donation will help build a lasting memorial to honor over 1,500 enlisted Coast Guard men and women who lost their lives in the performance of Coast Guard missions.

The Enlisted Memorial is planned for construction on the grounds of USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J.; the current birthplace of the service's enlisted corps. In addition to recruits, the training center hosts over 40,000 visitors a year. The memorial will not only be a focal point for tens of thousands of visitors, but will also be used by Company Commanders to instill within recruits a deep sense of reverence for those who have paid the ultimate price to protect and serve our country.

The Memorial Brick that the CGCVA ordered will read: Coast Guard Combat Veterans Assn. A description and design of the memorial can be found at the website: www.CGEMF.org. The Coast Guard Enlisted Memorial Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) and non-profit so all donations are fully tax deductible.

CG Exchange On Line For Retirees

Many retirees already know that shopping at the Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) offers savings because shopping there is tax-free. But more than that, price comparisons show that CGX offers an average savings of 20% or more when compared to private sector retailers "outside the

gate." But how can you save money if you don't live near a CGX? Now it's easy to save with the new Coast Guard Exchange online at www.shopCGX.com.

Every eligible customer is verified through a secure connection. There are over 500 individual products available at this site, including computers, tablets, headphones, iPods and mp3 players, other small electronics, sunglasses, fragrances, and of course, Coast Guard apparel and gifts. And new items are added every day.

CGC Courier/VOA Memorial Foundation Reunion

The CGC Courier/VOA Memorial Foundation will hold a reunion Jun 16-21, 2014 in New London, Conn., and will include the unveiling of the *Courier* model and special exhibit at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Museum. For more information, contact Robert R. Hickman at 108 Gordon Rd., North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212, call (315) 458-5995 or email Robert.hickman1@verizon.net.

Remember OMEGA Stations?

All eight Omega Stations were shut down Sept. 30, 1997. If you were stationed at either of the two Coast Guard-manned stations (LaMoure, N.D. and Kaneohe, Hi.) or with the Omega Navigational Systems Operations

Detail (ONSOD) and/or the Omega Navigation Systems Center, we would like to hear from you with respect to your thoughts and experiences. For more information, go to the website: <http://www.Haikuvally.com> or CPO Matthew Bezayiff, USCG (Ret.) at mbezayiff@icloud.com.

Brrrrrrr!



This is my former shipmate on the Castle Rock, Dr. Tim Mowbray, a former BM2. They've gotten 3 and a half feet of snow at his place in Minnesota so far this year with temperatures down to -30! Once it warmed up to -15 he lit up the grill. Typical boatswain's mate mentality. I asked him if he had some of his deck hands chip ice first. Now that's winter! Gary Sherman

“Cosmic Airlines” Reunion

The 55th Annual Coast Guard Air (aka “Cosmic Airlines”) Reunion will be held May 18-20, 2014 at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino in Sparks, Nev. For further info and to obtain a group sign-up sheet contact **Roger Schmidt** at rogngina@sbcglobal.net and put “Cosmic Air” in the heading box.

TRICARE Retiree Dental Changes

The annual maximum for TRICARE Retiree Dental has increased from \$1200 to \$1300 per person/per year. The Ortho benefit has increased from \$1500 to \$1750 per person/per lifetime (not age restrictive). The emergency benefit has increased from \$1000 to \$1200 per person/per year. People with Type 1 or 2 diabetes are now covered for three cleanings per year. In addition, the monthly premiums have decreased. To find rates and other pertinent information, visit the new TRDP website <http://trdp.org>. The new 2014 TRDP Fact Sheet is now available and can be ordered through the website <http://www.deltadentalca.org/trdp/forms/order2.asp>.

Sunset Parade at Cape May



On July 6, 2014, the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association will be honored at USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J.,

when a Sunset Parade will be held in dedication to our association’s contributions to the service and the training center. It is hoped that many CGCVA members and their families will be able to attend this event. Sunset parades are impressive military displays consisting of marching troops, the recruit silent drill team, cannon fire and a low-level helicopter flyover. The approximate 45-minute event is heavily attended and open to the public but there will be a specially designated area for CGCVA members, their family and friends. Please contact our Cape May representative, Terry Lee, at (908) 454-7470 with your intention of attending and with any questions you may have.

Remember the Taney

Each year, as veterans groups and public officials participate in events marking the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and America’s official entry into World

Let Your Name Live On

For years, the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association has been operating from day-to day through the collection of dues and contributions of our members. The time has come for us to be more concerned about the future. Will you consider naming the CGCVA in your will? Any help in the form of cash, stocks, or life insurance policies will help assure the future of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association.

Remember: The CGCVA is a Non-Profit Association. All donations are tax-deductible.

War II, Coast Guardsmen past and present gather to remember those lost that day and to celebrate the resilience of our entire nation in the form of the lone remaining U.S. warship that survived the attack — the Coast Guard cutter *Taney*.

“I am humbled to be aboard this ‘hallowed iron’ on this day, in the presence of these veterans who sacrificed so much in the defense of our country,” said Vice Commandant of the Coast guard Vice Adm. John P. Currier in a ceremony held Dec. 7, 2013 on *Taney* to mark the 72nd anniversary of the attack.

“We are all eternally indebted to them, and we will never forget what they did for our country and our Allies.

Surrounded by veterans, including several from the Greatest Generation who served aboard *Taney* during



Coast Guardsmen gather with veterans aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Taney* in Baltimore during a memorial ceremony marking the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 2013. The *Taney* is the last United States vessel still afloat that had been involved with the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hi. (photo by PO3 Matthew S. Masaschi)



World War II veterans who served on the Coast Guard Cutter *Taney* participate in the memorial ceremony marking the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hi held aboard the *Taney* moored in Baltimore, Dec. 7, 2013. (photo by PO3 Matthew S. Masaschi)

WWII, Currier reflected on the significance of the date not only as a memorial to those who perished but as a symbol of the important role America and our nation’s military has placed in establishing and preserving the peace over the past seven decades.

“Pearl Harbor, like so many other battles, is known in the lexicon of our nation’s history not just because of its terrible cost, but because of the heroism, effort and persistence of the men and women who sacrificed so much to achieve final peace,” said Currier.

Taney’s distinguished record in America’s wars is formally recognized with three battle stars for WWII service and numerous theatre ribbons for service in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, but its lasting legacy is a museum ship resting at a pier in Baltimore, Md., where the cutter occasionally serves as a gathering place for those who serve and have served to reflect on the sacrifices of serving one’s country.

“May God bless those young men and women, serving around the globe today, many in harm’s way, so that we can enjoy the liberty and freedom that we so often take for granted in our country.”

Coast Guard Pride

Each issue of the *QD Log* rekindles a subject of continued interest to me, an interest almost from the days of my service (WWII). Over the years I have been humiliated and “bitten my tongue” all too often when I hear the Coast Guard referred to as the Hooligan Navy and sometimes even worse. Unfortunately I have not had sufficient knowledge of our over 200 year history to respond meaningfully to these slurs.

I have concluded that this perception of the Coast Guard, as sort of a second class outfit, is in part, our own fault. Too many of us seem to lack pride and even fewer of us have

much knowledge of the Coast Guard's illustrious history, in peacetime and in war.

The Marines, on the other hand, always have pride. Their personnel show this pride even long after they have left the service — its ingrained. So why them and not us? I submit that the Marines build pride on a daily basis. Every Marine recruit receives a thorough history lesson on the “glorious accomplishments” of the Corps — and knowledge of such accomplishments leads to pride.

Is the Coast Guard communicating to its personnel on a planned and sustained basis our accomplishments? Perhaps so but it has not had the impact of the Marine's program. Yet, I assert our program could be even more glorious and

meaningful because we save lives in addition to fighting our country's battles.

I suggest we use the Marines plan as a starting point for ours, then develop our own plans with the help of persons interested and committed to building Coast Guard pride. There are ample resources on Coast Guard history and with effort a USCG history for field use could be readily developed. And, aside from the overall merits of such a Coast Guard Pride Program, I would anticipate substantial benefits to the CGCVA through our direct involvement.

Lt. Edward R. Bartley, USCG (Ret.)

Editor's Note: Your letter is spot on Ed. The Marines do

Virginia International Tattoo



The Virginia Arts Festival's spectacular Virginia International Tattoo performances will inspire audiences, leaving them with a renewed sense of pride and optimism. The Virginia International Tattoo invites military and non-military bands, drill teams, bagpipe and drum bands, highland dancers and more from around the globe to create a unified and extraordinary performance.

The 2014 Virginia International Tattoo has been designated a signature event of the United States of America Vietnam War 50th Commemoration. In partnership with the Commemoration, the 2014 Virginia International Tattoo will recognize and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families. With an astounding display of patriotism, a spirit of international cooperation and inspirational music, the 2014 Tattoo will be a premier opportunity to join a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans, their loved ones and our allies for their service, valor and sacrifice.

The Virginia International Tattoo, once again, has been named one of American Bus Association "Top 100 Events in North America" as well as an "Internationally Known Event".

The 18th Annual Virginia International Tattoo performances will be held Thursday, April 24–Sunday, April 27, 2014 at Scope Arena in Norfolk, Va. The Tattoo performances sell out, so to guarantee great seats for your organization please order early. Group discounts (15+) and special travel assistance available at 757-282-2819 or visit us on the web at www.vafest.org.

have a comprehensive history indoctrination program that is instilled starting at boot camp and all Marines even know the name of Douglas A. Munro. The CGCVA has long been an advocate of perpetuating the memory of our fallen comrades and enhancing the image and posture of the Coast Guard. Our members have been asked to join panels discussing ways to better teach and promote Coast Guard history at both boot camp and the USCG Academy. Many CGCVA members speak at community events about their personal wartime experiences. And every issue of the CGCVA magazine contains several feature stories on Coast Guard history for our membership. All of these equate to service pride but, as you indicate, there is much more that can be done. Thanks for your observations and hopefully more CGCVA members will become more involved in not only learning more about our service's rich history but also in helping tell it to the public.



Members of the Northland's rescue crew included Lt. John A. Pritchard (at right with pole and coil of rope), HMC Gerald Hearn (at rear-left with snoeshoes), and Ens. Richard L. Fuller (Rear-center with cigarette in his mouth).

CGC Northland 1942 Rescue

In August 1991, a letter was received by CGCVA member Al Courter from Royal Canadian Air Force navigator Al Nash of the RAF-20 Boston that was rescued

from a Greenland icecap by the USCGC *Northland* (WPB-49) on Nov. 23, 1942. Segments of the letter read:

“Not many days go by when I do not thank God for then Lt. Cmdr. E. C. Pollard, Lt. J. A. Pritchard and the rescue party — and each member of the *Northland* crew — who rescued me and the other two Canadian crew members of our crashed Boston bomber (on 11/23/42).”

“We had been on the icecap for 14 days and faced such certain death that I had written a farewell message in the back of my pocket Bible. The story is in *Readers Digest* 6/43.”

“We spent 43 exciting days aboard the *Northland* with great fellowship, good food, further rescues, sad losses, being struck by a growler with damage, pack ice everywhere, gale force winds at Blue West 1, liberty in Argentina, Newfoundland, general quarters, escorting a slow convoy, etc. We transferred ashore 1/4/43 at Sidney, Nova Scotia — the same spot you transferred captured German prisoners a year before.”

“Convey our heartfelt thanks to each crew member... for the 49 bonus years you have given me. Our children and grandkids, who would not have existed without my rescue by you wonderful people, join in our thanks.”

Editor's Note: In 1991, Al Courter had invited Al Nash

CG-Manned USS Hurst



A painting by CGCVA member Clifton L. Bennett showing the Coast Guard-manned USS Hurst (DE-250) rendering assistance to a cargo ship. Hurst was the first DE commissioned for the Coast Guard.

and his wife to attend the 50th anniversary of the Northland's striking the first blow of WWII for U.S. armed forces on 9/14/41. A copy of the entire letter and the photo were provided for the QD Log by CGCVA member Capt. Don Taub.

USS Theenim

The USS Theenim (AKA-63) was commissioned Dec. 23, 1944 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Almost immediately it began to take on its crew, including Cmdr. Gordon A. Littlefield as CO and Lt. Cmdr. Richard Smith as XO.

Cmdr. Littlefield was born of old Maine seafaring stock and had already participated in the landing operations at Normandy. Smith was a veteran of nine years sea duty and took part in the initial assaults at Amchitka, Tarawa, Kwajalein, Eniwetok and Saigon. He had already been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

Compare that to the experience of this writer who was a very young and green 18-year-old boy still wet behind the ears.

On Jan. 5, 1945, this fast and well-armed 460-foot ship set sail from Brookly and after a stormy overnight passage arrived at Norfolk, Va. Soon after we steamed out into the Chesapeake Bay where the officers and men put the ship through her paces. This

Remembering Eugene J. Dugan



My name is Donna Hawkins of Reno, Nev., the daughter of Eugene J. Dugan, a WWII Coast Guard combat veteran. I wanted to inform your association that my father quietly "crossed the bar" at age 91 recently with his family at his home in Reno. My father and I attended the CGCVA 2013 reunion in Reno at the Silver Legacy and my father really enjoyed talking and visiting with all of you.

I am sending along two photos. One is of my father on a day he never forgot. He was stationed in Ponce

Puerto Rico and making his rounds when he stopped in the Radio Shack and visited with his friend Steve Berd from Flushing, N.Y. listing to the BBC on the invasion as the Coast Guard led the way! Gene had many memories and lost some great friends. The other is my father at the Reno Aces Ballpark in 2012 at his 90th birthday.



was really a shakedown, not only for the ship but also for many of us in the crew. Although we didn't know it then, we had just finished our training for the invasion of Okinawa.

Then it was on to the Panama Canal and continuing to Pearl Harbor, then to Guadalcanal where it was work around the clock as we took on a combat load that included 155 howitzers and Long Toms, lumbering bulldozers, trucks, gasoline, ammunition, field rations and

(Left) At least one resident of the fortress island of Okinawa bore no malice toward Coast Guardsman SNI/c Byron E. Jennings, who manned a landing craft during the invasion of the island. The little goat was the lone survivor of a coastal village and seemed quite contented with his new master.

a contingent of U.S. Marines.

By March 15th the *Theenim*, with her invasion-bound Leathernecks aboard, was stationed in convoy and on her way to a staging area. On signal from the flagship, our squadron sortied from Saigon inner harbor at 0950 on March 27th.

The next five days of passage were without incident yet the hours were full of intense preparation which included a briefing session to the amphibious division by the XO. He warned us of the most desperate Japanese tactic — the Kamikaze (or Divine Wind) suicide planes.

Our invasion objective was approached on Easter

Sunday, Apr. 1st. The indication of enemy forces presence came with a “Flash Red” warning from the task group commander, followed by anti-aircraft dead ahead.

That we were successful was proved later by Japanese broadcasts picked up by radio. We had heard a previous reception of Japanese propaganda so this time we were surprised to hear that our ship had been sunk and the remains of our battered fleet was sneaking back to Pearl Harbor. In reality, on Apr. 15th, our ship was credited with knocking out a Japanese “Oscar” airplane.

With the Marines and cargo finally ashore, we were back in convoy on the 17th as we “zigzagged” out of Okinawa and on to Naru. Not a port of call but an island that none of the crew would forget, especially this young seaman.

At 0600 on June 28th I was making my way to the crow’s nest. The shipmate I was relieving advised me of a small object at one o’clock. Since the bridge had not been notified of this sighting we immediately made them aware of this unidentified object. It ended up being a flimsy 12-foot skiff bobbing up and down on a very calm sea. Its occupants were two timid and badly frightened Japanese. Both were in bad shape from malnutrition and they were covered with salt water sores. After the two were taken aboard, their craft was used for target practice.

They had been driven in desperation to escape the starvation and ill treatment of their own Japanese-held island and were trying to make it to Truk nearly 900 miles distant. They were already 285 miles on course when picked up so they were put into the ship’s brig and then turned over to the intelligence office at Guam.

While docked at Guam on Aug. 15th rumors were flying every which way and all of them indicated an upcoming invasion of Japan. We wouldn’t learn for nearly four decades about the actual plans for invasion when the yellowed and dusty documents were finally declassified but it was all moot. On Aug. 6th, the *Enola Gay* dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima and three days later a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The war was effectively over and an unconditional surrender had been received from Japan on Aug. 15th. The USS

AHOY! **COAST GUARD VIETNAM VETERANS...**



...The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association (CGCVA) is the place to meet Vietnam shipmates as well as USCG combat veterans who served overseas in other wars and campaigns.

Be part of our energetic non-profit association that fosters good fellowship and activities, perpetuates the memory of our fallen comrades, assists honorably discharged and retired Coast Guard combat veterans, and promotes and enhances the image and posture of the United States Coast Guard.

We help maintain the gravesite of Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro, USCG, recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, located in Cle Elum, Wash.

Each year we honor a Coast Guard person for demonstrated heroism and we provide CGCVA watches to designated cadets at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., and to the Physical Fitness Award recipient from every graduating boot camp company at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J.

We hold a national convention every other year and we offer scholarships to the children and grandchildren of our association members.

Our acclaimed national magazine, *Quarterdeck Log*, is mailed to every member quarterly and is also available online at our web site: www.coastguardcombatvets.com. Check it out!

JOIN NOW!

Dues are only \$40 for a 2-year membership. For a membership application or to learn more about the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Assn, go to our website or call:

(610) 539-1000



Quarter-page ad CGCVA ran in Vietnam Veterans Assn. magazine.



Theenim XO Lt. Cmdr. Richard R. Smith and Lt. Hodgkinson interrogate the two Japanese soldiers picked up from their adrift skiff. The Japanese were desperate to escape the starvation conditions on their own Japanese island.

eventually scrapped and sunk as a reef in May 1970 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, a large port of the Taiwan Harbor.

The *Theenim* was a good ship and those of us who served onboard were proud to be members of the crew. **Byron E. Jenning**

Theenim, which was loading up with Marines and supplies in Guam, got to stand down knowing the potential invasion of Japan would not take place.

With the war over, we took occupational forces (Marines) and landed them on Sept. 28th in Aomori Wan, Honshu, Japan. Since we weren't sure if the Japanese knew the war was over a full invasion plan was put in operation, including many of our planes overhead. As we hit beaches, Japanese were standing on shore bowing to us.

We were back to the U.S. mainland on Nov. 16th but not for long. Shortly after the new year it was back to the Philippines. One rumor led to another but one finally came true and we headed back home to Norfolk.

On May 10, 1946, the *USS Theenim* was decommissioned and later struck from the Naval Register. For many years I thought it was in the dead fleet in the James River off the coast of Ft. Eustis, Va. But I was wrong.

It was sold in 1948 to the United States Lines and renamed *SS American Inventor*. It was resold in 1959 and renamed *SS Pioneer Surf*, then resold again in 1965 to Farrell Lines, Inc., and renamed *SS Australian Surf*. And still later it was resold and renamed *SS Surfer*.

So where oh where did my old ship go? I eventually got the answer. The old *USS Theenim* was

TOGETHER WE SERVED
THERE IS NO STRONGER BOND



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Continued from page 1

America. It stands for who we are, what we have accomplished and what we are prepared to do to — protect our freedom,” said Barnum. “The Medal of Honor is a reminder of the sacrifices made by veterans to ensure our freedoms prevail.”



Douglas Munro’s nephew, Cmdr. Douglas Sheehan, USCGR (Ret.), addresses the gathering.

Munro’s actions at Guadalcanal were critical to evacuating hundreds of Marines to safety, and Barnum drew attention to the close bond the two services share.

“The Marine Corps motto is Semper Fidelis — Always Faithful. The Coast Guard motto is Semper Paratus — Always Ready,” said Barnum. “We bond because both services are dedicated to our fellow countrymen.”

Cmdr. Douglas Sheehan, USCGR (Ret.), the nephew of Munro, also attended the ceremony along with Munro family members who had traveled from around the country to witness the building’s dedication. Sheehan emphasized how truly remarkable Munro’s actions were in that the highest honor awarded to any Coast Guardsman in the history of the service was awarded to an enlisted man: a first class petty officer.



The Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Building dedication plaque.

“His actions showed that our core values — honor, respect and devotion to duty — are more than just words,” said Sheehan, adding that Munro’s bravery should serve as a reminder of “our mission and the people we serve” to future generations of Coast Guard members.

With the building’s dedication, the name Munro stands as a connection to Coast Guard history and a challenge to carry on the legacy of one the service’s most revered members.

“Petty Officer Munro’s selfless service and sacrifice epitomizes our core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty,” said Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Bob Papp. “His enduring legacy has, and will always continue to, shape future generations of Coast Guardsmen. We are honoring that contribution to our service by dedicating this building to him.”

At the ceremony, a bust of Munro — created by John Tuomisto-Bell and sculpted and molded by Tyson Snow — was unveiled. As Munro’s likeness came into view, beams of the afternoon sun hit the bronze bust, illuminating his eyes just so. It was if there was a golden glint in his eyes; a reminder of his legacy and how it shines on.

Coast Guard Band members by the Munro CGHQ Building plaque.



Captain Charles S. Root: Lifesaver, Distinguished Engineer and Founder of Coast Guard Intelligence

by William H. Thiesen, Ph.D., Atlantic Area Historian

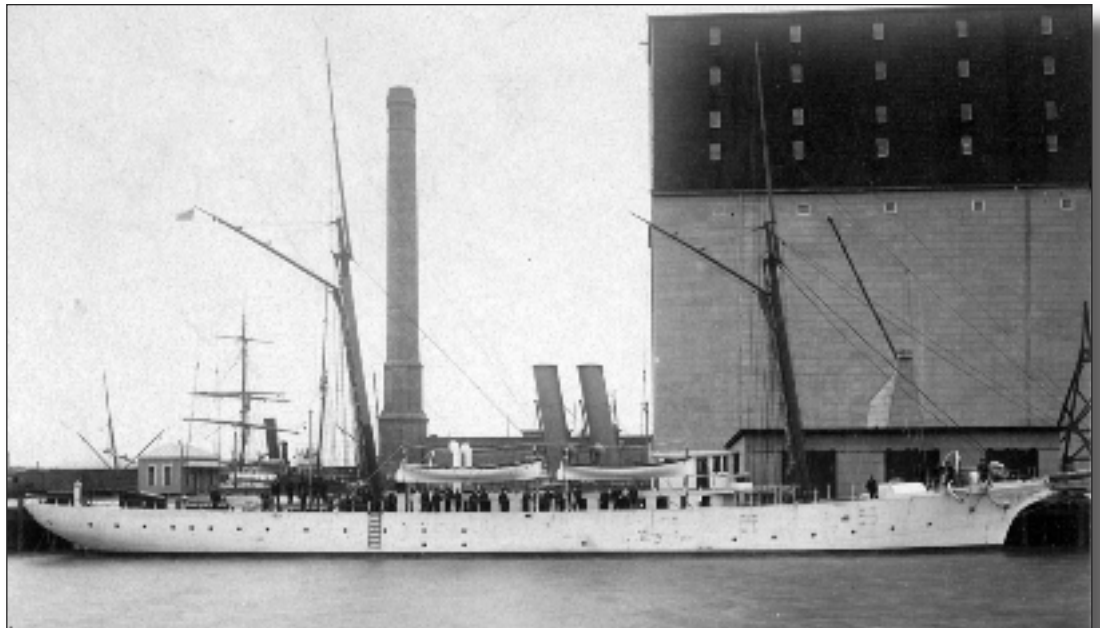
In studying the historical record of by-gone days, scholars often come across men and women whose deeds have gone largely unrecognized. Such is the case of Captain Charles S. Root, one of the most distinguished engineering officers of the early-twentieth century whose career exemplified the Coast Guard's core values.

Early in his career, Root distinguished himself as a brave and self-sacrificing member of the Revenue Cutter Service. In June 1900, he entered the service as a second assistant engineer and by September of that year he had earned the Gold Lifesaving Medal, an honor bestowed on only a few Revenue Cutter Service personnel. Root received the medal for service while assigned to the cutter *Galveston* during the catastrophic Galveston Hurricane, which is believed to have killed more Americans than the combined number lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hurricane Katrina and the terrorist attacks of 9/11. During the height of the hurricane, and at great risk to his own life, Root led rescue parties into the flooded streets of Galveston to save more than thirty individuals from drowning.

Root also distinguished himself as an accomplished professional in the field of engineering. He had already established his career as a marine engineer in Connecticut before joining the service at the age of twenty-six. As an engineering officer, he specialized in reconditioning steam vessels for sea service, including the *USS Bancroft* after it was turned over to the Revenue Cutter Service to become the cutter *Itasca* and the *USS Eagle 22* after it became the cutter *Earp*. Root published papers on marine engineering in professional journals and a prize was later established in his name for the highest grades in mechanical drawing at the Coast Guard

Academy. In 1917, the U.S. Navy ordered Root to convert the large yacht *Xafira* for war patrol duties and later that year it requested Root's services again when it took possession of the interned Austrian passenger liner *SS Martha Washington*. The Austrian crew had sabotaged *Washington's* steam engines, but Root got the vessel in operation in short order and served as first engineering officer throughout the rest of World War I as the transport ferried American troops between the United States and France.

Root received medals, commendations and special recognition from the Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy throughout his career, but he is best known for his work in Coast Guard intelligence during Prohibition. In 1924, then Lieutenant Commander Root created the Coast Guard's Office of Intelligence as the service became the primary law enforcement agency in interdicting illegal liquor smuggled along the nation's coasts and inland waterways. Root built up one of the most respected intelligence sections in the federal government by recruiting the best talent, adopting the finest technology at his disposal and working closely with offices and personnel in the Treasury



Revenue Cutter Galveston shown moored at a pier in Galveston.

Department and Customs. As head of Coast Guard Intelligence, he is credited with breaking up much of the Rum Running activities along the East Coast. Between 1924 and 1929, he rose in rank from lieutenant commander to captain and, from 1925 on, held an additional appointment as customs agent.

In 1930, Captain Root died in an automobile accident in Washington, D.C. In August of that year, he was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, joining many other distinguished members of the U.S. Coast Guard buried in that hallowed ground. In addition to his role as founding father of Coast Guard intelligence, Root had had a distinguished career as an engineering officer on board cutters in Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific waters, including service on board the cutter *Seneca*



A rare photograph showing Captain Charles S. Root toward the end of his life and career.

during that vessel's historic first cruise in the International Ice Patrol. Terms used by contemporaries to describe him include "skillful," "proficient," "reliable," "efficient," "unselfish" and "untiring," and the Coast Guard's current Charles S. Root Intelligence Award for excellence is named in his honor. In a 1927 commendation, Asst. Treasury Secretary L.C. Andrews, concluded with the following remarks: "I am truly grateful that I had a man of your caliber and genius here at hand to help me plan and carry on this [Prohibition] work. I hope, Commander, that you have a most successful future, as you will always have a very warm spot in my affections."

Captain Domenic A. Calicchio: The Coast Guard's Champion of Marine Safety Regulations

by William H. Thiesen, Ph.D., Atlantic Area Historian

Captain Domenic A. Calicchio was one of the United States Coast Guard's many unsung heroes whose career embodied the service's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty. The Coast Guard's Inspections & Investigation School named the Award for Captain Calicchio due to the significant impact he had on the U. S. marine industry and the Coast Guard as a senior Marine Casualty Investigator.

Calicchio was born in 1926 in Boston to a seafaring family — his brothers Michael and Alfred served as ship's masters and so did Domenic. "Dom" Calicchio knew well the hazards of working on board ocean-going vessels. He began his career in 1943, entering the merchant marine at the age of sixteen to support the war effort. He served in the merchant marine for twenty-three more years and ended his career as captain commanding ships of the United States Lines.

During his merchant marine years, Calicchio had served as an officer in the Coast Guard Reserve and, in 1968, he accepted a commission as an active duty lieutenant

commander. He took the commission believing that he could make a difference in the service's marine safety field by championing the safety of crews and passengers on board ocean-going vessels. Calicchio's adherence to strict safety requirements, regardless of their cost, sometimes put him at odds with the shipping lines whose safety he regulated. Early in his Coast Guard career, Calicchio made a name for himself in cruise-ship safety requirements, especially in regulations guiding lifeboat capacity, and as a captain of the port for ports in Florida and the Gulf Coast.

Calicchio's greatest achievement, and one that would mark the end of his career, was the investigation into the infamous loss of the *M/V Marine Electric*. The *Marine Electric* was a T-2 bulk cargo carrier built during World War II and intended to fill Allied war-time needs for bulk cargo and fuel shipments. Numerous T-2s found employment in shipping lines after the hostilities, even though designers only intended them to serve for the duration of the War. The T-2s proved so brittle that several of them produced stress fractures or split in two before they

Merchant Marine Officer Changes To Coast Guard

First officer to be sworn into the Coast Guard from the Merchant Marine under recently revised regulations, was Domenic A. Calicchio, of 885 Shirley street, Winthrop, who received his oath of office as a Lieutenant (j.g.) from Rear Admiral Edwin J. Roland, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

Public Law 219 under which licensed officers of the Merchant Marine are commissioned in the Coast Guard has changed the requirements for admitting such officers to add impetus to the Coast Guard's officer procurement program.

Lieutenant Calicchio, who prior to entering the Coast Guard was Chief officer and relieving master on the SS American Planter, is scheduled to report to the Coast Guard's Officer Indoctrination School, New London, Conn. in January. In the meantime he will serve in the First District's Rescue Coordination Center.

Lieutenant Calicchio is the husband of the former Catherine King of East Boston. He has served in the Merchant Marine since 1943 earning the Distinguished Gold Medal of the United States Lines Co.; Silver Medal of the Benevolent Society and Mariner's Medal from the French government. Two of his brothers, Michael and Alfred Calicchio are serving in the U. S. Merchant Marine.



RADM Edwin J. Roland, district commander, swears in Domenic Calicchio at First District Headquarters in Boston.

set sail on their maiden voyage. Not surprisingly, more and more T-2 tankers sank or fell apart as these vessels grew older and rustier. For example, the T-2s *Fort Mercer* and *Pendleton* sank on the same February evening in 1952 off the Cape

Cod coast leading to one of the Coast Guard's best known rescues.

Like many of its T-2 sister ships, *Marine Electric* saw service well beyond its years and, on a stormy evening in February 1983, the ship sank in the Atlantic off Maryland's Eastern Shore. Of the thirty-four crew members who went into the frigid seas only three came out alive. The Coast Guard's marine board formed to investigate this disaster included Calicchio and two other Coast Guard marine safety officers. It was due in large part to Calicchio's effort to uncover the causes of the wreck that the board handed down a criminal indictment of the *Marine Electric's*

owners. The case was a landmark event in U. S. marine safety because it set safety standards for older vessels, such as the T-2s, and led indirectly to the scrapping of about seventy vessels unable to meet those standards. It also led to regulations requiring the adoption of survival suits on board vessels navigating in cold water climates. Lastly, the tremendous loss of life in the *Marine Electric* disaster focused attention on the need for Coast Guard rescue swimmers and spurred support for establishing that fledgling program.

Throughout his career, Captain Domenic Calicchio championed the cause of safety on the open ocean. Ironically, he downplayed his own critical role in overhauling marine safety regulations in the *Marine Electric* case and other cases during his Coast Guard years. Not long after the *Marine Electric* marine board of inquiry released its critical 1985 report, Calicchio chose to retire. He established a very successful practice as a cruise-ship safety expert in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Captain Calicchio passed away in March of 2003, but his honor, integrity, devotion to duty and his high regard for those who go to sea in ships have set the standard for all Coast Guard personnel tasked with overseeing marine safety.

How Do You Thank Someone Who Saved Your Life?

by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jetta Disco

After losing his grandfather to cancer in 2001, Brooklyn, N.Y., native Michael Franco, looked for a greater way in which he could help others. Already a contributor to the annual blood drives at the police academy, Franco learned of becoming a bone marrow donor. This relatively effortless decision would lead Franco to save a woman's life.

"It seemed better than giving blood," said Franco, a longtime blood donor. "For me, to be able to do something for someone else, to make sure they didn't have to go through what my family went through, that's a great thing."

In August 1999, 19-year-old Franco, joined the Coast Guard and was stationed in Boston where he chose the machinery technician rate. Years later and after several unit transfers, he made the decision to join the Coast Guard Reserves. This opportunity allowed him to pursue his interest in law enforcement by joining the New York Police Department.

Meanwhile, in Chicago in 2008, 61-year-old Joyce Marcus, president her own marketing and communications firm, had everything going for her. She had a successful business, was in a loving relationship, surrounded herself with incredible friends, traveled the world and was full of life. But then something changed; Marcus began experiencing a significant deterioration in her health along with the inability to recover quickly from ailments.

Following a vacation to the Caribbean where she experienced extreme fatigue and weakness, Marcus made an appointment with her doctor. But nothing could've prepared her for the long arduous journey, which lay ahead.

Marcus was sent to the emergency room where she

received fate of her illness. She was diagnosed with myelofibrosis with dysplastic features, a rare blood and bone disorder that replaces marrow with scar tissue. It was ravaging through Marcus's bone marrow and blood. With only a 30 percent chance of survival, she was immediately placed on the waiting list "Be the Match" to receive a stem cell transplant after learning that no one in her family was a match.

"Every year, more than 12,000 patients in the U.S. are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia or lymphoma for which a marrow transplant from an unrelated donor may be their best or only hope of a cure,"

according to "Be The Match", a non-profit organization which matches patients with donors. "About 70 percent of patients who need a transplant do not have a suitable donor in their family."

"I just wanted to do it and it felt like the right thing to do," said Franco about his decision to donate. "Not everybody's a match. My mom's been on the donor list for 20 years and never received a phone call. I've been on the list since 2006 and received two calls, which I ended up being a match for. Its rare when you are and just to be able to do it and help somebody out and their

family is worth it to me."

The initial process of collecting the donor's cells is fairly simple; it entails a swab of the cheek to collect cells, which are then entered into a database of more than 20 million people. Once a match is found, the potential donor is then called upon to undergo the transplant process to donate their bone marrow. The donor has the option whether to



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Franco speaks with Joyce Marcus about their plans in Palm Beach, Fla., March 22. Marcus said she was told she had six months to live before receiving the bone marrow donated by Franco. (Coast Guard photo by PO3 Class Mark Barney.)

follow through with the procedure or not.

“We were a perfect match and I owe my life to him,” said Marcus.

Marcus’s chances for a successful transplant tremendously increased since she and Franco were a perfect match. Meaning that 12 of 12 markers, which are proteins found on most cells in the body, from the donor and recipient aligned when Be The Match compared cell samples from the two.

Since the transplant, Marcus was making progress on her road to recovery and enjoying her “new normal life”. Her energy is slowly making a comeback and she is able to do just about anything she wants, to a point. She enjoys brisk walks and some of the normal activities she was able to do before. Unfortunately, as a result of the transplant and hospital stay, she was unable to travel to some of her clients out of state, forcing her into semi-retirement.

“I’m thankful every day that I wake up, every single day,” Marcus elated. “And that I’m able to have a second experience of being healthy and seeing my husband and my family and just doing normal daily things that people do. I’m very, very grateful to have a second chance at life.”

Both Marcus and Franco knew very little about one another except for the nature of the illness and the gender and age of each other. Up until this point there was no contact allowed between the two because Be the Match donors and recipients are required to wait a year after the transplant before they can contact each other directly.

Marcus received a note from Franco, which didn’t arrive until three months after he sent it to her.

“Just remember that if you get the sudden urge to start new things that you may not have ever thought of like skydiving, shooting guns at a range, martial arts, driving very fast, going on trips to adventurous places ... well, then you know that the transplant is going great, and you and me have now become that much closer as my bone marrow is now yours.”

On the anniversary of the donation, Marcus received a



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Franco, a reservist stationed at Coast Guard Station New York, speaks to a reporter alongside Joyce Marcus, a Florida resident, in Palm Beach, Fla., March 22. Marcus was diagnosed with cancer in 2009. (Coast Guard photo by PO3 Mark Barney.)

phone call that helped give her a more personal connection to her donor.

“It was a once in a lifetime experience,” said Marcus describing her initial phone conversation with Franco. “Once I found out that I had a donor and we were a perfect match, I couldn’t wait until the year was up.”

Franco, just as eager to reach out to make the connection to his stem cell recipient, had contacted Marcus while he was deployed overseas to Afghanistan as part of the Coast Guard’s Redeployment Assistance and Inspection Detachment team along with the U.S. Army in support of the shipment of materials in and out of war zones.

“I wanted to see how everything was going and to see how she was feeling,” said Franco.

Their conversation flowed naturally relieving any nervousness they felt. The two spent the next half hour talking about each other and their families, where they were living and what they were doing, as if they were long lost friends catching up after

years of not talking.

In the months following their initial conversation, Franco, now back from his overseas deployment, was enjoying time raising his two young daughters, playing rugby and protecting New York in his occupation with NYPD and Coast Guard Station New York.

Since their initial conversation, Marcus and Franco have kept in close contact exchanging emails, “facebooking” and calling periodically. Each time they tried to schedule their first encounter something prevented them from meeting.

Now four years after their initial contact, the two were able to coordinate their hectic schedules to meet for the first time in visit to the Sunshine State.

“I wanted to make the weekend with Mike very special,” said Marcus, now 65, of Franco’s visit to West Palm Beach, Fla. “I wanted him to understand how important this was to my folks, my husband, my family and to my friends.”

It could not have been more picture perfect day to meet. The sun was shining creating a big warm welcome feeling.

Brimming with excitement and anticipation, Marcus along with her husband and their close friends waited for Franco's plane to arrive at the terminal.

"There he is!" shouted Marcus.

Upon seeing Franco, now 32, walk out of the airport terminal, Marcus hurried over to greet him with a relieved smile and warm hug.

"When he got to the airport and I gave him a hug, it was like 'wow', you really are my hero, here you are in the flesh" explained Marcus. "How do you thank somebody who saved your life?"

But meeting Marcus face to face for the first time was all the thanks Franco wanted.

Editor's Note: It appears that Petty Officer Michael Franco has a knack for going out of his way to do the right thing. He was also selected as our CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year for 2012 for heroism as described in the citation which accompanied the presentation of the Coast Guard Medal, which read as follows:

"Petty Officer Franco is cited for extraordinary heroism while assigned to the Redeployment Assistance Inspection Detachment (RAID) at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan on 31 October 2010. He was instrumental in saving the life of a U.S. Army soldier who was being brutally attacked, and then safety detained the armed assailant. He and two of his shipmates became aware of a struggle upon hearing violent screams from the victim as she was physically dragged into a container office by the armed assailant. Demonstrating exemplary courage, he immediately rushed to the scene to investigate and to render assistance. He observed that the victim was in imminent danger, as she had been struck in the head with a large rock by the armed man who was preparing to attack her again. Without hesitation or concern for his own safety, he stepped between the victim and the attacker, shielding her from further injury while directing her and a civilian bystander to safety. After ensuring the victim and civilian bystander were no longer in peril, he turned to the attacker, who had drawn his handgun and armed it. He immediately charged the armed man and tackled him while grabbing the loaded weapon and directing the muzzle away from himself and the assailant.



Ex-EN2 Mike Voges presents the 2012 CGCVA Person of the Year plaque to MK2 Michael R. Franco, USCGR, during Franco's drill weekend at Coast Guard Station New York on Dec. 14th.

Displaying extraordinary composure, he took control of the loaded firearm and handed it to one of his fellow shipmates. He and another Coast Guardsman finally subdued the attacker and restrained him until the Kandahar Air Field Military Police arrived on scene. Petty Officer Franco demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude and daring in spite of imminent personal danger. His courage and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

While Petty officer's actions took place in 2010, he did not receive the Coast Guard Medal until an official presentation ceremony in 2012. Because of his personal schedule and duties with the Coast Guard Reserve, official recognition as the 2012 CGCVA POY was rescheduled twice to accommodate Franco, his command, and the CGCVA. Presentation of the CGCVA POY plaque was finally made on Saturday, Dec. 14th at Coast Guard Station New York on Staten Island, NY. Representing the CGCVA and making the presentation was Mike Voges. Mike is a former EN2 who served with Squadron One, Division 11, at An Thoi, RVN, in 1967.

His Vietnam Service was with the Coast Guard Engine Repair team on the USS Krishna, and he saw combat duty as a crew member of the USCGC Point Mast.

Congrats PO Franco and welcome to the CGCVA!

Gallatin's Final Patrol

by Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Yaw

They stood side by side, one last time, on the back of the great white beast as they entered the quiet waters of Charleston Harbor. For the last 72 days, they had toiled together under the Caribbean sun far from home and hearth

in service to their country. It had been a hard journey, but a fruitful one. However, for now, they were left only to gaze out into the harbor, each with their own thoughts. As they drew closer they could see the banners of their nation flapping gently in the soft December breeze. A crowd had gathered; some were holding signs, while others waved.

Just before reaching their destination, the tugs took over and began to maneuver them toward the pier. The crew sprung to life and set to work mooring their vessel, one last time. They had made it; they were finally home. The last patrol of Coast Guard Cutter *Gallatin* and its crew had come to an end. However, the story does not end here. More remains to be told.

Gallatin was built in 1967 at Avondale Shipyard in New Orleans. On Jan. 2, 1969, it was commissioned as the sixth cutter to bear the same name. The cutter was named after the fourth and longest serving secretary of the treasury, Albert Gallatin, who held the position under then presidents Jefferson and Monroe.

Secretary Gallatin emigrated from Switzerland in 1780, and led a long life of dedicated public service that included U.S. secretary of the treasury, terms in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, and U.S. minister to France and the United Kingdom. He helped found the University of New York and was also instrumental in brokering the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812.

Just like the man it was named after, cutter *Gallatin's*

story holds a rich history of service to the United States.

From its first patrol to its last, *Gallatin* crews can lay claim to 63 separate narcotics seizures, three during its final patrol.



Members of the *Gallatin's* deck department give the cutter's hull a quick scrub down at Naval Station Mayport, Fla.

“It’s great to come out here and do the mission that you are here to do and not just punch holes in the ocean,” said Capt. Caleb Corson, the commanding officer of *Gallatin*. “As soon as the turbines kick on and we’re chasing something, everyone wants to know what’s going on. It really builds a lot of excitement.”

Corson, who has served as the *Gallatin's* commanding officer since 2011, remembers well the first time he took the ship to sea. According to Corson, the ship had been underway for only six hours when they came upon a vessel carrying six people. They had left from Jamaica and became victims of an act of piracy. They were left to float on the open ocean for 30 days with no food.

“We saved six lives,” said Corson. “The day after my change-of-command, and we are

already saving lives.”

Other than saving lives, *Gallatin* has been tasked with many other missions throughout its 45 years of service.

The ship’s crew has crossed the Atlantic many times, transited the Panama Canal and served in the Pacific. In 2012, during Hurricane Sandy, *Gallatin* and its crew assisted in the search for survivors when the storm sank the tall ship *HMS Bounty*, and provided further support in the New York area.

“We anchored maybe 5-600 yards off the Statue of Liberty,” said Corson. “For some of the crew, it was the first

time they had seen snow.”

However, whatever the weather, the cutter’s crew continued its legacy of exceptional performance, unsurpassed dedication and superior teamwork into its final patrol as a Coast Guard cutter.

On Oct. 1, 2013, *Gallatin* left its homeport of Charleston, S.C., and headed south to begin its final patrol. Along the way to their operating area, they took aboard a helicopter from Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron.

Not long after, *Gallatin* disrupted a go-fast vessel that was ultimately caught by the Colombian navy. On November 4, *Gallatin*’s crew made its first seizure and took aboard detainees as well. All told, the crew made three drug seizures and interdicted a total of 1,016.7 kilos of cocaine worth more than \$33.85 million.

But it wasn’t all work for the crew. Over the course of their deployment, they also made three port calls — one in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, one in Bocas Del Toro, Panama, and their final one in Key West, Fla.

“It’s my first cutter right out of boot camp,” said Seaman Rachael Martin, a member of *Gallatin*’s deck division, who joined the cutter in April. “We got to do some cool things and visit some cool places.”

One crew member even received a phone call on Thanksgiving, while the ship was underway, from President Barack Obama.

Though, as with all good things, they must eventually



Lt. Cmdr. George Fulenwider, engineering officer aboard Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin embraces his family on the pier Dec. 11, 2013.

come to an end. *Gallatin*’s final stop, before heading home for the last time, was at Naval Station Mayport, Fla., to offload ammunition. With rain falling, at around 2:30 p.m., on Dec. 10, Capt. Corson gave orders to get *Gallatin* underway one final time.

For Chief Petty Officer Shawn Borland, an operations specialist in *Gallatin*’s communications division, the final transit home was a unique one.

“This is going to be a special time for me because I’m a *Gallatin* sailor,” Borland said. “I got my permanent cutterman’s pin on *Gallatin*.”

Borland had previously served aboard the cutter from 2001 to 2003 as a telecommunications specialist.

“Every time I walk up and down the passageway of I remember the faces of the people that were here previously,” said Borland. “I look at a corner and recall a conversation I had there.”

There were many lasts during the trip. The crew experienced the last sunset, the last underway meal and the last watch, among many others.

The upside to this is that the ship isn’t being made into a reef, said

Crewmembers man the rail aboard Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin just prior to mooring at the cutter’s homeport. It was the last time Gallatin would moor as a U.S. Coast Guard cutter.



Feature Articles

Corson. It will live on and join the former Coast Guard Cutter *Chase*, now part of the Nigerian navy. Following its scheduled decommissioning at the end of March 2014, *Gallatin* will be replaced by the newest national security cutter, Coast Guard Cutter *Hamilton*.

“There are a lot of benefits to the new ships,” said Corson. “They have more sensors, a larger flight deck and two hangars.”

When it is finally commissioned, *Hamilton* will take up where *Gallatin* left off, including taking some of *Gallatin*'s current crew as its own.

“I'd like to cross-deck to *Hamilton* because I really like being on a cutter,” said Seaman Zach Copley, a member of *Gallatin*'s deck division. “I think the crew has a lot to do with it too; it's really like family.”

But the replacement is still a somber thing to think about for some.

“It's kind of an honor to be the decommissioning commanding officer,” said Corson.

For others, their thoughts turn to the shipmates they have served with.

“Whatever happens to this vessel after the Nigerians take it, it's just a vessel,” said Borland. “Even if I were to take *Gallatin* home with me, and put Coast Guard Cutter *Gallatin* in my backyard, without the crew onboard it's an



Petty Officer 2nd Class Travis Webb lowers the national ensign during evening colors aboard the cutter.

empty hull. The crew is what makes it special.”

The one constant for *Gallatin* is that the mission will go on. Just like the wind and tide ever changes the shore, so too, changes the Coast Guard. From its humble beginning as the Revenue Cutter Service to today's modern fleet, Coast Guard men and women will continue to stand a taut watch and press forward in the name of service. Just like *Gallatin*, power with ability.

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Commanding Officer Lt. Elizabeth Gillis and Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Robert Papp (front row center), along with crew members of USCGC Wrangell (WPB 1332) during the commandant's visit to Bahrain.