



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 3

Fall / Winter 2021



THE HISTORY OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL



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BM3 Joseph T. Ruggiero receives his Purple Heart Medal from VADM James D. Hull, USCG, (LM) Commander Atlantic Area, on May 5, 2004 for wounds suffered during a suicide boat attack on the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal in Iraq on March, 24, 2004, that also took the lives of DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal and two Navy personnel, PO1 Michael J. Pernaselli and PO2 Christopher E. Watts.

(Photo David Adame, Associated Press)

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

COAST GUARD COMBAT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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THE QUARTERDECK LOG

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Publisher Emeritus—PNP Ed Swift, LM

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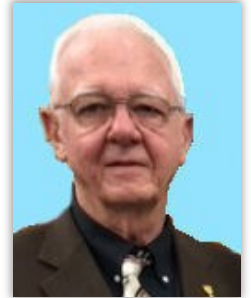
PNP Ed Swift, LM

Small Stores—Russell Allyson

COAST GUARD HISTORY CONTRIBUTOR

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

Now that we have the holiday season behind us, it’s time for a brief State of the Association report of activities.



PNP Steve Peterson represented the CGCVA at a celebration of a WWII veteran’s 100th birthday at Beeville, TX. Steve and I attended the Commissioning of the *USCGC Charles Moulthrop* at Key West. I attended the Commissioning of *USCGC Glenn Harris* at Atlantic Beach, NC, and the *USCGC Emlen Tunnel* at Philadelphia, PA. VADM Ray Riutta USCG (ret) laid a wreath at a ceremony honoring MOH recipient Douglas Munro in Cle Elem, WA. NVP Bruce Bruni attended a plaque dedication at Charleston, SC, commemorating many years of a very positive relationship that the Coast Guard and the city have shared. No Association monies were expended on the aforementioned activities.

At our June biennial reunion, a group of six officers provided a generous donation to help kickoff an effort to recognize a WWII hero and Navy Cross recipient, Captain Quentin Walsh USCG (ret). The Captain has crossed the bar but we trust that our initiative will contribute to the memory of his legacy. For the past 25 years, we have presented a CGCVA watch to each female and male USCG Academy cadet that scored highest in the final physical fitness score at the conclusion of Swab summer. Hereafter, we will present a large challenge coin honoring Captain Walsh for his capture of 750 German soldiers and the release of 52 captured U.S. Army Paratroopers. A representation of the challenge coin is shown on the back cover.

The Association will also present a plaque to the Academy which will be a constant reminder of the CGA ’33 graduate who received his foundation as a sailor, a leader, a warrior and an administrator. We believe that the coin, accompanying brochure and plaque will inspire all those that follow in Captain Quentin Walsh’s footsteps.

Semper Paratus

Terry O’Connell

FROM THE NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT—QDL EDITOR

As editor of this publication, the Quarterdeck Log, I take great efforts in making the magazine relevant to the reader and our membership and hope that I am providing that for you. Please, if you have feedback, I'd like to hear it. If you have an article for the magazine, please send that along. I will edit the submission for grammar and spelling, but encourage you to tell your story. My email is listed on the second page.

I am also addressing the reasoning behind my identifying Coast Guard Reservists PS2 Danz and MK1 Palazzo as the first Coast Guardsmen killed in the War on Terror. Some thought that recognition should be reserved for DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal, who was killed in combat on April 24, 2004, while serving with PATFORSWA in the Northern Arabian Gulf. It was never my intent to take anything from Petty Officer Bruckenthal's sacrifice made in protecting others from a suicide attack. However, I felt that it was important to point out the ultimate sacrifices made by Petty Officers Danz and Palazzo on September 11, 2001, the first day of the War on Terror when America was attacked. Although not on Coast Guard duty, they none-the-less exhibited the heroic and humanitarian character instilled in Coast Guard personnel as they ran toward danger in an attempt to rescue people from the World Trade Center buildings. They were fully aware of the dangers they were facing, yet proceeded forward knowing that they might not survive the day and willingly gave their lives in their rescue attempts so that others might live. In doing so, they brought credit upon not only their respective agencies, the New York Police Department and New York Fire Department, but the Coast Guard as well. And like Nate Bruckenthal, the Coast Guard saw fit to name two Sentinel Class cutters for them in recognition of their heroic actions while members of the Coast Guard family. That is why I indicated that they were the first two Coast Guardsmen killed in the War on Terror.

On November 11th, I attended the annual Veterans

Day celebration at High Point University. HPU, a God, Family, Country university provided a full breakfast, entertainment by the school's orchestra, a guest speaker and gave each of the thousand or more attendees a school long sleeved t-shirt and a large 3' x 5' throw with the school's name on it. Students lined up to greet each Veteran as they entered the Nido Quebin Arena, Conference Center and Hotel, thanking each Veteran for their service to the Nation. The students at the school organized a fund raising activity to purchase six tracked wheelchairs for



Left: HPU students greeting Veterans upon their entry into the Arena. Below: A partial glimpse of the Veterans in attendance.



disabled Vets. Two of the chairs were gifted to the disabled Vets who were at the event. This is the third year that I have attended and was very impressed with the 2021 Veterans Day event.



I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy 2022. ~ Bruce

FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY / TREASURER

CALL YOUR SHIPMATES, PLEASE!

We are in need of new members! We've lost so many of our World War II members and the same can be said for many of our Korean War and Vietnam War members. Our Membership Chairman, PNP Michael Placencia works very hard to develop new ways to reach qualified potential members, but he cannot do it all. (And he shouldn't have to, right?) Mike is reaching out, especially to those currently deployed to South West Asia, but he, and the Association, need your help.

You have shipmates who served with you, who are eligible for CGCVA membership, but either don't know we exist or weren't interested, or didn't fully understand the benefits of membership, the last time you spoke to them.

Please give them a call, they want to hear from you anyway!

Where can they, for \$20 a year, get the best U. S. military service magazine specifically devoted to the history of the U S Coast Guard, and its participation in this nation's conflicts. It can easily be said that every issue of the Quarterdeck Log contains articles with facts about the Coast Guard's wartime activities, that were previously unknown to the reader.

New members are the lifeblood of the association. Please call your shipmates and invite them to go on the website www.coastguardcombatvets.org and read about the CGCVA and view previous Quarterdeck Log issues. And if they don't have their credentials at hand, you can write a letter certifying their eligibility. Please make 2022 a big year for new recruits! Please!

SEA STORIES

A couple years ago, our publisher/editor, NVP Bruce Bruni, starting including some sea stories in the QDL. These stories, of course, always begin with "Now this ain't no _____" as all sea stories are

required to start, according to the Law of the High Seas. Please do your part and jot down something you experienced or witnessed while serving in the United States Coast Guard.

The story doesn't have to be humorous, but funny stories are usually the best ones. However, your story may be poignant or sad, or an example of the fellowship you experienced, or some other experience that is etched in your memory.

Please submit those stories to cgcva@comcast.net or bfb203@gmail.com. Bruce will use them as space permits, but they are something we can all enjoy reading, even if you've told that story at the last two or three reunions!

VANGUARD

I personally don't like roller-coaster rides, either at the county fair or in the investment arena.

However, 2021 is turning out to be a wild ride as the market goes up and down with every COVID story or other events that scares the market.

But if you look historically, since the stock market began in 1925, the market continues to climb and set new records. Our Association funds are diversified into five separate funds with a balance of equities and bonds. In November, 2021, we were looking at having a 15% annual return on our investments for 2021. Then the latest COVID variant came in from South Africa, the market dropped and our annual return dropped to 9.76%. Who knows where it will be on 12/31/2021, but the bottom line is that we continue to grow our funds, overall, so that allows us to support those Coast Guard charities or causes that support the U S Coast Guard.

The Life members deserve tremendous credit for their contributions to the Life Member Challenge. They stepped up and those contributions, along with



FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY / TREASURER

those very important Quarterdeck Log Boosters donations, and our Regular members who are stead-fast in paying their dues, make us a viable organization, getting stronger every year. We sincerely appreciate their willingness to support our efforts.

Semper Paratus, Gary Sherman, National 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

Hebert Cohen Michael Niles Daniel F. Bothe

IN MEMORY OF DONATIONS

Christopher Wood IMO *USCGC Chase (WHEC 718)* shipmates that have crossed the bar

CROSSED THE BAR

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

Sidney H. Weinstein, LM, WWII Gerald J. Herrald, LM, WWII

Kenneth J. Spoor, LM, RVN William Roland, RVN

NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBER	SHIP/UNIT IN COMBAT ZONE	CONFLICT	SPONSOR
Nathaniel J. Chapman	CGC Barranof	GWOT	M. Placencia

AUXILIARY NEWS



AUXILIARY NEWS

*By National Auxiliary
President Barbara Weeks*

On behalf of the CGCVA Auxiliary, I'd like to wish everyone a blessed Holiday season and a very happy new year.

Grand Haven, Michigan, "Coast Guard City USA", hosts a nationally recognized festival that honors and respects the men and women of the United States Coast Guard. I'm proud to announce that Captain USCG (retired), Catherine McNally, was elected as Grand Haven Mayor! She spent 25 years as a USCG officer, attorney, and instructor in positions of increasing responsibility in operational, personnel and industrial regulatory enforcement and compliance. Significant assignments include Coast Guard representative US Naval College, Newport R.I., Commanding Officer Coast Guard integrated Support Command, Ketchikan, AK, and Legal Officer 8th Coast Guard District, New Orleans, LA.

December 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the ending of the Coast Guard participation in the

Vietnam war. During the 6.5 years of assisting the Navy, 30 high endurance cutters (WHEC) and 26 82' patrol boats (WPB) and a number of specialized units saw Vietnam service. The Coast Guard's record in Vietnam is something which we all can be justly proud. To all who have served our country in Vietnam, our sincere thanks and admiration. ~ Semper Paratus.

Before concluding, we welcome all auxiliary members to share advise, news and recommendations. My contact information is (616) 837-8891 and/or weeksbarbara1@gmail.com.

Thank you everyone and here's to a happy and healthy 2022. ~ Barbara



2021 Grand Haven's Coast Guard Festival

COAST GUARD COMBAT VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY & ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

Membership Type: Auxiliary _____ New _____ Renewal _____ Returning _____

Two Year Membership from May 20 _____ to May 20 _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ 20 _____ Email Address: _____

Home Phone Number: (____) ____ - _____ Cell: (____) ____ - _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dues: **\$15.00 for a two-year membership.** Make check or money order payable to CGCVA Auxiliary Assn.

Mail to: Gary Sherman, CGCVA National Secretary/Treasurer, P.O. Box 969, Lansdale, PA 19449

Auxiliary Membership Qualifications: Family of members of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association in good standing

Associate Membership Qualifications: All other interested parties. Associated membership is a non-voting membership

For additional information, please contact: Javaughn Miller (Auxiliary National Secretary/Treasurer

Email: jallsmiller0@gmail.com or (619) 328-8576

HISTORY OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL

By Professor Ray Raymond,
State University of New York at Ulster

Courage isn't a brilliant dash A daring deed in a moment's flash; It isn't an instantaneous thing Born of despair with a sudden spring. But it's something deep in the soul of man That is working always to serve some plan. ~ Edgar A. Guest

“Honorary Badges of distinction are to be conferred on the veteran, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the army who have served more than three years with bravery, fidelity and good conduct; for this purpose a narrow piece of white cloth of an angular form is to be fixed to the left arm on the uniform coats; non-commissioned officers and soldiers who have served with equal reputation more than six years, are to be distinguished by two pieces of cloth set in parallel to each other in a similar form.....

The General, ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with a due reward.... The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus opened to all. “Thus, George Washington established the “Badge of Merit”. In its shape and color, the Badge anticipated and inspired the modern Purple Heart. In the exceptional level of courage required to be considered for the Badge, however, it was the forerunner of the Medal of Honor. This year we celebrate its 150th anniversary. Hasbrouck House, Newburgh, New York, Wednesday, 7 August 1782. George Washington,

the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, sat at his desk in what had once been the Hasbrouck family kitchen. The intense summer heat was relieved only by the gentle breeze from the Hudson River about 400 yards away. This grey dressed stone and rubble Dutch vernacular style house had served as Washington’s headquarters since 31 March when he had returned north to the strategic Hudson Highlands after his victory at Yorktown.

By 7 August 1782, hostilities had ended and peace talks were under way in Paris. That day, George Washington’s thoughts were with his men camped nearby at New Windsor. They had suffered appalling privations for over six years. His officers were on the verge of mutiny because of lack of pay, rations and supplies withheld by a corrupt and negligent Congress. Worse, Congress had taken away the authority of his general officers to recognize their soldiers’ courage and leadership by awarding commissions in the field. Congress simply could not afford to pay their existing officers let alone any new ones. As a result, faithful service and outstanding acts of bravery went unrecognized and unrewarded. George Washington was determined to end that. So from his headquarters perched 80 feet above the Hudson, he issued a general order establishing the “Badge of Distinction” and “Badge of Merit.”

It was bad enough that these citizen soldiers had to face the formidable force of the professional British army. What was worse was that they faced the harrowing experiences of eighteenth century warfare – the agony of long marches, the debilitating illnesses, the appalling casualties – without the proper weapons, often without boots, winter coats or food.

The memoir of Private Joseph Plumb Martin, who left his grandfather’s Connecticut farm in 1775 and served for eight years in the Continental army, has left us a grim, vivid description of how bad conditions truly were. In January 1780, for example,

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his unit took up a position in Westfield, New York, prior to mounting an attack on a British fort on Staten Island. Private Martin writes: “we...took up our abode for the night upon a bleak hill, in full rake of the northwest wind, with no covering or shelter than the canopy of the heavens and no fuel but some old rotten nails which we dug up through the snow which was two or three feet deep... we were absolutely, literally starved...I saw several of the men roast their old shoes and eat them.” He added: “Here was the army starving and naked, and there their country sitting still and expecting the army to do notable things while fainting from sheer starvation.” The reason why Private Martin and his comrades were starving and unprotected against the bitter winter cold was the outrageous corruption and profiteering surrounding the army’s supply chain, which Congress failed to address throughout the war.

George Washington was acutely aware of the suffering endured by his troops. The Commander in Chief was, of course, a strict and sometimes ruthless disciplinarian. He had to be. But Washington was also a compassionate military manager, deeply devoted to the well-being of his enlisted men. If you read his papers, you come away impressed by the almost superhuman energy he devoted to improving the health and welfare of his troops and to lobbying Congress and the States for the food and other

supplies they had promised him. No detail was ever too small for him to attend to if it improved the life of an enlisted man.

Washington was indomitable usually working at least 12-14 hours per day, but his task throughout the war was monumental. He had to transform thousands of brave, inexperienced and undisciplined citizen soldiers into an effective fighting force capable of fighting a conventional as well as a guerilla war. Moreover, the Commander in Chief also had to create an effective intelligence service that would deliver accurate, actionable information on the enemy’s capabilities and intentions, persuade Congress and the States to deliver the supplies they had promised him and work effectively with the French who had different strategic objectives. Add to that the constant political interference in the appointment and promotion of officers and the corruption and profiteering in the supply chain and you begin to understand the appalling burdens that sat upon Washington’s shoulders for over seven years.



It was understandable that it was not until after Congress took away the power to grant commissions in the field and the war was winding down in August 1782 that the Commander in Chief had the time to devise ways to honor the courage of his enlisted men and non-commissioned officers. George Washington’s decision to create two awards exclusively for enlisted men and non-commissioned officers was unprecedented. Neither the British nor any other European army had decorations for anyone other than their officers. But Washington believed passionately in the republican ideals of the revolution, and he also understood that his

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continentals were the first people's army of patriotic volunteers who had fought for these ideals and who had been pushed to the outer limits of human endurance during the war.

Washington was committed to honoring his troops, but the idea for the "Badge of Military Merit" was probably Baron Von Steuben's. The tough Prussian general may have had difficulty in instilling military discipline and order into the Continental army, but he admired their courage and fighting spirit. As a veteran of European wars, he would have been aware that the Czar of Russia had created the Cross of St. George for Gallantry and it is reasonable to speculate that he wanted the Americans to have a similar award



for gallantry.

If we do not know for sure who inspired the "Badge of Military Merit", we are even less sure about who designed it. Speculation runs from Pierre L'Enfant, later the architect of Washington DC, to Martha Washington or even General Washington himself. We will never know the truth. The original badge was made of purple silk edged with silver colored lace or binding on a wool background. One was embroidered with a leaf design; another – Sergeant Elijah Churchill's – has the word "merit" crocheted into the fabric. The heart symbolized courage and devotion. Purple was associated with royalty and would stand out on any uniform.

To determine who should receive the badge, Washington ordered that a board of military officers be convened whenever the Adjutant General had recommendations for them to consider. This board never met because the Adjutant General never supplied any recommendations. Given the brewing mutiny among the officer corps at this time, it is reasonable to speculate that the Adjutant General offered no recommendations because he never received any. Preoccupied with their own pay and



pension problems, too many officers had too little time to worry about writing recommendations for this new gallantry medal for their soldiers. By April 1783, when the Commander in Chief had received no recommendations for the "Badge of Military Merit" and when news of the peace agreement reached headquarters, Washington demanded immediate action before the Continental Army began to disband. On 17 April 1783, Washington ordered that a new review board be created and he demanded and got immediate results within days. The new board recommended two candidates: Sergeant Elijah Churchill, 4th Troop, 2nd Regiment of Light Dragoons and Sergeant William Brown of the 5th Connecticut regiment. A little later, they recommended a third candidate: Sergeant Daniel Bissell of the 2nd Connecticut regiment, one of Washington's most important and successful spies. It is, however, possible that Washington himself recommended Bissell.

All three were superb choices. The first recipient was Sergeant Elijah Churchill from the 4th Troop, 2nd Regiment of Light Dragoons which had conducted some of the most daring and spectacular raids of the Revolutionary War. Sergeant Churchill received the "Badge of Merit" in recognition of his leadership in two commando-style raids. The first was on 23 November 1780 against Fort

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St. George on Long Island when he led the advance team. He surprised the British defenders, captured and destroyed the fort. The goal of the mission had been to destroy a storage depot which housed several hundred tons of much needed hay for winter



forage for British army horses. Fort St George protected the forage depot and so the capture and destruction of the fort made a vital contribution to the success of the mission. The second raid for which Sergeant Churchill was honored occurred a year later in October 1781 while the main army was at Yorktown. Once again, Sergeant Churchill led the advance party this time against Fort Slongo on the north shore of Long Island. And once again Sergeant Churchill's bold leadership of the advance party surprised the British defenders and led to the capture of a large quantity of enemy supplies. These and other daring raids not only kept the British off-balance, unsure whether Washington was going to try to recapture New York, but also forced British commanders to detach large numbers of troops from their over-stretched army to reinforce isolated and exposed outposts.

The second recipient of the Badge of Merit was Sergeant William Brown from the 5th Connecticut regiment. George Washington honored Sergeant Brown for his extraordinary heroism at the Battle of Yorktown. There, on the night of 14 October, Sergeant Brown led the advance party of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton's troops against British Redoubt No 10, one of two key strongholds protecting the British inner defense line at Yorktown. Without waiting for the sappers and pioneers to clear away the sharpened trees designed to impale attacking troops, Sergeant Brown led his men on what could easily have been a suicide

mission. To help ensure silence and surprise they attacked with unloaded muskets. Armed only with bayonets, Sergeant Brown and his advance party ran over a quarter of a mile climbed over the sharpened trees and charged the redoubt. Despite a murderous hail of musket fire, they and the remainder of Hamilton's troops overcame the defenders in ten minutes of intense fighting.

The third recipient of the Badge of Merit whose exceptional heroism can be documented was Sergeant Daniel Bissell of the 2nd Connecticut regiment, one of George Washington's bravest and most successful spies. In August 1781, acting under direct orders from the Commander in Chief, Bissell posed as a deserter and joined Benedict Arnold's Corps of loyalists in New York City. From 14 August 1781 to 29 September 1782, Bissell served as a quarter master sergeant for Arnold. He used his position to gather a vast amount of information on British troop strength and deployments in and around New York. He recorded these in a series of notes and memoranda that he planned to send or bring to Washington. Every moment of every day for over a year, Bissell's life hung by a thread. One wrong move, one mistake and he would have been executed as a spy.

When British military intelligence began to suspect that there were American sleeper agents in their midst, the British commander in chief ordered that any soldier found with military documents would be regarded as a spy. Bissell destroyed all of his memoranda but only after committing every detail to memory.

When he escaped from New York and reached Headquarters in Newburgh, Bissell was able to dictate his intelligence to Lieutenant Colonel David Humphreys, Washington's aide de camp. If Washington had decided to attack the British in New York rather than at Yorktown, Bissell's intelligence would have been vital.

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We know for sure that Sergeants Churchill, Brown and Bissell received the Badge of Military Merit. Recent research by the Military Order of the Purple Heart's National Americanism officer, Ron Siebels, shows that Peter Shumway, John Sithins and William Dutton, three other soldiers in Washington's Continental Army, also received the Badge of Military Merit. But we do not yet know the exceptional acts of courage for which they were

honored. It is possible that there were other candidates and other recipients. But we will never be sure unless the "Book of Merit" (in which all of the recipient's names and heroic deeds were to be recorded) is found. But it has been missing for over two centuries.

Reprinted from the Military Order of the Purple Heart website.

The History of the Purple Heart (Modern Era)

*The oldest active military medal in the United States,
over 1 million Purple Hearts were awarded during
World War II.*

August 6, 2021

It is unlikely that Private First Class Clifton A. Duet ever heard the explosion that killed three men in his position and shredded his lower left arm. It was May 19, 1945, *on a hill called Sugarloaf*, during the Battle of Okinawa. At that moment, Duet had spent less than nine months in the US Marine Corps, however, he had been in combat since the April 1 landings on Okinawa, which was enough to make anyone a combat veteran.

On May 19, Duet and his unit, I company, 4th Marines, 6th Marine Division, were in the process of relieving the 22nd Marine Regiment on top of Sugarloaf hill when he was hit. He soon joined 70 of his comrades who were wounded or killed in the few hours it took to change places with the 22nd Marines. Duet woke up before he was placed in the grave that was being prepared for him, but the severity of his wounds led to the loss of his left arm below the elbow. The fight against the Shuri line continued for the 4th Marines, but for Duet his war was over. From that moment on he joined a new group of distinguished servicemembers, recipients of

the Purple Heart.

Apart from the *Medal of Honor*, one of the most recognizable awards in the US Armed Forces is the Purple Heart. "For military merit and for wounds received in action," reads the citation issued to over 1 million men and women who served during World War II. The Purple Heart is the oldest active military award in the United States and, like the country it represents, has gone through many changes.

What now is known as the Purple Heart began as the Badge of Military Merit, established by George Washington on August 7, 1782. At that time, and for many decades afterwards, there were very few awards that common soldiers could receive in service of their country. Most awards, decorations, and medals were given to great commanders, aristocrats, or kings. Recognizing that the Continental Army was fighting a tough campaign, supplies were scarce, and pay was low, Washington felt a need to encourage his troops by establishing an award for valor and meritorious service. This established a precedent within awards systems for valor, defined as heroic actions in combat, and merit, which is proper performance of military duties not related to combat. Washington presented the Badge of Military Merit, which consisted of a cloth purple heart to be worn over the left breast, to three sergeants in his army.

Despite this great start, the Badge of Military

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Merit was soon forgotten for 150 years. In all that time, only the original three were known to have been issued. It was not until World War I that an organized hierarchy of valor and merit medals began to take shape. At that point, the only American award that could be earned by soldiers and officers was the Medal of Honor. Other Allied and Axis nations had a number of medals that recognized different levels of valor and merit, which caused a general push for additional awards within the US Army.

Congress reacted by creating the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal. It was not until 1932 that US Army Chief of Staff Douglas MacArthur dusted off the old Badge of Military Merit and renamed it the Purple Heart. MacArthur issued General Order No. 3 on February 22, 1932, and declared that the newly named Purple Heart would be awarded for meritorious or valorous service in the US Army. In an attached line, additional criterion for the Purple Heart included, "A wound, which necessitates treatment by a medical officer, and which is received in action with an enemy of the United States, or as a result of an act of such enemy, may...be construed as resulting from a singularly meritorious act of essential service."

In all conflicts before World War I, the only indication that a servicemember had been injured in action was the bandage placed over the wound. During World War I, a wound medal and ribbon were instituted, but were quickly replaced by wound chevrons. These chevrons were sewn on the lower right sleeve of a uniform, one chevron per wound. The addition of the wound criteria for the new Purple Heart changed everything for men and women wounded by enemy action and ended the short run of the wound chevron.

Before American entry to World War II, roughly 78,000 Purple Hearts were issued to US Army personnel who had been wounded as far back as the Civil War or had performed meritorious service

during World War I. At that time, it was very common for soldiers to write in and apply for medals. If their letter was approved the medal was mailed to the recipient regardless of the conflict.

As the first Japanese torpedoes slipped into the shallow waters of Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941, the Purple Heart was still only a US Army award. Because it was originally created by George Washington, and reinstated by the Army Chief of Staff, the Purple Heart could not be awarded to any other service branch. This changed over the course of 1942 with three major decisions.

First, in April 1942, the War Department decided that the Purple Heart would be issued to servicemembers who were killed in action as recognition of their sacrifice. In September, the meritorious service element of the Purple Heart was removed from its qualifications and given to the newly created Legion of Merit. From this moment on the Purple Heart could only be awarded for being wounded or killed by enemy action. Finishing out the year 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the Navy Department to award the Purple Heart to any Navy, Marine, or Coast Guard personnel who were wounded or killed in action beginning on December 7, 1941.

It is also worth mentioning that the Purple Heart is the highest award that is automatically given to any officer or enlisted person as soon as the criteria are met, meaning there is no proposal or review like other awards for valor or merit. It can also be awarded multiple times for wounds received on separate occasions.

Given the requirements of the Purple Heart, there is always a story to be told by the number of medals issued and the number manufactured. By the end of World War II, over 1 million Purple Hearts were presented to men and women wounded or killed by enemy action. When the United States entered the war, each service branch initiated the process of planning for war. Using experience,

COVER STORY

statistics, and best guesses, they determined how many troops and supplies were needed to win World War II; sometimes they planned too much, sometimes far too little.



Joseph Gadek Jr., accepting the Purple Heart for his Brother who was killed on the USCGC Escanaba (WPG-77) when the cutter was sunk on 13 June 1943, during the Battle of the Atlantic. Posthumous awards were generally given to the next of kin of the deceased or a family member in service. (Photo is a gift of the Scanlan Family)

For example, the US Army determined that it would need about 9 million servicemen organized in over 200 divisions to defeat Axis powers. In reality, the overall number of troops they needed was very close to the estimate, but they over estimated on the divisions, only needing around 90 to win the war. Initially, orders for the Purple Heart in 1942 were thought to be sufficient to last the war, but the casualties mounted.

Driven by the horrific tolls of the dead and wounded, such as Clifton Duet on Okinawa, the US Navy and Army kept adding to their orders. Four main manufacturers initially were producing around 600,000 medals. By the end of World War II, 1.5 million Purple Hearts had been struck in

anticipation of the final cost of victory. Although casualties were higher than first expected, they did not meet the final dizzying number, resulting in a surplus of almost 500,000 medals. These medals have a legacy that continues to this day because unlike other surplus items World War II, Purple Hearts remained in inventory, being issued during Korea, Vietnam, and into the modern conflicts against terrorism. As a symbol there are few other US military awards that evoke such an instant reaction, understanding, and appreciation for the cost of service to one's country, especially during World War II.

Joshua Schick is a Curator at The National WWII Museum. He received a BA in history from Louisiana State University before attending the University of New Orleans for his master's degree. Before and after graduating from the University of New Orleans he worked on a number of restoration projects at the Museum. His primary professional focus of interest is US Navy history during World War II.

It has been estimated that nearly 2,000 Coast Guard personnel have received the Purple Heart, many posthumously since the sinking of the USS Tampa during the closing days of WWI with the lives of 131 personnel, including 111 Coast Guardsmen. At the time of the sinking, only the U.S. Army was entitled to the Purple Heart. However, in 1942, the medal was authorized for members of all Armed Services who were wounded in combat. Finally, in 1952, the award was made retroactive to WWI, allowing for the issuance of the medal to those 218 Coast Guardsmen who were wounded or died in combat during WWI.

As you can imagine, WWII had a far greater number of Coast Guard recipients of the Purple Heart, approximately 1,635. The Vietnam War saw 71 Purple Hearts awarded to Coast Guard personnel and another three medals during the Global War on Terror, one of which was awarded posthumously to DC3 Bruckenthal. Never forget their sacrifice.

FEATURED ARTICLES

THE LONG BLUE LINE HOLLY HARRISON—BRONZE STAR RECIPIENT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

(From *Coast Guard Compass*, March 29, 2018, and written by William H. Thiesen, Ph.D. Coast Guard Atlantic Area Historian)

As with any meaningful career, that of Holly Harrison reflects her hard work and devotion to duty. Harrison comes from a military family tracing its connection to the nation's armed service back several generations. Early in life, she continued her family tradition of service to country, gaining hands-on experience with Coast Guard units while still in high school. She spent a year in college working hard to fulfill her dream of entrance into, and graduation from, the Coast Guard Academy.

After completing four years at the Academy, Harrison received a variety of shipboard assignments, including ones on Cutter *Storis*, and 110-foot Island class patrol boats (WPBs) *Kiska* and *Aquidneck*. A World War II era cutter famous for making the Northwest Passage in 1957, *Storis* proved an excellent vessel to learn to drive ships. Harrison served as an ensign on *Storis* in the stormy Bering Sea and boarded numerous fishing vessels in support of the cutter's law enforcement mission. Next, Harrison transferred to Hawaii, to serve as executive officer aboard the 110-foot patrol boat *Kiska*, which performed a variety of missions in the mid-Pacific area. Harrison served aboard *Kiska* for two years before receiving command of her own cutter, the WPB *Aquidneck*, homeported at Fort Macon, North Carolina.

Near the end of 2002, Harrison received orders to the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG) to take part in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Harrison had to cancel an assignment to escort vessels in the Delaware River, return *Aquidneck* to homeport to

THE LONG BLUE LINE

Holly Harrison
Bronze Star
recipient of
Operation Iraqi
Freedom



load spare parts, and steam for the Integrated Support Center Portsmouth, in Hampton Roads, Virginia. In Portsmouth, Harrison spent over two months preparing the cutter and crew for deployment to the Middle East. These preparations included rigorous training in small arms and chemical, biological and radiological warfare. Harrison and her crew also prepared *Aquidneck* for trans-Atlantic shipment on board a Military Sealift Command ship. Trans-shipment of *Aquidneck* and three other 110-foot cutters required a great deal of preparation and, by January 2003, the four WPBs were loaded onboard the heavy-lift motor vessel *Industrial Challenger*.

On Wednesday, February 26, Harrison and her crew touched down in Bahrain. Not long after her arrival, Harrison and her fellow patrol boat skippers board *USS Valley Forge*, a guided missile cruiser and command ship for Task Force 55, under which the cutters would operate. The task force commander has specifically requested use of the patrol boats during the September 2002 planning for OIF operations. The task force command staff briefed the cuttermen on the upcoming mission and the naval combat operations about to begin.

After the WPB's arrived in Bahrain, the work tempo heightened. Within ten days of Harrison's arrival, the *Industrial Challenger* delivered *Aquidneck* and its sister cutters after a 35-day passage. A week after Harrison's and her crew

FEATURED ARTICLES

touched down in Bahrain, a heavy lift crane off-loaded *Aquidneck* and Harrison and her crew conducted sea trials for the next two days. On Saturday, March 8, the crew stowed stores onboard the 110 and the next day, the patrol boat sailed into the NAG with sister cutter *Adak*. Once the two cutters arrived, they began maritime interdiction operations, boarding and inspecting indigenous watercraft in the waters of Iraq.



Coast Guard Cutter Aquidneck patrols the Iraqi oil platforms in the Northern Arabian Gulf (Coast Guard Collection)

In mid-March, coalition naval forces restricted the flow of Iraqi watercraft along the Khawr Abd Allah (KAA) Waterway, the primary maritime link between Iraq and the Gulf. Naval planners believed these Iraqi dhows and other watercraft might hold mines, weapons or escaping Iraqi officials. The dhows countered Coalition efforts by staging breakouts, which involved dozens of watercraft trying to escape simultaneously. These attempts included a large breakout of 60 dhows on March 17. *Aquidneck* worked together with the other WPBs and an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter, from high-endurance cutter *Boutwell*, to corral the watercraft and board each of them. Together, they managed to inspect all the vessels and found no weapons, illegal cargoes or Iraqi officials.

In the evening of Thursday, March 20, OIF combat operations began with Coalition warships

launching Tomahawk missiles toward Baghdad. *Aquidneck* patrolled around the naval vessels during launch operations to screen them from intruders. The missile launchers provided an awesome sight and none of the off-watch crew could sleep. Harrison was unaware of the fact that, as captain of *Aquidneck*, she had become the first woman to command a Coast Guard vessel in a combat zone.

The next day, *Aquidneck* remained on patrol in the NAG. Early in the morning, *Aquidneck's* lookout spotted a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter approach while another Sea King vectored in from the opposite direction. To the amazement of the crew, the two helicopters collided in mid-air and exploded on impact. *Aquidneck* reacted immediately and appeared at the site of the disaster before any other Coalition vessel. As fuel burned on the water's surface surrounding the wreckage, *Aquidneck* launched its small boat and commenced search operations. However, all seven helicopter crew members, including an American Navy officer, died in the crash.



Lt. Holly Harrison receives the Bronze Star Medal with Atlantic Area Commander, Vice Admiral James Hull looking on (Coast Guard Collection)

After Coalition naval forces wrapped up the initial phase of combat operations, naval planners focused

FEATURED ARTICLES

on opening the KAA Waterway to vessel traffic. On Saturday, March 22, *Aquidneck* joined an escort detail to protect Coalition minesweeping vessels clearing the channel to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. To do this, *Aquidneck* and the other escorts had to navigate upstream of the minesweepers. This mission proved to be a stressful one because Harrison's crew knew they were sailing through unswept waters and that their thin-skinned cutter would be torn apart by a floating mine. This mission concluded successfully with no casualties to the minesweepers or their escorts, but later analysis indicated that *Aquidneck* had passed through waters holding active mines.

Aquidneck performed numerous patrol missions to safeguard Iraqi oil platforms. On several of these patrols, Iranian gunboats would appear, test Harrison and her crew's reactions, and gauge the capabilities of *Aquidneck*. Harrison drew a fine line between responding assertively and avoiding hostilities. She chose the middle ground of having the crew ready to man the cutter's loaded gun without aiming the weapons at the Iranians. Whenever Iranian vessels appeared in *Aquidneck*'s patrol area, Harrison paralleled their course and matched their speed sometimes exceeding 30 knots to do so. Harrison made sure her cutter did not present a threatening posture, but never backed down and the Iranians routinely broke off the encounters and retreated to their territorial waters.

Securing the KAA Waterway for regular commercial traffic required not just minesweeping operations, but the clearing of other navigational hazards. Wrecks and hulks of destroyed ships dating back as far as the Iran-Iraq War dotted the KAA Waterway's shoreline. Armed boarding teams from the WPBs had to clear the shoreline of any potential threats hidden within these wrecks. During these operations, a boarding team from *Aquidneck* discovered military supplies within the hulk of a tanker, including Iraqi military uniforms, money,

AK-47s, fresh food and drawings of Coalition naval vessels. *Aquidneck*'s shore parties also secured a number of coastal bunkers that proved inaccessible to land forces.

Under Harrison's command, *Aquidneck* and her dedicated crew conducted innumerable maritime interdiction, search and rescue, escort and combat-related operations in the NAG. In 2003, Harrison received recognition for these achievements, becoming the first female in service history to receive the Bronze Star Medal in addition to her record as the first woman to command a Coast Guard cutter in combat.



**A Coast Guard Island class patrol boat (WPB)
on patrol in the Northern Arabian Gulf
(Coast Guard Collection)**

After re-deployment to the United States, Harrison transferred to the Maritime Law Enforcement School, in Yorktown, Virginia, and put her *Aquidneck* boarding experience to use as a senior instructor. She moved with the school to Charleston, South Carolina, to help establish the Coast Guard's law enforcement school in that city. Following her teaching work in Charleston, she served for two years as executive officer of the medium-endurance cutter *Legare*, which performed several drug interdiction and illegal migrant patrols in the Caribbean. Today, Harrison serves at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and remains one of the service's long blue line.

NEWS AND NOTICES

PHILADELPHIA — The U.S. Coast Guard commissioned the *USCGC Emlen Tunnell* (WPC 1145), Patrol Forces Southwest Asia's fourth 154-foot Sentinel-class cutter, into service at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia Friday, the Coast Guard's 45th of this class to be commissioned.

Adm. Karl Schultz, the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, presided over the ceremony. Ms. Yvonne Gilmore Jordan, the eldest first cousin to Tunnell, is the ship's sponsor.



Lt. Patrick Kelly, the commanding officer of the USCGC Emlen Tunnell (WPC 1145), presents a gift from the crew to Yvonne Gilmore Jordan, the official sponsor of the Tunnell in recognition of her sponsorship in Philadelphia, Oct. 15, 2021. (Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Breanna Centeno, USCG)

"We are so thankful to the Coast Guard for this incredible honor. I can't internalize the perils Emlen, and his shipmates endured. Emlen didn't want anyone calling him a hero, but the Coast Guard said yes, he was. As a relative, it is a privilege to be a participant in this commissioning as the Coast Guard Cutter *Emlen Tunnell* is placed into service," said Jordan.

The cutter's namesake is Steward's Mate 1st Class Emlen Tunnell, a native of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, who served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1943 to 1946. During this time, he rescued two shipmates. The first was aboard the *USS Etamin* at anchor in Papua New Guinea in 1944. When a

crewman became engulfed in flame following a Japanese torpedo attack, he beat out the fire, sustaining burns, and carried him to safety.

The second rescue came aboard the *USCGC Tampa* in 1946 when a shipmate fell overboard off Newfoundland. Tunnell risked the 32-degree Fahrenheit water suffering shock and exposure to save him. The U.S. Coast Guard awarded the Silver Lifesaving Medal to Tunnell posthumously for his heroism.

"What really defined Emlen was his character, that selflessness. It was who he was as a human being," said Schultz. "When this cutter sailed unexpectedly to avoid tropical storm Elsa, Coast Guardsmen who are going to shape the future chapters of the Emlen Tunnell story stepped to the plate, as Emlen did years ago. Maybe not with as many heroics, but they did what Coasties do. They jumped into the breach."

Tunnell was also a lauded athlete beginning in high school and then college before he joined the Service. While in the Coast Guard, he played football and basketball, and upon his departure, he resumed college. Tunnell went on to play professional football for the New York Giants and



The crew of the USCGC Emlen Tunnell (WPC 1145) at the gravesite of Emlen Tunnell with Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz, Cmdr. William McKinstry, and Master Chief Petty Officer George Williamson at Gulph United Church of Christ Cemetery in West Conshohocken, Pa., on Oct. 14, 2021. (Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Breanna Centeno, USCG)

NEWS AND NOTICES

the Green Bay Packers. He also served as an assistant coach for the Giants. Notably, Tunnell is the first African American to play for the N.Y. Giants, African American talent scout, and African American full-time assistant coach. He is also the first African American inducted into the Pro-Football Hall of Fame.



Vivian Robinson (right) and Catherine Robinson, the sister and niece of Emlen Tunnell, hold the Silver Lifesaving Medal that was presented by Rear Adm. Joseph "Pepe" Castillo to posthumously honor Tunnell's efforts while serving in the Coast Guard. (photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Rachel Polish, USCG)

2023 REUNION UPDATE

The reunion committee has been working diligently in identifying a location for the 2023 CGCVA reunion. Mike Placencia and Gary Sherman are currently negotiating with a hotel that is interested in hosting our event. After ironing out a few minor details, we are confident that we can close the deal within the next few weeks with an announcement forthcoming in the first quarter issue of the QDL. I think that you will be pleased with the results of their hard work.

Commandant Schultz said that the Sentinel Class cutter is a game-changer in a time when the demand for U.S. Coast Guard service has never been higher. The *Emlen Tunnel* and *Glen Harris* will join two Sentinel-class ships already in service in the Arabian Gulf. Two additional 154-foot cutters will join these in 2022 for a total of six in service at PATFORSWA (Patrol Forces Southwest Asia).

Established in 2002 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, PATFORSWA is a maritime humanitarian presence on the seas, providing U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet with combat ready assets. Utilizing the U.S. Coast Guard's unique access to foreign territorial seas and ports, our crews formulate strong and independent relationships throughout the Arabian Gulf and leverage the full spectrum of flexible boarding capabilities at sea and maritime country engagements on shore.



For reasons he never quite understood, the Ensign's first tour was a little "rocky."

NEWS AND NOTICES

THE WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association has a number of women in its membership that have served in various theaters of operations that has qualified them for membership. It is only fitting that we bring to the attention of the CGCVA membership the establishment of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial that is located at Arlington National Cemetery's ceremonial entrance. It is the only national memorial dedicated to America's military women. Here, their patriotism and bravery are recognized and recorded for all time.

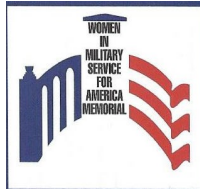
Authorized by Congress in 1986, the Memorial was dedicated on October 18, 1997, with the intended mission to honor military women, past and present, for their service and sacrifice to our Nation's defense. It is also intended to educate and empower the public with personal stories and experiences of women patriots throughout America's history who have chosen to serve the Nation and the cause of freedom. We must



Dr. Mary Walker

remember those who paved the way, such as Dr. Mary Walker that served alongside men to gain and preserve liberty. Or one of the early women patriots, like Deborah Sampson that disguised themselves as men in order to serve.

From those early years to today, some three million women have served in America's defense. And, servicewomen's roles have continually evolved from limited to endless.



THE WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

Honor • Educate • Empower • Remember



Every Story Matters! Register Today!

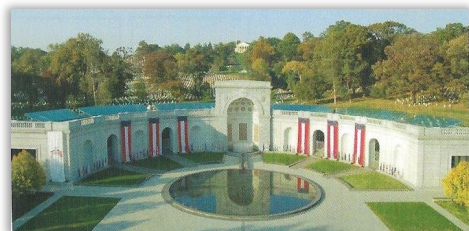
Today, there are about 350,000 women in uniform and nearly two million women veterans. What



have they in common throughout history is that they all volunteered. From the American Revolution, to WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Shield/Desert Storm and the Global War on Terror, and everything in between, women have served. The Women's Memorial is dedicated to preserving their history one story at a time. It is dedicated to those who have served, those who are serving and those who will serve in the future.

When you visit the Women's Memorial, you are able to explore permanent and traveling exhibits, representing the collective history of women in the military. Discover individual stories of women, past and present, who will inspire generations to come.

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization, dependent upon donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations to maintain and operate the Memorial and Education Center. Donations can be made through their website at www.womensmemorial.org.



COAST GUARD CUTTER TIME AT SEA

Coast Guard cutters are known for their “long legs”, that is their ability to spend long times at sea without having to be replenished by support ships. When I was aboard *CGC Chautauqua (WHEC-41)* in the Pacific, we spent just about a full six months at sea each year and never did underway replenishment, except for training purposes. I recently read a book called “200,000 Miles Aboard Destroyer Cotton”, by one of its former crewmembers, C. Snelling. It is about the exploits for *USS Cotton DD-669*, during the war in the Pacific. The author claimed they steamed about 200,000 miles in a two and a half-year period between the time she had departed Norfolk, VA, on October 31, 1943, and sailing for the Pacific theatre of operations and her return to New York for decommissioning on January 21, 1946. The ship had participated in no less than 13 invasions and various operations during this period, an impressive record by all accounts. This started me thinking that since I spent two years aboard the *Chautauqua* and we were on the go most of the time, how far did we steam in that two-year period? I went to the maps and calculated the best I could just how many miles we covered during my time aboard. This is what I came up with.

Mainly we did what were called “Double Victor” patrols in the North Pacific Ocean. The double part was that we did a patrol, then went to Japan for R & R and needed maintenance, then returned to another patrol before heading back to our Honolulu home port. Victor was an ocean station at 34N 164E on the map. We stayed in a one hundred square mile grid and monitored weather, sea conditions, air traffic and generally stood by for sea air rescue (SAR) in an area where there was usually nothing but a vast emptiness. This was all prior to satellites. We stayed in this area for twenty-one days at a time.

Here is how I determined the amount of steaming

that we did:

- Honolulu to Midway Island leg: 1100 miles
- Midway to ocean station Victor: 1000 miles
- Steaming on station (21 days): 2100 miles
- Ocean station Victor to Japan: 1000 miles

This adds up to 5200 miles for one patrol and I did eight patrols in the two years so that is a total of 41,600 miles steaming. This does not count the three or four times that we went off station to assist a merchant ship, as I have no idea of how far we went on these SAR events. When we were in home port, we were always out on some kind of maneuvers, but I would estimate a further 5000 miles steaming over the two-year period. This brings the total up to 46,600 miles of steaming. This is nowhere near the 200,000 miles the destroyer did in two and a half years, but still a considerable amount of miles for a Coast Guard cutter.

However, the subject of the book, the Fletcher class destroyer *Cotton*, did almost all of its steaming at flank speed. This was 25 knots with bursts of 31 knots when they put all boilers online. We of the *Chautauqua* did almost everything at speeds of 10 to 12 knots to conserve fuel. As I said earlier, we never had to refuel at sea, but the *Cotton* had to refuel every five to seven days. So, I’ve concluded that we spent just about as much time underway as the *USS Cotton*. We didn’t do the distance that she did, but we did spend the bulk of our time underway and in this way we were comparable to the WWII destroyer.



**USCGC
Chautauqua
WHEC-41**

SEA STORIES

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT JOE KLEINPETER IN VIETNAM WITH HIS "BIG BERTHA"

I was a crewmember of *USCGC Point Banks* (WPB 82327) in 1967 and often interacted with various Army units ashore trading this for that, often acquiring needed supplies that were more difficult to get through normal channels, something that Coasties are very good at doing. I remember, this one time, visiting the Special Forces camp on Phu Quoc Island and traded a case of steaks for Big Bertha, an M18, 57mm recoilless rifle, along with several cases of ammunition that included white phosphorus (WP), high explosive (HE) and armor piercing (AP). As we paralleled the beach, I



M18 57mm Recoilless Rifle

practiced sighting in targets to become proficient with the weapon.

On one occasion when we had a visit from an Army unit that was having issues with the local Viet Cong (VC) that had been harassing them at

night. The unit's commanding officer was interested in our crew doing some harassment and interdiction to draw out the VC and then pound them with mortar fire from our Big Bertha. You might be wondering why the Army couldn't handle this by themselves with all the high-power toys that they might have at their disposal, but this particular Army unit was not authorized heavy weapons like a M2 (.50 caliber machinegun), mortars or the M79 grenade launchers. That left them to seek outside help to address their problem and they came to the Coast Guard. We were only too happy to assist.

The Army was based in a village with the

Vietnamese at the mouth of a river. The plan called for the WPB to stand off the river's mouth until the VC commenced their attack. At that time, *Point Banks* would then charge up the river and open up with the M2s. Unfortunately, most times when the *Point Banks* was on patrol in the area, we were often too far away to respond to an attack. Eventually, the Army unit was given a couple .50 caliber machineguns to fend off future attacks until the *Point Banks* arrived.

Ironically and typical of the guerilla war in Vietnam, the Army had discovered that the VC shooting at them lived in the village they were protecting. At night the VC would leave the village, cross the river, fire at the Army unit, and return to the village. The next day several wounded Vietnamese would be seen in the village. One of the tip-offs that an attack was imminent was that the villagers were seen making caskets for their dead.



Joe Kleinpeter with "Big Bertha"

On one patrol, I had to board a junk-force boat with my newly acquired Big Bertha and ammo and set up on the bow. Our whaler was put over side operated by our Executive Officer (XO) Ed Donnelley and the Gunners Mate with an M60 machinegun. Three boats would operate in a tier formation. The whaler would operate just outside the surf line with the junk force boat operating to the seaward of the whaler. The WPB would operate further out to sea from the junk boat. The Gunners Mate would rake the beach with the M60, and I would fire Big Bertha over the whaler and into the jungle. It was impressive firepower from two small boats. *Point Banks* was ready with the .50 caliber machineguns and the 81mm mortar, if needed.

SEA STORIES

When the Vietnamese junk force crew saw Big Bertha, they became excited and kept saying, "kill beaucoup VC", meaning that we were going to kill many Viet Cong with that weapon.

In the preattack planning stage, I had designated one Vietnamese sailor to be my loader and went through the drill several times with him, open the breech, load a round, close the breach, tap my helmet, indicating that everything was ready, and then stand back since the blast coming from the rear of the weapon was deafening. As the attack began, I commenced fire sending a round over the whaler and waited for a tap on my helmet indicating a repeat of the firing sequence. It never came. The entire Vietnamese Junk Force crew ran to the back of the boat and hid under a tarp, paralyzed with fear from the blast of Big Bertha. I fired several rounds, each time unloading, reloading and beating out a fire that was started from the back blast. The cutter's heavily painted gunnel had caught fire from the back blast,

and I only had my ball cap to beat out the flames.

Through all of this I could see splashes on the water indicating return fire from the VC while the XO was on the PRC (portable radio communications) calling to increase the number of rounds being fired.

I finally ran out of ammo and we secured the operation. I then went to the back of the boat and pulled the tarp off the Vietnamese sailors who were quite scared. The idea of throwing them over the side was appealing.



Joe Kleinpeter

PS: The WPB log books (Point Banks) are at the military archives and this incident may have been recorded

~ Joe Kleinpeter

VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Over the past six months, the VA has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to environmental exposures during military service.

In May 2021, the VA started implementing provisions of the William A. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021, adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later, the VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive based particulate matter exposure during military service in Southeast Asia and certain other areas.

Any Veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions but had

symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service would need to file a supplemental claim. Be sure to use [VA Form 20-0995 \(www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-20-0995-ARE.pdf\)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-20-0995-ARE.pdf), **Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim** when filing. The form should include the name of the condition and specify that the condition is being claimed due to in-service exposure to environmental hazards.

The VA is committed to assisting Veterans who may have been exposed to hazardous materials during their military service.

Be sure to stay plugged in to www.va.gov for the most recent developments around environmental exposures during military service.

For more information about VA benefits and eligibility, or how to file a claim, Veterans and Survivors can visit the VA's website at www.va.gov or call toll free at **1-800-827-1000**.

VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS

VA Office of Community Care

UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY CARE PROCESS

The Veterans Community Care Program provides health care to eligible Veterans through local, in-network providers outside of VA medical facilities. This guide describes some of the key milestones in your community care experience and lays out touchpoints that may help you along the way.

1. CONSULT CREATION AND REVIEW

A consult is a request from your VA doctor to refer you for medical and/or behavioral care from a VA community provider. When your VA provider recommends you seek additional care, they create the consult and VA staff review for accuracy.

DO NOT schedule an appointment until VA contacts you with the approved consult information.

Want to know more about community care?
Visit: www.va.gov/communitycare

Questions about the care you are referred for?
Contact your VA referring provider or your local VA's community care office.

Questions about the timeline for consult review?
Contact your local VA's community care office.

2. SCHEDULING

Once VA has contacted you with the approved consult information, you may proceed to schedule your appointment. If you prefer, VA can schedule the appointment for you. Otherwise, you may self-schedule by calling a VA community provider directly, or use VA Online scheduling: mobile.va.gov/app/va-online-scheduling

If you decide to self-schedule, VA will call you up to three times to verify that your appointment is scheduled. If you do not schedule your appointment **within 14 business days**, you will have to request a new consult from the referring VA provider.

To find a VA community provider, visit: www.va.gov/find-locations

Questions about scheduling or need assistance?
Contact your local VA community care office.

Note: Eligible Veterans can request certain routine and specialty community care appointments using VA Online Scheduling.

3. AUTHORIZATION

After your appointment is scheduled, your authorization is created. An authorization is approved from VA for you to receive care from a community provider.

You will receive a letter in the mail with:

- Your authorization number.
- The in-network community provider you are approved to visit.
- A description of the care you are approved to receive.
- The time period you are authorized to receive care.

Bring the authorization letter with you to your appointment with the community provider.

Questions about the care you are authorized for?
Contact your local VA Community Care Office.

Note: Please ensure the VA has your current mailing address on file.

4. COMMUNITY CARE VISIT

At the scheduled day and time, you will attend your community care appointment. The VA will send any relevant medical records to your community provider. However, if instructed by the community

VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS

provider, you may need to bring copies of diagnostic imaging (CT or MRI) with you.

Questions about your visit or what information your community provider needs?

Contact your community provider's office.

Remember, you are responsible for your VA copayment amount, as applicable, whether you received care in VA or the community. You will be billed for this separately by VA. Do not pay a copayment to your provider.

Questions about VA copayment?

Contact 866-400-1238, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time.

5. SCHEDULING ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

If you are authorized for ongoing care with a VA community provider, you may schedule recurring appointments directly from their office.

Keep track of how many appointments you attend and when they are authorized. **The VA will not cover services beyond what is described in your authorization.**

Questions about scheduling your next visit?

Contact your community care provider's office.

Questions about how many appointments are left on your authorization?

Contact your local VA Community Care Office.

6. REAUTHORIZATION

If you require care beyond the limits of your authorization, you will need to be reauthorized.

You, or your community provider, may submit a new referral request to VA. VA will review the referral request and, if appropriate, issue a new authorization for this care. However, in some circumstances, VA may determine that you should return to VA to receive this care.

Questions about your reauthorization? Contact

your VA medical center or your community care provider's office.

7. PRESCRIPTION AND DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME) PICKUP

Medications:

You may fill a **prescription for a 14-day (or fewer) supply** written by your community service provider at:

- A VA medical facility pharmacy.
- A participating in-network pharmacy with no out-of-pocket payment at the pharmacy.
- An out-of-network pharmacy, but you must pay at the pharmacy and submit a reimbursement claim at your local VA facility.

For prescriptions that exceed the 14-day* supply limit, or are not urgently needed, the community provider must send the prescription to the local VAMC pharmacy to be filled.

DME:

If your provider identifies an immediate need for DME, orthotics or prosthetic items, the provider may provide the DME to you and submit a bill to the Third Part Administrator (TPA).

For routine DME, orthotics, and prosthetic items you must return to your local VA medical facility for a consult at the Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) unit.

Need help in locating an in-network pharmacy?

Visit www.va.gov/find-locations, select Facility

Type: Community pharmacies.

Questions about DME?

Contact your local VA PSAS unit or your referring VA provider.

*Opioid medications are limited to a 7-day supply or state limits, whichever is less.

VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS

8. RECEIVING AND PAYING YOUR BILL

Depending on your disability rating and private insurance (including Medicare and Medicaid), you may receive a bill from VA for the services you received.

If you owe a copay, send payment to VA at the address on your bill. You should never pay a community service provider directly.

For more information about Veteran health benefit copayments, visit:

www.va.gov/health-care/pay-copay-bill/

If you receive a bill from your community provider contact the national VA Community Care Contact Center at **877-881-7618**, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time.

Questions about your VA bill?

Contact **866-400-1238**, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time.

To find out more information about your priority group, disability rating, or copay information, sign into My Healthvet at www.myhealth.va.gov using your DS login or ID.me.

URGENT CARE

If you are registered with the VA and have seen your primary care provider within the last 24 months, you are eligible for VA's urgent care benefit. You can visit an in-network urgent care clinic to treat minor injuries and illnesses that are not life-threatening. To verify your eligibility for VA urgent care, call **800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)** and select option 1, then option 3. To locate in-network urgent care providers and pharmacies, visit www.va.gov/find-locations. For more information, visit: www.va.gov/communitycare/program/veterans/urgent_care.asp.

EMERGENCY CARE

During a medical emergency, you should immediately seek care at the nearest hospital, whether it is a VA medical center or not. Veterans do not need to check with VA before calling an ambulance or going to a community hospital emergency department. However, for VA to coordinate and potentially pay for emergency care, VA must be notified within **72 hours** of your hospital visit, at **844-72HRVA (844-724-7842)**. For more information, visit:

www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/emergency_care.asp.

CONTACT INFORMATION

VA Referring Provider:

Local VAMC Pharmacy

Community Care Contact Center
877-881-7618

Community Provider:

Patient Advocate:

Local VA Community Care
Office:

Third Party Administrators (TPAs) are organizations that maintain the network of community providers available to Veterans and process claims from the community providers on behalf of VA. **Your TPA is:**

VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Enrollment Verification

Starting in the 2021-2022 school year, Post-9/11 GI Bill® students who receive Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments are required to verify their enrollment to continue receiving their payments. Read below to learn more about the enrollment verification requirement and verification methods.

What is enrollment verification?

Enrollment verification is a new requirement for Post-9/11 GI Bill students to verify that they have remained enrolled in the same courses or training every month. Students who receive MHA/kicker payments will have their payments withheld if they fail to verify or report that they are no longer enrolled in their courses or training. To streamline the process, VA is providing the option to **verify enrollment easily and securely via text message**. Read more below.

This requirement is only for Post-9/11 GI Bill and does not impact other benefit programs, such as the Montgomery GI Bill® (MGIB), Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC), Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA), Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP), or the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship. This requirement also does not currently apply to GI Bill students in on-the-job, apprenticeship, flight, or correspondence training.

If you are an MGIB student, this new requirement does not represent a change for you, as MGIB students are already required to verify enrollment.

When does enrollment verification start?

Currently, the monthly verification requirement is only being applied to Post-9/11 GI Bill students who also receive MHA/kicker payments. It will become effective in phases:

- Students attending **Non-College Degree (NCD)** facilities, with terms starting **on or after August 1, 2021**.
- Students attending **Institution of Higher Learning (IHL)** facilities, with terms starting **after December 17, 2021**.

For all other students, including students at NCD and IHL facilities who do not receive MHA/kicker payments, you will be provided with more information before the enrollment verification requirement applies to you.

NOTE: If you are taking multiple classes and **any of them** start after the effective date of this requirement, you will be required to verify enrollment even if your other classes started earlier. **Not sure if your school is an IHL or NCD facility?**

How do I know which type of facility I attend?

IHL Facilities:		All other facilities are NCD facilities.
1 Have Associates/ Bachelors/Masters/PhD degree programs.	2 Are typically traditional 2-to-4-year schools.	Some NCD facility programs (e.g. on-the-job, apprenticeship, flight, or correspondence training) are not yet included in this requirement.



How do I verify enrollment?

You can verify enrollment using the following methods:

Via Text Message

- **Opt in:** Students with a U.S. mobile phone number can use text messages as a simple, quick option for verifying monthly enrollment. As your enrollment approaches, you will receive the following opt-in text: "Post-9/11 GI Bill housing and kicker payments now require monthly enrollment verification. Would you like to submit yours via text? Please reply YES or NO." **Reply "YES" to opt in.** The text message link will expire **14 days after receipt**, so please respond

VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS

within that time frame.

- **Verify:** After opting in, you can verify your enrollment every month simply by responding to the following text message from VA: “Did you remain enrolled in your courses in MONTH YYYY as certified? Please reply YES or NO. If you have dropped all your courses, you must reply NO.” **Reply “YES” to verify enrollment for the previous month.**

Enrollment verification via text message is safe and secure. VA will **never** ask for your personal information, such as social security number or bank account information, via text.

VA strongly recommends text message verification for verifying your enrollment.

Via Email

- Coming soon: For all NCD students and IHL students with enrollments after December 17, 2021, the option to verify enrollment via email will also be available. **Stay tuned for additional details.**

If you are unable to verify via text or email, you will need to contact the ECC at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) and ask a representative to verify your enrollment. NOTE: ECC wait times may be high due to the number of students verifying enrollment each month. **If you’re not sure if VA has your phone**

number and/or email on file, you can also contact the ECC to update your contact information and ensure you can verify via text or email.

NCD Facility Students, learn more of how to verify your enrollment at <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill>

What happens if I fail to verify my enrollment?

If you fail to verify enrollment for **two consecutive months**, your MHA/kicker payments will be placed on hold. In order to have your payments released, you will need to call the ECC to verify your enrollment. When you call the ECC to release your payments, you may also enroll in text message verification at that time.

Why am I being required to verify my enrollment?

By regularly verifying your enrollment, you protect your GI Bill entitlement by preventing charges for classes or training you did not attend. Though this new requirement is an additional step, enrollment verification is easy to do and will help you better manage and access your earned benefits, as well as help prevent overpayments.

**REMEMBER, THOSE WHO PASSED
THEIR GI BILL EDUCATION BENEFITS
TO THEIR DEPENDENT(S) MUST ENSURE
THAT THE DEPENDENT VERIFIES THEIR
ENROLLMENT SO THAT THEY DO NOT
LOSE THEIR BENEFIT.**

Biden closes Veterans Month by signing a series of VA reform measures

By [Leo Shane III](#), Nov 30, 12:31 PM

[President Joe Biden](#) signed four veterans reform bills into law on Tuesday, calling the changes part of the country’s “sacred obligation” to care for military members and their families even after their service.

“We prepare those we send into harm’s way, and care for their families when they’re gone, and care for them and their families when they’re home,” Biden said. “That’s a lifetime commitment the nation

owes to every one of our veterans.”

None of the measures were controversial, and all passed out of Congress by wide bipartisan margins. But the grouping of bills allowed Biden an opportunity to highlight veterans one last time in November, just a few weeks after the nation celebrated the annual [Veterans Day holiday](#).

The president was joined for the event by Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough, Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., committee ranking member Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., House Veterans’ Affairs Committee

VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS

Chairman Mark Takano, D-Calif., and a host of other lawmakers and veteran advocates.

“It is personal,” Biden told the crowd. “It’s a commitment [to care for veterans] that we are helping to keep today because of the leadership of the women and men in this room.”

The first bill — the **Protecting Moms Who Served Act** — invests \$15 million in new maternity care coordination programs at VA facilities. The move requires VA officials to address gaps in care for veteran mothers as well as studies into prenatal and postpartum health.

It will also mandate that VA facilities begin offering childbirth preparation classes, parenting classes, nutrition counselling, breastfeeding support and similar services.

The **Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act** will require VA leaders to work with Defense Department officials in helping separating troops with health care skills

who apply for open medical jobs in veterans hospitals.

The **Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act** will guarantee that children and spouses of veterans who die from service-connected injuries will get in-state tuition rates. The change is expected to affect about 150,000 surviving dependents, potentially saving them tens of thousands in higher education expenses each year.

The final measure will require the **Government Accountability office to investigate potential disparities in VA benefit awards** based on race and ethnicity. Past studies have indicated that minorities may receive lesser benefits or face additional obstacles to disability payouts than their white peers.

The veteran-specific bill signing event may not be the final one for Biden this year. Lawmakers are expected to try and advance a series of veteran’s measures in the final weeks of session next month.

COAST GUARD TRIVIA

Early WWII Coast Guard

The Coast Guard, in time of war or national emergency, is incorporated into the U.S. Navy. The last time this happened was in November 1941, when the CG became part of the USN by Act of Congress just prior to our involvement in WWII in December of 1941. However, the Coast Guard began manning Navy ships about six months previously. Three ships that were manned at this early date were the *Leonard Wood (APA-12)*, *Joseph T. Dickman (APA-13)*, and *Hunter Liggett (APA-14)*. These were all large troop transports, and they became involved in one of the earliest WWII Coast Guard adventures.

In the later part of 1941, President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill cut a deal where our navy would transport commonwealth troops to the Far East because Great Britain did not have the ships to do this. Churchill wanted 80,000 troops transported but

Roosevelt only agreed to 40,000. This was all done in secrecy because we were not yet officially in the war. So, these APA’s picked up the British troops in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in November of 1941 and made a very circuitous route to Singapore and other British Far East bases.

As luck would have it, they arrived in Singapore on December 7, 1941, the day before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Singapore is one day ahead of Pearl Harbor because of the International Date Line. On December 8, Singapore time, the same day they bombed Pearl Harbor, the Japanese bombed the Singapore waterfront where the transports were docked and managed to do some damage to the transports which by this time had unloaded their cargo of commonwealth troops. They managed to cause a few casualties, one of which was killed on the *Leonard wood*. These were the first Coast

COAST GUARD TRIVIA

Guard casualties of WWII. The transports quickly loaded women and children and non-essential personnel for evacuation to Australia. One of the sad parts about this story is that almost all of the troops transported to Singapore were, within about a month and a half, prisoners of the Japanese and only about half of them survived the war.

Secretary Class Cutters

The Coast Guard built a class of cutters called "Secretary Class Cutters" that share a history with the Philadelphia area. There were seven of them. These cutters were built in the depths of the 1930's depression and were named after former Secretary's of the Treasury. This made sense because at the time the Coast Guard was part of the Treasury Department. Seven of them were built at a cost of about 2.5 million dollars each. Four of the seven, *Campbell*, *Duane*, *Ingham*, and *Taney* were built at the Philadelphia Navy yard in 1935/36. If you travel north on Route 95 past the airport and look right, you can still see the large dry dock in the former navy yard where they were all built at the same time and really did not crowd the dock.

This class of cutters all had a very distinguished lifetime lasting into the early 1980's except for the *Hamilton* which was sunk by a U-boat off Iceland in 1942. The *Campbell* WPG-32 was sunk as a target ship on the Pacific missile range by the battleship *New Jersey* BB-62 testing out her newly installed Tomahawk missiles in 1982. As a former crew member of the *Campbell* whenever I have been aboard the *New Jersey* I give her a little kick to

show my displeasure.

These cutters were 327 feet in length and displaced about 2300 tons. This was about the size of a WWII navy destroyer escort but still the largest ship the Coast Guard had for a long time. Surprisingly two of the 327's are still afloat as museum ships. The *Ingham* WHEC-35 is in Key West, FL, and the *Taney* WHEC-37 is in the Baltimore inner harbor. The *Taney* is the only ship still afloat that was present at the December 7, 1941, bombing in Hawaii. She was not in Pearl Harbor but moored in downtown Honolulu where she fired at Japanese planes trying to bomb the power plant.

The Secretaries fought in WWII, both in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, and in the Mediterranean they did support duty in the Korean war, and then spent one or two tours in the Vietnam conflict. They were well built, comfortable ships and lasted well into the 1980's.

***USCGC Campbell WHEC-32*
shown below in a 1950s photograph**



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CGCVA GOLF SHIRT: With embroidered CGCVA flash on left breast:
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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 to ensure delivery. All change of address requests are to be 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, and 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) year membership

Current active duty members, including SELRES on Title 10, receive a four year 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:

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 ☐

**Please! Look at the Exp. Date on your label
and renew if due. The Quarterdeck Log**

**COAST GUARD COMBAT
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The Captain Quentin R. Walsh, USCG, commemorative coin will be presented to the Coast Guard Academy's highest scoring physical fitness scores at the end of Swab Summer, one for a male Cadet and one for a female Cadet. We believe that the recipient of the 2 1/4" coin will cherish and display their first challenge coin that honors the heroic actions of Captain Walsh during WWII in the capture of 750 Germans and the rescue of 52 American paratrooper POWs at Cherbourg, France. In addition, the CGCVA will provide a plaque with two coins affixed for presentation to the Academy's Administration for display in the PhysEd Center as an inspiration to participating cadets.