

U. S. COAST GUARD



EVENING COLORS

A Newsletter for Coast Guard and NOAA Retirees "Semper Paratus"

July – September 2004

Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty

Issue III/2004

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Korean Defense Service Medal Authorized	2
DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal Memorial Trust Fund	3
Military Phone Card Donation Program	3
Restoration of CHAMPVA Benefits	4
TRICARE For Life & Medicare Part B	5
New Contractor for TRICARE For Life Claims	7
Maritime Domain Awareness Center Opens	8
World War II Era Coast Guard Patrol Boat Restoration Project	9
Federal Income Tax Withholding	11
TRICARE Uniform Formulary Final Rule Published	16



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Reunions and Notices	17
Retirements	19
TAPS	21
Directory Assistance	25

Statistics FY04

Data updated Feb. 6, 2004

Drugs Seized	Reservists Recalled
Cocaine 73,323 lbs	Atlantic Area: 3,371
Marijuana Products 11,577 lbs	Pacific Area: 966
Migrants Interdicted 3,589	Lives Saved 1,934

Coast Guard Suffers First Combat Death Since Vietnam



Photo – AP/Bruckenthal family

Damage Controlman Third Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, U.S. Coast Guard, from Smithtown, NY, died from injuries sustained when a small boat exploded as he and six other coalition sailors attempted to board it near the Iraqi Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal Saturday, 24 April 2004.

Injured was Boatswains Mate Third Class Joseph T. Ruggiero, U. S. Coast Guard, 23, from Revere, MA.

The two men were assigned to Law Enforcement Detachment 403 from Tactical Law Enforcement Team South in Miami, FL, and were deployed to Coast Guard Patrol Forces Southwest Asia at the time of the incident.

Two Coast Guardsmen and five Navy sailors aboard a rigid hull inflatable boat were preparing to board a cargo vessel that had approached the terminal when the explosion occurred. Two U.S. Navy sailors were also killed during the incident and three were wounded.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal is the first Coast Guardsman killed in action since the Vietnam War.

"I am extremely saddened by the loss of Petty Officer Nathan Bruckenthal who was killed by terrorists Saturday while bravely serving his country in Iraq," said Vice Adm. James D. Hull, Coast Guard Atlantic Area Commander. "I sincerely hope that his family and friends can find a little comfort knowing that he died a hero."

The Coast Guard is a military service, and although Petty Officer Bruckenthal is the first combat-related death since the Vietnam War, Coast Guard men and women have fought side-by-side with the other military services since our nation's founding.

Approximately 300 Coast Guard people are currently assigned to Operation Iraqi Freedom from four 110-foot Coast Guard cutters, a port security unit, and two law enforcement detachments. Their responsibilities include ensuring safe navigation and protection of ports. The Coast Guard is working hand in hand with the Navy in the region. At the height of combat operations, the Coast Guard had approximately 1,250 personnel from various units deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Source: U. S. Coast Guard Press Release 26 Apr 04

Please see [ALCOAST 205/04](#) on page 3 of this issue for information on donating to the Nathan Bruckenthal Memorial Trust Fund and for the address to send letters of sympathy and condolences.

Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM) Authorized


The KDSM is a service medal to give special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have served or are serving in the Republic of Korea. Public Law 107-314 legislated the creation of a new medal to recognize military service in the Republic of Korea and the surrounding waters.

Members of the armed forces authorized the KDSM must have served in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the Republic of Korea, and the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land and water areas. The KDSM period of eligibility is July 28, 1954, to a future date to be determined by the secretary of defense.

Service members must have been assigned, attached, or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility and have been physically deployed in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days or meet one of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility.
- Is wounded or injured in the line of duty and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility.
- While participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility in support of military operations. Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30 or 60-day requirement.
- Personnel who serve in operations and exercises conducted in the area of eligibility are considered eligible for the award as long as the basic time criteria is met.

Due to the extensive time period for KDSM eligibility, the nonconsecutive service period for eligibility remains cumulative throughout the entire period. The KDSM may be awarded posthumously, and only one award of the KDSM is authorized for any individual.

<p style="text-align: center;">Requests for KDSM</p> <p>Requests for award of the KDSM to veterans, retirees, or their next of kin shall be submitted to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), (http://www.archives.gov) in St. Louis, MO. The NPRC address is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Personnel Records Center 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.</p> <p>Request should include a copy of the DD-Form-214 and any supporting documentation to substantiate service as outlined above.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Design of the Award</p> <p>RIBBON: Dark green represents the land of Korea; blue indicates overseas service and commitment to achieving peace. Gold denotes excellence, white symbolizes idealism and integrity.</p> <p>OBVERSE: Description: A bronze-color disc bearing a Korean "circle dragon" within an encircling scroll inscribed "Korea Defense Service Medal" with, in base, two sprigs, laurel to dexter side, bamboo to sinister. Symbolism: The four-clawed dragon is a traditional symbol of Korea and represents intelligence and strength of purpose. The sprig of laurel denotes honorable endeavor and victory; the bamboo refers to the land of Korea.</p> <p>REVERSE: Description: A representation of the landmass of Korea surmounted by two swords points up saltirewise within a circlet garnished of five points. Symbolism: The swords placed saltirewise over a map of Korea signify defense of freedom in that country and the readiness to engage in combat to that end. The circlet enclosing the device recalls the forms of five-petal symbols common in Korean armory.</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Sources: ALCOAST 195/04, DOD Press Release and <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb2004/KDSM.pdf>

U. S. Coast Guard Personnel Service Center (PSC)

CAPT Richard A. Rooth
Commanding Officer

Michael P. Sullivan
Executive Director

Peter Buel (USCG Retired)
Chief, Retiree & Annuitant
Services

CWO4 K. Mitch Baker
Chief, Procedures and Development Branch

Diane Castaneda
Editor, Evening Colors

Evening Colors is a publication containing news of general interest, suggestions, and information to keep Coast Guard and NOAA retirees and their family members informed of recent developments. This publication shall not be considered authority and is non-record material.

ALCOAST 205/04**SUBJ: DC3 NATHAN BRUCKENTHAL, USCG**

1. On 25 April, DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal and two USN sailors, PO1 Michael Pernaselli and PO2 Christopher Watts, were killed in the line of duty while conducting maritime intercept operations in the North Arabian Gulf.
2. DC3 Bruckenthal was a proud Coast Guardsman who served his country and his fellow man with honor and compassion. He willingly entered into harms way to protect our nation and his fellow servicemen from terrorists and to assist the people of Iraq as they pursue freedom and democracy. By his actions, he exemplified honor, respect and most especially, devotion to duty. We should never forget his sacrifices or the legacy he will leave behind. While no words can adequately console his wife, Patty, or his parents during this very difficult time, I ask you to please keep the Bruckenthal family in your thoughts and prayers.
3. PO Bruckenthal will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at 1100 on 07 May 2004.
4. Operations permitting, Coast Guard units shall observe a moment of silence at 1100 on 07 May in memory of DC3 Bruckenthal and all our service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice serving our nation with honor. All Coast Guard units, not underway, shall display the national ensign at half-mast from 1100 until 1300 on 07 May 2004.
5. In true Coast Guard fashion, numerous inquiries have been made regarding donations and letters of condolences for the Bruckenthal family. Donations should be sent to:

The Nathan Bruckenthal Memorial Trust Fund
P. O. Box Box 398
Northport, NY 11768

If any unit has already received donations, contact your servicing legal office for additional guidance. Letters of sympathy and condolences may be sent to:

Attn: Family Of Nathan Bruckenthal
U. S. Coast Guard
Richmond Hts. MWR Rec. Center
15403 SW 123 Avenue
Miami, FL 33177

6. Internet release authorized.
7. Admiral Thomas H. Collins, Commandant.

Military Phone Card Donation Expands

The Defense Department has authorized the Armed Services Exchanges to sell prepaid calling cards to individuals and organizations that wish to purchase cards for deployed troops. The "Help Our Troops Call Home" program will help service members call home from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. To donate a card, log on to the Coast Guard Exchange Web site: <http://www.cg-exchange.com/>. Click the "Help Our Coasties Call Home" link. From there, a prepaid calling card may be purchased for an individual at his or her deployed address or to "any service member" deployed or hospitalized. The exchange will distribute cards donated to "any service member" through the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society and the Fisher House Foundation.



Sources: DOD Press release and <http://aafes.com>

CHAMPVA Policy For Some Surviving Spouses Extended

An extended deadline will allow more time for some remarried surviving spouses of veterans to seek health care insurance under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA).

The extension applies to CHAMPVA - Eligible spouses who remarry after a veteran's death. The surviving husband or wife lost access to CHAMPVA benefits if they remarried before their 55th birthday and before Feb. 4, 2003. Under rules announced last March, those survivors had until February 4, 2004, to apply for reinstatement of their CHAMPVA coverage. Today's announcement gives them until December 16, 2004, to apply for reinstatement.

To be eligible for CHAMPVA, people must be family members of veterans who have a permanent and total service-connected disability, who died of a service-connected condition or who were totally disabled from a service-connected condition at the time of death.

In general, CHAMPVA covers most health care services and supplies that are medically and psychologically necessary. People who want an application for this benefit or more information can contact VA's Health Administration Center at 800-733-8387.

Surviving spouses who remarry at a younger age and lose their CHAMPVA benefits can have these benefits restored if their later marriage is annulled or ends due to death or divorce. Similarly, widows or widowers of any age who lost benefits under VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program due to remarriage are eligible for reinstatement of monthly DIC payments if their subsequent marriage ends.

This restoration policy has been in effect since 1998, but VA officials are concerned widows or widowers may overlook this benefit if a subsequent marriage ends years later.

Source: VA Press Release 25 March 2004

USCG Chief Petty Officers Association "Once a Chief, Always a Chief"

We are looking for lost members and members not current in their annual dues. If your mailing address has changed or your USCG CPOA membership has lapsed and you are interested in reestablishing contact with the CPOA notify Master Chief Kevin Isherwood, National USCG CPOA Membership Chairman at (808)541-2083 or via email kisherwood@D14.uscg.mil.

Annual dues for the USCG CPOA are \$24. Many retirees have not increased their monthly allotment amount from \$1.50 to \$2.00. PSC (RAS) cannot make this change without the retiree's approval. Please make this change if you have not done so.

The COMPASS Diversity Outreach Team needs you!

COMPASS is a diversity outreach program whose mission is to increase awareness of the opportunities in, and missions of, the U.S. Coast Guard in minority communities. A volunteer program, COMPASS leverages the strength of our entire workforce by utilizing **retired**, active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary Coast Guard men and women. COMPASS members perform outreach activities in a variety of venues, such as high school and collegiate career fairs, national conferences of ethnic affiliation groups, and community festivals.

Outreach opportunities happen every day!

For further information, visit the website at: <http://www.uscg.mil/diversity/COMPASS>, or contact LT Chambliss at nchambliss@comdt.uscg.mil or (202) 267-6237.

Source: Commandant (G-WTL-1)

Has Your Dependent ID Card Expired?

While the status of a retired member's identification card remains indefinite, that is not the case for his or her family members. ID cards for family members will expire after four years with the exception of college students. ID cards for college students expire when they reach 23. Do not let time pass you by before renewing an ID card for a family member. After years of inactivity, your data may be purged from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You will then have to resubmit documents to reestablish eligibility. If the ID cards for your family members are not current, contact your nearest Military ID issuing facility. This web site gives the three closest Military ID issuing facilities to a person's zip code, city, or state: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsf>.



TRICARE For Life and Medicare Part B



Are you or someone you know eligible to enroll in Medicare Part B, but you haven't due to the premium surcharge you would have to pay? We have good news for you!

What's New with Medicare Part B?

One of the provisions of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 allows uniformed services beneficiaries who would be eligible for TRICARE For Life (TFL) but are not enrolled in Medicare Part B to enroll without penalty during an open enrollment period through **31 December 2004**. An open enrollment letter will be sent to those Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who don't currently have Medicare Part B.

Who's eligible?

- Medicare-eligible retirees, including retired National Guard and reservists
- Eligible qualifying family members and survivors
- Certain former spouses if they were eligible for TRICARE before age 65, and who have not remarried and do not have employer-sponsored other health insurance
- Dual-eligible beneficiaries under the age of 65 who are entitled to Medicare Part A because of a disability or because of end-stage renal disease

TRICARE Management Activity is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Social Security Administration to send uniformed services beneficiaries targeted information on Medicare Part B open enrollment.

Eligible beneficiaries will not be required to take any action; there will be an automatic enrollment by mail. Upon receipt of the enrollment letter from Social Security Administration, Medicare-eligible beneficiaries will be given the opportunity to choose any month in 2004 for their Medicare Part B enrollment.

They also will be given the option to refuse Medicare Part B, or if they currently have other health insurance, they will have the option to wait until a special enrollment period to enroll.

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 also includes a provision for beneficiaries who enrolled in Medicare Part B between January 2001 and December 2004 and are subject to a penalty for late enrollment. Beginning January 2004, these beneficiaries will have the penalty waived. Beneficiaries who enrolled in Medicare Part B in 2004 and have paid a premium surcharge will be eligible for a rebate. TRICARE Management Activity is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Social Security Administration to send a mailing to individuals who enrolled in Medicare Part B between January 2001 and December 2004 to notify them of the penalty waiver. For the latest updates, check the Medicare Web site at <http://www.medicare.gov>.

Source: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/medicare/>

Nautical Terms, Phrases & Trivia

Toe the line

The space between each pair of deck planks in a wooden ship was filled with a packing material called "oakum" and then sealed with a mixture of pitch and tar. The result, from afar, was a series of parallel lines a half-foot or so apart, running the length of the deck. Once a week, as a rule, usually on Sunday, a warship's crew was ordered to fall in at quarters -- that is, each group of men into which the crew was divided would line up in formation in a given area of the deck. To insure a neat alignment of each row, the Sailors were directed to stand with their toes just touching a particular seam. Another use for these seams was punitive. The youngsters in a ship, be they ship's boys or student officers, might be required to stand with their toes just touching a designated seam for a

see 'Toe the line' on page 6

New TRICARE for Life Contract Simplifies Claims Processing

All beneficiaries who are eligible for TRICARE For Life, including those under age 65 and dual-eligible for TRICARE and Medicare, will soon receive a letter from Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS), the new TRICARE For Life claims processor. Beginning April 1, 2004, WPS will be phased in as the new centralized claims processor for all TRICARE regions and the approximately 1.7 million TRICARE For Life beneficiaries in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the American Samoan Islands and the North Mariana Islands. The introductory letter contains contact information and frequently asked questions on TRICARE For Life, WPS and the automated claims processing system that services all TRICARE For Life beneficiaries.

The new contract integrates the services previously provided by each of the regional managed care support contractors, providing a single source for claims processing, customer service and administrative claims services. The WPS TRICARE For Life (WPS TFL) contract is part of the Department of Defense's next generation of contracts and is designed to optimize the delivery of claims and associated customer services. "The new single claims processing vehicle will deliver customer-friendly service and improve beneficiaries' satisfaction," said Rear Admiral Richard A. Mayo, Deputy Director of TRICARE Management Activity. "We will employ commercial best practices and an effective management approach to provide the necessary services through this world-class claims processing system."

TFL claims processing is currently in a state of transition. The outgoing regional claims processor will continue to process claims for services beneficiaries receive until WPS TFL is implemented in the beneficiary's state. For information about current claims processors and to find out what region a beneficiary is in, see <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/main/chart.html>.

WPS TFL is being phased in as follows
(See map on page 15 for regions):

- Region 11: April 1, 2004
- Regions 2/5: June 1, 2004
- Regions 9/10/12: July 1, 2004
- Regions 3/4: August 1, 2004
- Region 1: September 1, 2004
- Regions 7/8 (Central):
October 1, 2004
- Region 6: November 1, 2004

Because the Medicare program is administered on a state-by-state basis, WPS TFL will be implemented by state.

In cases when parts of a state are included under two separate regions, WPS TFL will be implemented when the largest part of a state is scheduled to be implemented. For example, Idaho falls under Region 7/8 (Central) and Northern Idaho falls under Region 11; all of Idaho will be phased in with Region 7/8 (Central). A complete list of states' phase in dates will soon be available on <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

On the above implementation dates, beneficiaries who are under age 65 and are eligible for both Medicare and TRICARE due to disability or end-stage renal disease will no longer need to directly file claims to a managed care support contractor. All claims filed with Medicare for these dual-eligible beneficiaries will go to WPS TFL. WPS has agreements with each Medicare carrier allowing Medicare to directly submit claims to WPS TFL once implemented in the state. If the provider currently submits claims electronically on the beneficiary's behalf to Medicare, Medicare will now submit this claim directly to WPS TFL. Beneficiaries will receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from WPS TFL once processing has been completed.

Once implemented in a region, beneficiaries may call WPS TFL, (866) 773-0404 or TDD (866) 773-0405 for information and/or claims processing assistance.

Source: TRICARE News Release, No. 04-09, April 7, 2004

'Toe the line' continued from page 6

length of time as punishment for some minor infraction of discipline, such as talking or fidgeting at the wrong time. A tough captain might require the miscreant to stand there, not talking to anyone, in fair weather or foul, for hours at a time. Hopefully, he would learn it was easier and more pleasant to conduct himself in the required manner rather than suffer the punishment. From these two uses of deck seams comes our cautionary word to obstreperous youngsters to "toe the line."

Source: Naval Historical Center (<http://www.history.navy.mil/>)

CGA Class of 1962 Sponsors Historical Murals & New Library Reading Room in the Cadet Library

The Academy Class of 1962 is embarked on a project to commission mural works of fine art that depict significant mission and events in Coast Guard history from World War II to the present. This art is to adorn the walls of the new reading room, whose construction is also sponsored by the Class of 1962.

Completion of the project is planned for the year 2007. Artist Tony Falcone of Prospect, Connecticut has developed preliminary studies of the 12 historical themes and has been commissioned to complete the first three murals.

There are a variety of ways that you or your organization may support this project, from individual donations to sponsorship or one or more of the murals. Appropriate recognition will be permanently displayed in the new reading room.

For more information or to help support this project contact the Academy Alumni Association (860) 444-8237 or CDR Carl Burkhart, USCG (Ret.) by email: cburkhart@onealinc.com or by phone at (864) 244-8040.

Those with Internet access may visit the class website at: <http://raybland.com/cga62/mural> to learn more about this project and to view some of the beautiful artwork proposed for the murals.



A study for a mural of a 44-foot motor lifeboat, representing 1959-1966

U. S. Coast Guard Vietnam War Memorial

The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association is sponsoring the construction and installation of two identical memorials to the more than 8000 Coast Guard personnel who actively participated in our country's war in Vietnam.

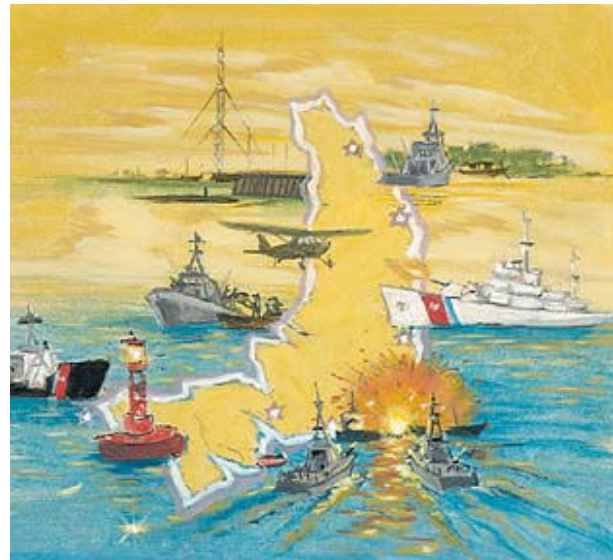
One memorial will be placed at the USCG Training Center at Cape May, NJ. The second memorial will be placed at the USCG Academy, New London, CT.

The design includes the names of all CG vessels, units, detachments, and support activities involved in the war. Also it will include an abstract of CG theater missions, activities and operations.

Contributions in support of this project should be made payable to: CGCOMVETS Vietnam Memorial Fund and is tax deductible. Please mail your contribution or direct questions to:

William G. Hicks
586 Fairwood Drive
Talmadge, OH 44278-2026

Submitted by: CAPT Donald M. Taub, USCG (Ret.)



A study for a mural, planned for the Academy Cadet Library Reading room, representing the Coast Guard in Vietnam.

DEEPWATER *News*

Maritime Domain Awareness Center Opens

Integrated Coast Guard Systems (ICGS), the systems integrator for the Integrated Deepwater System Program, and Lockheed Martin hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Maritime Domain Awareness Center (MDAC) at the Lockheed Martin facilities in Moorestown, New Jersey on April 23rd.

Adm. Thomas H. Collins, Commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard joined Bob Cotts, Executive Vice-President, Lockheed Martin Electronic Systems; New Jersey Congressmen Jim Saxton and Frank LoBiondo; ICGS Vice-President Jamie Anton; and Fred Moosally, President of Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors, making featured remarks during the ceremony.

Adm. Collins told the gathering the opening of the MDAC was a "significant milestone" in ensuring the Coast Guard has "the capabilities it needs to stop threats to our homeland before they arrive, and the effective response capability to deal with maritime security needs."

The new \$9.4 million MDAC, one of nine labs housed in the Maritime Systems Engineering Center (MSEC), is a 46,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility that will develop, test and integrate assets and systems being produced to support the Coast Guard's Integrated Deepwater System and other Homeland Security programs.



ADM Thomas Collins views systems undergoing testing at the Maritime Domain Awareness Center in Moorestown, NJ. Collins was at the MDAC for the center's ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 23, 2004. Rep. Frank LoBiondo (behind Collins) and Rep. Jim Saxton (not pictured) also participated in the ceremony.

Photo: Lockheed Martin/Joe Mancini

The MDAC will house and provide support for future CANDI equipment and software during developmental integration and test activities at various third tier subcontractors' locations as well as activities of the early C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) assets upgrades.

The Center is configured to have the capability to perform development, integration, installation, checkout and acceptance testing of C4ISR components and equipment for Deepwater's surface and air assets as well as shore units. It also houses the Communications System Integration and Test facility that will provide the facilities, equipment, systems, software, development environments and tools necessary to develop, test and integrate the Deepwater's communications equipment.

"Maritime domain awareness is my most significant strategy to reduce risk to our nation," noted Adm. Collins.

"I wholeheartedly welcome the Maritime Domain Awareness Center into the Coast Guard's portfolio of critical assets and look forward to spectacular outcomes."

by LCDR Andrea Palermo, COMDT (G-D)



VISIT DEEPWATER ONLINE: <http://www.uscg.mil/DEEPWATER>

Feeling blue?

People experience life events that impact their lives. Sometimes these events have negative consequences on our mental health. Depression, and a number of other behavioral health concerns are closely associated with our senior community. The PSC (RAS) has noticed a recent rise in suicides among our retirees. Issues such as financial problems, marital discord, alcoholism, prescription drug addiction, the loss of a loved one, or just current world events can have a major, negative impact on us.

People have different ways of dealing with their personal concerns. In some cases the best tool in the toolbox is simply being able to talk to someone.

Active duty military and civilian USCG employees have a resource to help them. It's called an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP is administered and budgeted through the office of Commandant (G-WKW-2). Although the EAP is not normally available to retirees, the USCG, GWKW-2, headed by CAPT Ruth Torres, will now become a resource to assist any member of our retirement community. This speaks volumes to how much the Coast Guard looks after our own!

There is someone available to answer your call-- 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The EAP has

licensed, professional counselors ready to assist you--either over the phone or they can refer you to a local, licensed counselor in your area. Please call the **EAP hotline at 1 800-222-0364** if you're feeling down and don't know what to do. This is an opportunity to get the help you need.

Source: COMDT (G-WKW-2)

Other Resources

Many VA medical facilities and military installations provide agencies, such as the Life Skills Support Center, Family Advocacy, the Health and Wellness Center and chaplains, which give assistance to anyone considering suicide and provide advice to friends or family members of someone in distress. If you are, or someone you know is, considering suicide, help is available. You can get help 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from trained counselors by calling the national hotline number (800) SUICIDE (784-2433).

TRICARE beneficiaries, if you need emergency care: Go directly to the emergency room at the nearest hospital, or call 911 if available in your area. Otherwise, call your primary care manager (PCM)--if you're a TRICARE Prime enrollee-- or call the health care finder (HCF) for your TRICARE Region ([see map on page 15](#)); they'll help you get the closest and most appropriate care.

World War II Era Coast Guard Patrol Boat Being Restored as Active Maritime History Exhibit, Education Resource

One of the legendary United States Coast Guard patrol boats that was built and served during World War II is being restored to operating condition for use as a floating historical exhibit and education classroom.

More than 40 years after it was decommissioned, plans call for the 83-foot [CG-83527](#) to be renovated and returned to its original active duty area in the Pacific Northwest and Puget Sound. Built on the Atlantic Coast in 1944, the example of the last type of wooden Coast Guard patrol boat in service was sent to the Pacific and served in Tacoma, Washington for 17 years, from 1945 to 1962.

Now owned by Combatant Craft of America (CCoA), a nonprofit military heritage group, once renovated the [CG-83527](#) will be crewed by trained volunteers.

On an unofficial support basis, it will be used throughout the region to help increase public awareness of the Coast Guard's more than 200-year-old history of providing homeland security, search and rescue and marine safety services during times of both peace and war. Education programs conducted aboard the venerable vessel will also provide sea-going learning opportunities for youth groups, families and interested individuals.

"We intend to return the [CG-83527](#) to Puget Sound to continue its proud active duty service," said Dan Withers, a Navy Vietnam veteran and CCoA president, "but this time in a new role as a publicly-accessible historical exhibit and educational resource. It will be an active, hands-on historical tribute to all those who served aboard these and other Coast Guard

[see 'Patrol Boat' on page 10](#)

'Patrol Boat' continued from page 6

patrol boats in peace and war.” The former Tacoma-based vessel is the CCoA’s first heritage patrol boat acquisition, restoration and exhibit project. Withers noted that it is appropriate that the group’s initial project is to preserve one of the Coast Guard’s most widely known WWII and post-war era vessels. The rugged boats were used extensively to support the D-Day invasion at Normandy, and for anti-submarine, convoy escort and other patrol duties in both the Atlantic and Pacific. Wheeler Shipbuilding, Inc. in New York City built a total of 230 for the Coast Guard between 1941 and 1944.

Following its launching and outfitting, the CG-83527 was sent first to Miami, Florida and assigned briefly to anti-submarine patrol duties. The boat then transited from the Atlantic to the Pacific through the Panama Canal, calling at San Pedro, California before reaching its permanent duty station at Tacoma in 1945. A familiar sight in central and south Puget Sound for the next 17 years, the 83-foot boat performed patrol, search and rescue and marine safety duties.

Once back in the Pacific Northwest and its final renovation completed, the CG-83527 will participate as an operating and dockside exhibit at selected maritime heritage festivals, community patriotic celebrations and similar events. One of the boat’s future appearance possibilities may be to escort the anticipated fleet of 40 major nation and regional tall ships scheduled to visit the Pacific Northwest during the summer of 2005. Tacoma



race and festival series on the Pacific Coast.

Volunteers, especially those Coast Guard veterans and career retirees who served aboard patrol boats, are invited to join the CG-83527 restoration and exhibit project. To sign aboard as a member, contact Combatant Craft of America through their website, <http://www.warboats.org> and click on the World War II or CG-83527 project sections. For more information and to make financial, in-kind service and equipment and other donations to the project see the web site, write the CCoA at 1400 East Ludlow Ridge Road, Port Ludlow, WA 98365 or phone (360) 437-0125.

Recollections, photos and other materials about the CG-83527 and those who served aboard her from 1945 to 1962 are especially welcome. They will be used to develop a comprehensive history of the boat and its service, and also dockside and on-board exhibitry for its public appearances.

Source: CCoA News Release



Photo of CG83527 moored in Rio Vista CA - CCoA/Chuck Fowler

and Anacortes, along with Victoria and Port Alberni in British Columbia will be host ports for the American Sail Training Association’s Tall Ships Challenge 2005

Federal Income Tax Withholding

Events during the year may change your marital status or the exemptions, adjustments, deductions, or credits you expect to claim on your return. When this happens, you may need to give your employer a new Form W-4 to change your withholding status or number of allowances.

If the event changes your withholding status or the number of allowances you are claiming, you must give your employer a new Form W-4 within 10 days after either of the following.

- ❖ Your divorce, if you have been claiming married status.
- ❖ Any event that decreases the number of withholding allowances you can claim.
- ❖ Events that will decrease the number of withholding allowances you can claim include the following.
- ❖ You have been claiming an allowance for your spouse, but you get divorced or your spouse begins claiming his or her own allowance on a separate Form W-4.
- ❖ You have been claiming an allowance for a dependent, but you no longer expect to provide more than half the dependent's support for the year.
- ❖ You have been claiming an allowance for your child, but you now find that he or she will earn more than \$3,100 during the year. In addition, he or she will be:
 - ❖ 24 or older by the end of the year, or
 - ❖ 19 or older by the end of the year and will not qualify as a student.
- ❖ You have been claiming allowances for your expected deductions, but you now find that they will be less than you expected.

Generally, you can submit a new Form W-4 whenever you wish to change the number of your withholding allowances for any other reason.

Source: IRS Publication 505

If you need to change your Federal Income Tax Withholding Exemptions or Additional Withholding use IRS form W-4 (reprinted on pages 12 & 13 of this newsletter).

You must make requests for tax withholding changes in writing. The original Form IRS W-4 or W-4P (*for Annuitants*) must be mailed to PSC (RAS) for action and filing, per IRS requirements. PSC (RAS) cannot accept a faxed W-4 or W-4P. Please mail to:

**Commanding Officer (RAS)
U. S. Coast Guard
Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy St
Topeka KS 66683-3591**

Frequently Asked Question About the W-4 Form

Q. *Can I claim 99 exemptions on a W-4 form?*

A. You can claim the number of withholding allowances that you are entitled to based on the Form W-4, *Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, worksheets*. You can claim less than you are entitled, but not more. You may not arbitrarily pick a number with the goal of avoiding income tax withholding. The law provides for a civil penalty of \$500 for filing a false statement on Form W-4.

Employers are required to submit any Forms W-4 with more than 10 allowances claimed to the IRS service center's Form W-4 coordinator. The W-4 coordinator will review the employee's most recent tax returns and make a determination as to whether to notify the employer to withhold based on a lesser number of allowances.

Q. *I would like to overpay my taxes so I get a larger refund. Is there a problem in claiming fewer exemptions on my W-4 than are shown when I use the Personal Allowance Worksheet?*

A. You may claim fewer allowances than you are entitled to claim, but you may not claim more than you are entitled to claim. If you only complete the Personal Allowance Worksheet on the front of Form W-4, *Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate*, you may not have accurately determined the number of allowances you are entitled to claim. There are more worksheets (the Deductions and Adjustments Worksheet and the Two-Earner/Two Job Worksheet) on the back of Form W-4. Complete all applicable worksheets to determine the number of allowances you can claim.

Source: IRS Frequently Asked Questions - <http://www.irs.gov/faqs/>

Form W-4 (2004)

Purpose. Complete Form W-4 so that your employer can withhold the correct Federal income tax from your pay. Because your tax situation may change, you may want to refigure your withholding each year.

Exemption from withholding. If you are exempt, complete only lines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 and sign the form to validate it. Your exemption for 2004 expires February 16, 2005. See **Pub. 505**, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax.

Note: You cannot claim exemption from withholding if: (a) your income exceeds \$800 and includes more than \$250 of unearned income (e.g., interest and dividends) and (b) another person can claim you as a dependent on their tax return.

Basic instructions. If you are not exempt, complete the **Personal Allowances Worksheet** below. The worksheets on page 2 adjust your withholding allowances based on itemized

deductions, certain credits, adjustments to income, or two-earner/two-job situations. Complete all worksheets that apply. **However, you may claim fewer (or zero) allowances.**

Head of household. Generally, you may claim head of household filing status on your tax return only if you are unmarried and pay more than 50% of the costs of keeping up a home for yourself and your dependent(s) or other qualifying individuals. See line **E** below.

Tax credits. You can take projected tax credits into account in figuring your allowable number of withholding allowances. Credits for child or dependent care expenses and the child tax credit may be claimed using the **Personal Allowances Worksheet** below. See **Pub. 919**, How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding? for information on converting your other credits into withholding allowances.

Nonwage income. If you have a large amount of nonwage income, such as interest or dividends, consider making estimated tax payments using

Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals. Otherwise, you may owe additional tax.

Two earners/two jobs. If you have a working spouse or more than one job, figure the total number of allowances you are entitled to claim on all jobs using worksheets from only one Form W-4. Your withholding usually will be most accurate when all allowances are claimed on the Form W-4 for the highest paying job and zero allowances are claimed on the others.

Nonresident alien. If you are a nonresident alien, see the **Instructions for Form 8233** before completing this Form W-4.

Check your withholding. After your Form W-4 takes effect, use **Pub. 919** to see how the dollar amount you are having withheld compares to your projected total tax for 2004. See **Pub. 919**, especially if your earnings exceed \$125,000 (Single) or \$175,000 (Married).

Recent name change? If your name on line 1 differs from that shown on your social security card, call 1-800-772-1213 to initiate a name change and obtain a social security card showing your correct name.

Personal Allowances Worksheet (Keep for your records.)

A Enter "1" for **yourself** if no one else can claim you as a dependent **A** _____

B Enter "1" if: }

- You are single and have only one job; or
- You are married, have only one job, and your spouse does not work; or
- Your wages from a second job or your spouse's wages (or the total of both) are \$1,000 or less.
 **B** _____

C Enter "1" for your **spouse**. But, you may choose to enter "-0-" if you are married and have either a working spouse or more than one job. (Entering "-0-" may help you avoid having too little tax withheld.) **C** _____

D Enter number of **dependents** (other than your spouse or yourself) you will claim on your tax return **D** _____

E Enter "1" if you will file as **head of household** on your tax return (see conditions under **Head of household** above) **E** _____

F Enter "1" if you have at least \$1,500 of **child or dependent care expenses** for which you plan to claim a credit **F** _____

(Note: Do not include child support payments. See Pub. 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses, for details.)

G Child Tax Credit (including additional child tax credit):

- If your total income will be less than \$52,000 (\$77,000 if married), enter "2" for each eligible child.
- If your total income will be between \$52,000 and \$84,000 (\$77,000 and \$119,000 if married), enter "1" for each eligible child plus "1" **additional** if you have four or more eligible children.

G _____

H Add lines A through G and enter total here. **Note: This may be different from the number of exemptions you claim on your tax return.** ▶ **H** _____

For accuracy, complete all worksheets that apply. }

- If you plan to **itemize or claim adjustments to income** and want to reduce your withholding, see the **Deductions and Adjustments Worksheet** on page 2.
- If you have **more than one job** or are **married and you and your spouse both work** and the combined earnings from all jobs exceed \$35,000 (\$25,000 if married) see the **Two-Earner/Two-Job Worksheet** on page 2 to avoid having too little tax withheld.
- If **neither** of the above situations applies, **stop here** and enter the number from line H on line 5 of Form W-4 below.

----- Cut here and give Form W-4 to your employer. Keep the top part for your records. -----

Form W-4 <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>	Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate ▶ Your employer must send a copy of this form to the IRS if: (a) you claim more than 10 allowances or (b) you claim "Exempt" and your wages are normally more than \$200 per week.	<small>OMB No. 1545-0010</small> 2004
1 Type or print your first name and middle initial _____ Last name _____		2 Your social security number _____
Home address (number and street or rural route) _____		3 <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Married, but withhold at higher Single rate. <small>Note: If married, but legally separated, or spouse is a nonresident alien, check the "Single" box.</small>
City or town, state, and ZIP code _____		4 If your last name differs from that shown on your social security card, check here. You must call 1-800-772-1213 for a new card. ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>
5 Total number of allowances you are claiming (from line H above or from the applicable worksheet on page 2) _____		5 _____
6 Additional amount, if any, you want withheld from each paycheck		6 \$ _____
7 I claim exemption from withholding for 2004, and I certify that I meet both of the following conditions for exemption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year I had a right to a refund of all Federal income tax withheld because I had no tax liability and • This year I expect a refund of all Federal income tax withheld because I expect to have no tax liability. If you meet both conditions, write "Exempt" here ▶		
Under penalties of perjury, I certify that I am entitled to the number of withholding allowances claimed on this certificate, or I am entitled to claim exempt status. Employee's signature (Form is not valid unless you sign it.) ▶ _____		Date ▶ _____
8 Employer's name and address (Employer: Complete lines 8 and 10 only if sending to the IRS.) _____		9 Office code (optional) _____
		10 Employer identification number (EIN) _____

Deductions and Adjustments Worksheet

Note: Use this worksheet **only** if you plan to itemize deductions, claim certain credits, or claim adjustments to income on your 2004 tax return.

- 1 Enter an estimate of your 2004 itemized deductions. These include qualifying home mortgage interest, charitable contributions, state and local taxes, medical expenses in excess of 7.5% of your income, and miscellaneous deductions. (For 2004, you may have to reduce your itemized deductions if your income is over \$142,700 (\$71,350 if married filing separately). See **Worksheet 3** in Pub. 919 for details.) . . . **1** \$ _____
- 2 Enter: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \$9,700 \text{ if married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er)} \\ \$7,150 \text{ if head of household} \\ \$4,850 \text{ if single} \\ \$4,850 \text{ if married filing separately} \end{array} \right\}$ **2** \$ _____
- 3 **Subtract** line 2 from line 1. If line 2 is greater than line 1, enter "-0-" **3** \$ _____
- 4 Enter an estimate of your 2004 adjustments to income, including alimony, deductible IRA contributions, and student loan interest **4** \$ _____
- 5 **Add** lines 3 and 4 and enter the total. (Include any amount for credits from **Worksheet 7** in Pub. 919) **5** \$ _____
- 6 Enter an estimate of your 2004 nonwage income (such as dividends or interest) **6** \$ _____
- 7 **Subtract** line 6 from line 5. Enter the result, but not less than "-0-" **7** \$ _____
- 8 **Divide** the amount on line 7 by \$3,000 and enter the result here. Drop any fraction **8** _____
- 9 Enter the number from the **Personal Allowances Worksheet**, line H, page 1 **9** _____
- 10 **Add** lines 8 and 9 and enter the total here. If you plan to use the **Two-Earner/Two-Job Worksheet**, also enter this total on line 1 below. Otherwise, **stop here** and enter this total on Form W-4, line 5, page 1 **10** _____

Two-Earner/Two-Job Worksheet (See **Two earners/two jobs** on page 1.)

Note: Use this worksheet **only** if the instructions under line H on page 1 direct you here.

- 1 Enter the number from line H, page 1 (or from line 10 above if you used the **Deductions and Adjustments Worksheet**) **1** _____
- 2 Find the number in **Table 1** below that applies to the **LOWEST** paying job and enter it here **2** _____
- 3 If line 1 is **more than or equal to** line 2, subtract line 2 from line 1. Enter the result here (if zero, enter "-0-") and on Form W-4, line 5, page 1. **Do not** use the rest of this worksheet **3** _____

Note: If line 1 is **less than** line 2, enter "-0-" on Form W-4, line 5, page 1. Complete lines 4-9 below to calculate the additional withholding amount necessary to avoid a year-end tax bill.

- 4 Enter the number from line 2 of this worksheet **4** _____
- 5 Enter the number from line 1 of this worksheet **5** _____
- 6 **Subtract** line 5 from line 4 **6** _____
- 7 Find the amount in **Table 2** below that applies to the **HIGHEST** paying job and enter it here **7** \$ _____
- 8 **Multiply** line 7 by line 6 and enter the result here. This is the additional annual withholding needed **8** \$ _____
- 9 Divide line 8 by the number of pay periods remaining in 2004. For example, divide by 26 if you are paid every two weeks and you complete this form in December 2003. Enter the result here and on Form W-4, line 6, page 1. This is the additional amount to be withheld from each paycheck **9** \$ _____

Table 1: Two-Earner/Two-Job Worksheet

Married Filing Jointly			Married Filing Jointly			All Others	
If wages from HIGHEST paying job are—	AND, wages from LOWEST paying job are—	Enter on line 2 above	If wages from HIGHEST paying job are—	AND, wages from LOWEST paying job are—	Enter on line 2 above	If wages from LOWEST paying job are—	Enter on line 2 above
\$0 - \$40,000	\$0 - \$4,000	0	\$40,001 and over	31,001 - 38,000	6	\$0 - \$6,000	0
	4,001 - 8,000	1		38,001 - 44,000	7	6,001 - 11,000	1
	8,001 - 17,000	2		44,001 - 50,000	8	11,001 - 18,000	2
	17,001 and over	3		50,001 - 55,000	9	18,001 - 25,000	3
					55,001 - 65,000	10	25,001 - 31,000
\$40,001 and over	\$0 - \$4,000	0		65,001 - 75,000	11	31,001 - 44,000	5
	4,001 - 8,000	1		75,001 - 85,000	12	44,001 - 55,000	6
	8,001 - 15,000	2		85,001 - 100,000	13	55,001 - 70,000	7
	15,001 - 22,000	3		100,001 - 115,000	14	70,001 - 80,000	8
	22,001 - 25,000	4		115,001 and over	15	80,001 - 100,000	9
	25,001 - 31,000	5				100,001 and over	10

Table 2: Two-Earner/Two-Job Worksheet

Married Filing Jointly		All Others	
If wages from HIGHEST paying job are—	Enter on line 7 above	If wages from HIGHEST paying job are—	Enter on line 7 above
\$0 - \$60,000	\$470	\$0 - \$30,000	\$470
60,001 - 110,000	780	30,001 - 70,000	780
110,001 - 150,000	870	70,001 - 140,000	870
150,001 - 270,000	1,020	140,001 - 320,000	1,020
270,001 and over	1,090	320,001 and over	1,090

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. The Internal Revenue Code requires this information under sections 3402(f)(2)(A) and 6109 and their regulations. **Failure to provide a properly completed form will result in your being treated as a single person who claims no withholding allowances; providing fraudulent information may also subject you to penalties.** Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation, to cities, states, and the District of Columbia for use in administering their tax laws, and using it in the National Directory of New Hires. We may also disclose this information to Federal and state agencies to enforce Federal nontax criminal laws and to combat terrorism.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB

control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by Code section 6103.

The time needed to complete this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is: **Recordkeeping**, 46 min.; **Learning about the law or the form**, 13 min.; **Preparing the form**, 59 min. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to the Tax Products Coordinating Committee, Western Area Distribution Center, Rancho Cordova, CA 95743-0001. **Do not** send Form W-4 to this address. Instead, give it to your employer.



NOAA Commissions Coastal Research Ship **NANCY FOSTER**

NOAA welcomed its new vessel, the NOAA ship **NANCY FOSTER**, into its fleet of research and survey ships Monday, 10 May 2004, during a traditional maritime ceremony in Charleston, SC.



NOAA Photo

"Over the past two years, NOAA has made it a priority to modernize its fleet of ships, and the commissioning of **NANCY FOSTER** today is the latest accomplishment in that process," said Ret. Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., Undersecretary Of Commerce For Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator. "With newer, better ships, we're poised to take on the challenges that NOAA faces in upholding its missions. This ship provides scientists with resources they need to collect marine and atmospheric data and helps add to the world's body of scientific knowledge."

Homeported in Charleston and commanded by NOAA Commander Frederick W. Rossmann, **NANCY FOSTER** conducts research along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, primarily in support of the nation's marine sanctuaries and National Sea Grant program. **NANCY FOSTER** replaces NOAA ship **FERREL**, which was decommissioned in late 2002 after 34 years of service. **NANCY FOSTER** is a converted Navy torpedo test craft built in 1991 that was transferred to NOAA in early 2001. It began operations in May 2003 as a coastal oceanographic research vessel after its reconfiguration. It was to be commissioned in September 2003, but the ceremony was cancelled because of Hurricane Isabel.

The ship was named in honor of Nancy Foster, a NOAA scientist and executive, whose work in marine ecosystems and their conservation set her apart as a pioneer and visionary, particularly her emphasis on the need to consider the interdependent role played by organisms. Foster died in 2000 after 23 years of service with NOAA.

NANCY FOSTER supports NOAA's strategic goals to protect, restore and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management. The ship is a valuable resource locally to a range of scientific initiatives. It has been involved in finding potential sand resources for future beach nourishment projects, mapping critical habitat, groundtruthing hydrodynamic studies and investigating relative sea level along the South Carolina coast.

The ship returned to the NOAA Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary after the ceremony to conduct fisheries research, including assessing economically and ecologically important fish populations of the South Atlantic Bight, classifying ambient sound (organism and ship/boat/diver sounds) and measuring pelagic biomass using acoustic echosounders.

As part of the NOAA fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft, this ship will be operated, managed and maintained by NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations. NMAO includes civilians and officers of the NOAA Commissioned Corps, one of the nation's seven uniformed services. NOAA Corps officers—all scientists or engineers—provide NOAA with an important blend of operational, management and technical skills that support the agency's environmental programs at sea, in the air and ashore.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources. NOAA is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Source: NOAA News Release 10 May 2004
Visit the NOAA ship **NANCY FOSTER** web site at <http://www.moc.noaa.gov/nf/> for more information.

National Museum of Naval Aviation Honors Coast Guard Aviator

Commander Stewart Ross Graham, USCG (Ret.) was inducted into the Hall of Honor at the National Museum of Naval Aviation on 6 May 2004 in Pensacola, Florida.

Commander Graham, was an aviation pioneer and trailblazer. He, along with Captain Frank Erickson (*also a Hall of Honor inductee*), were instrumental in developing the helicopter as a search and rescue platform. Additionally, Graham carries the distinction of having made a number of helicopter "firsts": he became the first helicopter pilot to takeoff and land on a ship at sea; the first to perform a nighttime medevac by helicopter; the first to make a transcontinental helicopter flight; and the

first to use a helicopter hoist to rescue survivors from a foundering ship. He was also instrumental in developing equipment such as the power hoist, and rescue slings and baskets that permitted helicopters to conduct rescues. He developed techniques utilizing that equipment in all weather and wind conditions, thereby making the helicopter the premiere SAR aircraft that it is today. Graham's impact on the development of the helicopter in all its uses is beyond estimation. He retired from the Coast Guard on 30 September 1960, after 24 years of service and is now a resident of Naples, Maine.

Sources: Natl. Museum of Naval Aviation and CG Historian's Office
http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/BIO_Stewart_Graham.html

TRICARE Regional Service Centers



Region	Telephone
Northeast (1)	1-888-999-5195
Mid-Atlantic (2)	1-800-931-9501
Southeast (3)	1-800-444-5445
Gulfsouth (4)	1-800-444-5445
Heartland (5)	1-800-941-4501
Southwest (6)	1-800-406-2832
Central	1-888-874-9378
Southern California (9)	1-800-242-6788
Golden Gate (10)	1-800-242-6788
TRICARE Northwest	
Northwest (11)	1-800-404-2042
Alaska	1-800-242-6788
TRICARE Pacific	
Hawaii	1-800-242-6788
WESTPAC	1-888-777-8343
Latin America and Canada	1-888-777-8343
Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands	1-888-777-8343
Europe	1-888-777-8343

See page 26 for additional TRICARE contact information

Evening Colors Available on the Web

Evening Colors is available on our web page at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/eveningcolors>.

If you would like to discontinue receiving your hard copy of Evening Colors and opt for accessing it on our web page; please write, e-mail or call the Retiree Newsletter Editor at:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
USCG Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591
E-mail: psc-rasnewsletter@hrsic.uscg.mil
Phone: 1-800-772-8724, Ext. 2206/(785) 339-2206

We will discontinue sending e-mail notifications to people who have signed up for the online newsletter. The process of capturing, recording, maintaining privacy and keeping e-mail addresses up-to-date has become problematic.

The newsletter is published four times a year in January, April, July, and October. Please check the online newsletter page during these months for the latest issue.

TRICARE Uniform Formulary Final Rule Published

TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) announces the publication of the Uniform Formulary's final rule on April 1, 2004, in accordance with the requirement established in the fiscal year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, Section 701, "Pharmacy Benefits Program." The final rule, effective May 3, 2004, establishes the process for determining the formulary status for prescription drugs into one of three cost-share tiers, based upon their relative clinical and cost effectiveness.

"The Uniform Formulary will bring consistency and standardized formulary management to our \$4 billion pharmacy benefit," said Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. "The new tiered cost-share structure encourages a more cost-effective use of the benefit while also providing beneficiaries with continued access to the medications they need."

Once the new structure is fully implemented, prescription drugs on the current Military Health System (MHS) formulary will be categorized as generic, formulary (brand-name), or non-formulary. Prescription drugs will be evaluated based on their relative clinical and cost effectiveness when compared with other drugs in the same therapeutic class.

The process will be guided by the Department of Defense (DoD) Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, comprised of physicians and pharmacists. This committee will receive input from a Beneficiary Advisory Panel representing the general interests of all DoD beneficiaries. The Uniform Formulary final rule does not change the TRICARE prescription drug benefit. The benefit includes the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved drugs and medicines that by U.S. law require a physician's or other authorized provider's prescription. It does not include prescription drugs which are used in medical treatments or procedures which are expressly excluded from the TRICARE benefit by statute or regulation. The list of prescription drugs, which are categorized as non-formulary, will be published when the final determinations are made.

The military treatment facility (MTF) remains the best value for all users of the TRICARE pharmacy program," said Col. William Davies, director, DoD Pharmacy Programs. "By having prescriptions filled at the MTF, TRICARE beneficiaries eliminate their out-of-pocket costs."

In the future, prescriptions filled by the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy will cost

\$3 for up to a 90-day supply of a generic medication, \$9 for up to a 90-day supply of a brand-name formulary medication, and \$22 for up to a 90-day supply of a non-formulary medication. Prescriptions filled using a retail network pharmacy will cost \$3 for up to a 30-day supply of a generic medication, \$9 for a 30-day supply of a brand-name formulary medication, and \$22 for up to a 30-day supply of a non-formulary medication.

Beneficiaries choosing to fill prescriptions using a non-network pharmacy will pay either \$9 or 20 percent of the total cost of the prescription, whichever amount is greater, for both generic and brand-name formulary medications; and \$22 or 20 percent, whichever amount is greater, for up to a 30-day supply of non-formulary medications. Applicable deductibles for non-network pharmacy use must first be met.

Up-to-date information on the TRICARE Pharmacy Program will be available on the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy>.

The TRICARE Management Activity will announce the implementation schedule as the information becomes available.

*Source: TRICARE News Release #04-10,
9 Apr 2004*

Updating Contact Information in DEERS

You may update your DEERS address, telephone number, and e-mail in several ways:

1. Visit the DEERS Web site at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp>
2. Visit a uniformed services ID card issuing facility.
3. Fax address changes to: 1-831-655-8317.
4. Call the DEERS Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at 1-800-538-9552 or (TTY/TDD): 1-866-363-2883.
5. Mail the changed information to the DSO, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

Reunions

USCGC WESTWIND (WAGB 281) Association Reunion

When: September 17-19, 2004
Where: Baltimore, MD, Wyndham Hotel
 101 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
 (410) 385- 6700
Contact: Alex Mavica, Chairman
 Phone: (845) 352-7040
 e-mail: amavica@optonline.net

Special Room Rate \$99.00 per night, double occupancy.
 Mention "Westwind Assn" when reserving your room.
 Room(s) must be reserved by 8/18/04

U. S. Coast Guard National Association of Former Stewards and Stewardmate Inc. 14th Reunion

When: August 5-8, 2004
Where: Las Vegas, NV. Imperial Palace hotel
Contact: BMCM Robert E. Hammond, USCG (Ret.)
 97 Curtis Ave.,
 Piscataway, NJ 08854,
 Phone: (732) 752-2512.

USCGC MACKINAW (WAGB-83) Association 8th Reunion and 60th Anniversary

When: August 12-14, 2004
Where: Cheboygan, MI
Contact: USCGC MACKINAW Association
 P.O. Box 69
 Cheboygan, MI 49721
 e-mail: GPNsider@hotmail.com

USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715)

When: August, 6-8 2004
Where: Cleveland, OH.
 Holiday Inn
 1111 Lakeside Ave.
 Cleveland, OH 44114
 (888)425-3835
 Be sure to mention CGC Hamilton
Contact: lee.bordeleau@advest.com

The Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl 2004 Pterodactyl Roost

When: September 30 – October 3, 2004
Where: Sacramento, CA
Contact: Air Station Project Officer LT Brust Roethler at
 (916) 643-7606
 Doug Bogle CDR (Ret.) at (916) 768- 8020
 Or visit <http://www.aoptero.org/>.

Led by the crew at Air Station Sacramento this years' gathering is lining up to be a great event. Activities are planned for Napa and local wineries, Lake Tahoe, San Francisco, local golf and other attractions. The Roost headquarters will be at the Holiday Inn near the Air Station just off I-80 north of Sacramento. To make reservations call 1- 800- 338-2810 and state you're making a reservation for the '04 Pterodactyl Roost. The Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl is an association of active, retired and other former Coast Guard aviation personnel & supporting associates.

USCGC SPENCER (WHEC 36) Association Reunion

When: September 23-27, 2004
Where: Branson, MO, Howard Johnson Hotel
 W. Highway 76 in Branson. Phone 800-324-4191
Contact: Jack Shampine
 7398 Rt 31
 Cicero, NY 13039
 Phone: (315) 699-3127
 e-mail: jshampi@twcny.rr.com

Registration fee per person is \$180.00. Half-payment of \$90 per person is required and must have been received by June 1, 2004 with the balance due by August 1, 2004. Checks to be made payable to: Spencer Association and mail to Jack Shampine, at the above address.

USS CENTAURUS AKA-17 13th Annual Reunion

When: October 7-10, 2004
Where: St. Louis, MO. Sheraton Westport Hotel
Contact: Kent Price
 837 Orpington Ct.
 St. Louis, MO 63131
 Phone: (314) 822-4637
 e-mail: kent_p@sbcglobal.net
 George E. McCabe, Jr
 116 Knotty Pine Trail
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 Phone: (904) 280-3013
 e-mail: congem@bellsouth.net

USCGC ABSECON / CHINCOTEAGUE 3rd Reunion

When: October 7-9, 2004
Where: Norfolk, VA. Radisson hotel, downtown
Contact: John R. Peters, EMCM, USN/USCG (ret);
 905 Laconia Court,
 Virginia Beach, VA 23464,
 Phone (757) 479-0000,
 e-mail, JPeters33@cox.net
 Harry Huggins, CWO4, USCG (Ret.)
 5411 Greenfield Dr.,
 Portsmouth, VA. 23703,
 Phone (757) 484-3700,
 e-mail: Muzz4poppi@cs.com

There will be a \$15 per person registration fee. There will be tours available at additional cost. All Coast Guard and Navy personnel who have served on any of the US NAVY/COAST GUARD AVP's are invited to attend.

USCGC MENDOTA (WHEC 69) Reunion

When: October 15-17, 2004
Where: Wrightsville Beach, NC. Shell Island Ocean Front Resort
Contact: USCGC MENDOTA Reunion
 P. O. Box 822
 Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

As always, we need donations to help the start up. Make your check payable to USCG Mendota Reunion. Jack Wilson, Chmn.

see 'Reunions' on page 18

'Reunions' continued from page 17

**USCGC BIBB (WHEC-31) Reunion
All Crews 1937-1985**

When: October 14-16, 2004
Where: Charleston, SC. Holiday Inn-Mt. Pleasant
 250 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.
 Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29464
 Phone: (843) 884-6000 or (800) 290-4004
 Fax: (843) 881-1786
The Group Booking Code is BSA.
Contact: Bibb Shipmates
 c/o Mike Johnson
 277 Brandon Ln.
 Newman, GA 30265-1499
 Visit: <http://cutterbibb31.com/> for more information

USCGC INGHAM (WHEC-35) Reunion

When: September 30 - October 02, 2004
Where: Charleston, SC.
Contact: Jack L. Elam, President, USCGC INGHAM Assoc.
 1659 W. Jenny Street
 Lecanto, FL 34461
 Phone: (352) 746-0079
 e-mail: jlecpe@atlantic.net

USS CAVALIER (APA-37) WWII ASSOCIATION 16th Reunion

When: October 21-24, 2004
Where: Sarasota, FL, Holiday Inn Sarasota-Lido Beach
Contact: John Giles, Assn, President
 P. O. Box 325
 Pacific City, OR 97135-0325
 Phone: (503) 965-6732
 e-mail: jegiles39@earthlink.net

**USCG LORAN, Construction & Operation Personnel
Reunion**

When: November 12-14, 2004
Where: Branson, MO
Contact: Harriette Hursh
 Phone: (262) 251-1305
 e-mail: Grandmam@aol.com

Send your reunion or other notices to:

Evening Colors
 Commanding Officer (P&D)
 U. S. Coast Guard Personnel Service Center
 444 SE Quincy St.
 Topeka, KS 66683-3591
 e-mail: PSC-RASNewsletter@hrsic.uscg.mil
 Fax: (785) 339-3772
 Phone: (Toll-Free, US Only) 1-800-772-8724 or
 (785) 339-2206

USS/USCGC COOS BAY (WHEC 376) Reunion

When: September 15- 19, 2004
Where: Chicago, IL.
Contact: Bill Hardy
 7036 Valley ST.
 West Olive, MI 49460-9343
 Phone: (618) 738-0765
 e-mail: hardyb643@sbcglobal.net

The CG has picked up the torch from the faithful Navy plankowners and will host the meetings from now on. Special events are planned and all who have vibrant memories of this gallant Cutter are urged to attend.

Personnel Locator: If you are searching for one individual vice a group of people, please complete your correspondence and insert in a sealed envelope, with the name of the person in the "to" area. Include your return address and affix appropriate postage on the envelope. Enclose within a larger envelope and mail to us with a note request forwarding. PSC (RAS) must have the retiree or annuitant's full name and Rank/Rate (for military) to identify properly. No nicknames please. PSC will complete the address and forward. Mail to:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
 USCG Personnel Service Center
 444 SE Quincy Street
 Topeka, Kansas 66683

Veteran's Day 2007 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, DC. It is proposed, in conjunction with the Coast Guard Combat Veteran's Association, a reunion and gathering of as many Coast Guard Vietnam Veterans as possible will be held in Washington. Anyone interested in helping set up this milestone event please contact.

Bill Wells, GMCM, UCCG (ret)
 258 Meadowbake Drive
 Martinez, GA 30907
 e-mail: wrw2@earthlink.net

USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC-715) / WESTPAC (Vietnam) 1969-70 CREW MEMBERS. I am searching for any of the crewmembers from this deployment for the possibility of a future reunion. Please contact Brent Cole at 443-783-1805 or cbcguard-retired@yahoo.com if you or anyone you know made this cruise. We have about twenty members so far. I have the crew list available and am acting as the contact coordinator. Email or call for more details. (RM3 Brent Cole then—OSC Retired now.)

Senior Retired Officers (O6 and above) in the 5th District geographic area (not including the DC area and locations within 50 miles) are invited to contact the ISC Portsmouth Decedent Affairs Officer if they would like to be placed on a contact list for the timely dissemination of important information. Those interested in being a part of this initiative are encouraged to reply via e-mail with their rank, name and contact number. Those who prefer to leave their information via telephone can call at the number below. Contact:

CWO D. E. Van Clief, Decedent Affairs Officer
 ISC Portsmouth Worklife Staff
 Phone: 757-686-4032
 e-mail: dvanclief@iscports.uscg.mil

USCG Retirements

Name	Rank	Retirement Date	Years of Service	Name	Rank	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Adams, Edson	BM1	4-Jul-01	36	Glass, Ernest	AETC	1-Apr-04	21
Afanasewicz, Charles	PSC	23-Feb-04	33	Goodchild, Richard	CAPT	1-Apr-04	28
Alexander, Duyane	MST1	1-Apr-04	20	Gorden, Jeffrey	CDR	1-Mar-04	24
Alicea, Eli	ET1	1-May-04	25	Gordon, Robert	MK1	7-Feb-04	36
Andersson, Ronald	MSTC	20-Apr-04	27	Grantham, Jeffrey	MAT4	1-Apr-04	30
Ankle, Colin	MK1	1-Mar-04	20	Greimann, Dean	MST2	1-May-04	20
Arce, Arys	BM3	29-Mar-04	08	Groves, Ginger	SN	9-Apr-04	03
Arsenault, Richard	BOSN3	1-Apr-04	21	Guerrero, Oscar	MSTC	5-Apr-04	25
Audley, James	CAPT	4-Feb-04	38	Gutt, Stanley	OSC	16-Mar-04	35
Averill, Mark	BMC	1-May-04	21	Halstead, David	DC1	1-May-04	20
Bailey, Joseph	MKCS	1-Apr-04	24	Haney, John	SK1	18-Apr-04	38
Bailey, William	LT	1-Apr-04	26	Haynes, Anthony	AMTCS	1-Apr-04	21
Barnes, Matthew	YN3	20-Jan-04	05	Henson, James	BOSN4	1-Mar-04	31
Baumann, Larry	FSC	1-Mar-04	20	Hernandez, Jorge	YN2	29-Mar-04	10
Beebe, Douglas	MST1	1-May-04	20	Hersey, Robert	BOSN4	1-Dec-03	32
Bell, Peter	PS1	17-Feb-04	39	Hice, Larry	CAPT	21-Mar-04	37
Benson, George	BMC	31-Mar-04	26	Hill, Michael	IT1	1-Mar-04	20
Bereth, Travis	BM1	27-Jan-04	10	Horton, Edward	EMC	1-May-04	40
Bezek, Joseph	ETC	1-May-04	20	Horvath, Patrick	YN1	1-Apr-04	20
Bishop, Dennis	PSC	7-Apr-04	29	Howie, Charles	BMCS	1-Apr-04	29
Blechel, Daniel	YNCM	1-Mar-04	30	Hubbs, Walter	CDR	15-Feb-04	40
Boemler, Raymond	ET1	1-Feb-04	20	Iddins, Robert	LCDR	1-Apr-04	20
Bosin, Margaret	LCDR	1-Apr-04	20	Ingraham, George	OSCM	28-Feb-04	38
Branham, Deborah	SK1	1-Mar-04	20	Isaacs, Matthew	MK3	12-Apr-04	01
Brest, Bradley	ETC	1-Apr-04	21	James, George	BM1	1-Apr-04	20
Britt, Josef	ET3	12-Apr-04	03	Johnson, Ronald	MKC	30-Mar-04	34
Bromund, Carl	CAPT	1-May-04	25	Juan, Antonio	AMT1	1-May-04	23
Brophy, Daniel	OSC	1-Apr-04	22	Kaskeski, Scott	ELC4	1-Mar-04	30
Brown, Mark	DC1	1-May-04	22	Kaufman, Jay	BM3	2-Mar-04	25
Bruck, Patricia	CAPT	1-Mar-04	25	Kelly, Charles	PSC	26-Feb-04	38
Burlingame, William	OSCM	9-Apr-04	34	Kephart, James	OSC	1-Apr-04	21
Burns, Ronald	OS2	13-Apr-04	33	Kessinger, Michael	ET1	1-Mar-04	22
Caras, David	AETC	1-May-04	20	Kienitz, Eric	DC1	16-Apr-04	37
Carrano, Glenn	COMM2	1-May-04	20	Kier, Kenneth	ELC2	1-Feb-04	24
Cavaco, Phillip	PSC	1-May-04	41	Kirwan, Arthur	LCDR	31-Mar-04	34
Chadwell, Steven	HSC	1-Mar-04	22	Knaus, Raymond	MK2	14-Apr-04	39
Chambers, Bruce	BM1	1-May-04	20	Koch, Keith	PERS4	1-Feb-04	30
Chapman, Edward	PERS4	23-Mar-04	39	Kramer, Richard	ETCM	1-May-04	24
Collazo, Jesus	SN	27-Jan-04	02	Krzenski, Jimmy	LT	1-May-04	27
Cox, James	BMCS	1-Apr-04	21	Kugler, Gregory	IT2	1-May-04	21
Cox, Terry	SK2	3-Feb-04	31	Kulik, Anthony	DC2	1-Mar-04	20
Crosman, Richard	LCDR	5-Feb-04	37	Kulma, John	PSS4	25-Apr-04	31
Daniels, Marc	MK1	1-Mar-04	20	Kwarren, Robert	YNC	1-Mar-04	20
Davis, Michael	OSC	1-Apr-04	20	Laboy, Felito	IV2	7-Mar-04	27
Desplas, William	MK1	1-Mar-04	21	Laughary, Charles	CDR	7-Mar-04	37
Devitt, James	CAPT	20-Feb-04	37	Lebleu, Chad	BM3	25-Feb-04	02
Doherty, Neal	CDR	2-Mar-04	36	Leever, Leland	YNC	1-May-04	20
Driscoll, Matthew	ETCM	1-May-04	24	Lombardi, Anthony	FN	3-Feb-04	03
Dunn, Larry	PERS4	1-Apr-04	30	Long, Joseph	OSC	18-Apr-04	40
Dykman, Marilyn	LCDR	1-Apr-04	20	Lukshides, Margaretha	CDR	13-Feb-04	21
Ealy, Adrian	BM3	7-Apr-04	04	Luna, Roger	YN2	23-Mar-04	32
Ellison, Keith	COMM2	1-May-04	21	Markley, Daniel	FS3	25-Mar-04	09
Fereday, Alan	AMT1	1-Apr-04	20	Martin, Joseph	MKCS	1-May-04	30
Fisher, James	LT	1-Mar-04	27	Martin, Larry	OS1	25-Mar-04	08
Flattum, Darryl	CDR	27-Feb-04	37	Matz, Edward	HSCM	8-Apr-04	36
Flynn, Theresa	BM1	7-Apr-04	07	Mauck, Curtis	BMCM	1-Apr-04	27
Foote, Gary	PSC	28-Mar-04	26	Mcauliffe, Richard	MK1	1-Mar-04	20
Foy, Richard	BOSN4	1-May-04	31	Mcclain, Scott	ELC2	1-Apr-04	20
Furlinger, Paul	SKCM	5-Apr-04	38	Mcclairmant, James	BMC	5-Mar-04	41
Ganoe, Robert	DCC	1-May-04	22	McKinnon, Tony	YNC	1-May-04	28
Garcia, Frank	YN1	1-Apr-04	20	Meehan, Ronald	PS1	26-Feb-04	32
Girard, John	LCDR	5-Mar-04	30				

see 'Retirements' on page 20

'Retirements' continued from page 19

Name	Rank	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Millican, Lorraine	ITC	12-Apr-04	20
Minor, Jon	CAPT	28-Mar-04	37
Morinaga, Jason	MK3	12-Apr-04	05
Nave, Nicholas	BM3	3-Feb-04	02
Neal, Steven	BMCM	1-Apr-04	31
Newton, Frederic	GM2	1-Apr-04	20
Nicholson, Richard	MKCS	11-Dec-03	36
Nickerson, Jeffrey	LT	1-Apr-04	23
Norris, Kenneth	CDR	1-Mar-04	20
Ober, Stephen	LT	1-Mar-04	25
Obyrne, Francis	CAPT	1-Mar-04	27
Odell, Michael	AST1	1-May-04	20
Orvis, Wesley	BOSN4	1-Feb-04	32
Overton, Randall	ETCM	1-May-04	23
Owsiak, Joseph	LCDR	10-Mar-04	38
Ozier, David	F&S4	18-Apr-04	36
Parker, Timothy	BM1	1-May-04	20
Pasko, Michael	PSC	23-Feb-04	39
Paton, Richard	CDR	16-Apr-04	37
Pearce, James	MSTC	27-Mar-04	30
Peebler, Jeffrey	AMT1	1-May-04	20
Peters, Clarence	BMC	1-Apr-04	22
Pfeiffer, Dennis	GMC	26-Apr-04	31
Phillips, Peter	MKCS	13-Mar-04	40
Predmore, David	CDR	3-Apr-04	38
Rawls, Lester	DCC	1-Apr-04	26
Reeves, Michael	BM2	12-Apr-04	07
Reid, Ken	LCDR	16-Mar-04	32
Reisa, William	PSC	29-Apr-04	38
Reiter, Jeffrey	ETC	1-Apr-04	20
Reshard, Wilbur	EMC	1-Mar-04	22
Richardson, Edward	CDR	15-Mar-04	35
Rios, Joseph	PS1	28-Apr-04	32
Robinson, John	BM1	19-Mar-04	36
Rodgers, Roy	MKC	1-May-04	27
Roller, Gregory	BM3	26-Mar-04	14
Ross, James	EMC	1-May-04	22
Rothstein, Marvin	PS1	19-Feb-04	36
Russell, David	YN1	19-Mar-04	21
Sakaio, Michael	LT	1-Apr-04	20
Savage, Robert	CDR	15-Mar-04	36
Schafer, Forrest	PSCM	2-Feb-04	37
Schutz, James	OSCM	1-Mar-04	29
Sheaves, Robert	CDR	1-Apr-04	28
Shelton, Richard	PERS4	1-Apr-04	27
Shepard, Dean	IVC	13-Feb-04	30
Sineath, John	CDR	23-Feb-04	36
Skelton, Eric	BM1	1-Mar-04	20
Skelton, Mark	AMT1	1-Apr-04	20
Smith, Benjamin	GM1	1-Mar-04	21
Smith, Raymond	SKC	13-Feb-04	37
Sorrell, Ricky	LCDR	1-Apr-04	24
Sosa, Eliezer	PS2	1-Mar-04	25
Spann, Randal	DC1	1-Mar-04	21
Stallings, Oscar	LCDR	1-Mar-04	31
Stewart, Thomas	LT	1-May-04	23
Stocks, Mark	HSCM	1-Mar-04	26
Stuckey, William	LT	1-Apr-04	26
Svetlak, Daniel	BM2	1-Apr-04	20
Swanson, Brian	CDR	1-Apr-04	22
Swatt, Gary	LT	10-Mar-04	37
Tebault, Stephen	PSCS	26-Feb-04	35

Name	Rank	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Tennis, Robert	LT	17-Feb-04	35
Thiel, Scott	AETC	1-Mar-04	21
Tipton, Richter	PSS4	26-Mar-04	37
Trubey, William	MST1	7-Feb-04	24
Turner, Charles	CDR	17-Apr-04	36
Turner, Richard	FSCS	25-Mar-04	26
Turner, Timothy	EMC	1-Apr-04	21
Valentino, Charles	LCDR	22-Jan-04	34
Vallee, Jennifer	YN2	16-Jan-04	09
Visser, Gerald	MK1	1-May-04	20
Vogel, Gregory	OSC	1-May-04	20
Waddell, Eric	AMT3	12-Apr-04	06
Wales, Douglas	CDR	4-Mar-04	36
Walpole, Peter	PS1	29-Feb-04	34
Watanabe, Dallas	HS1	18-Feb-04	34
West, William	GMC	26-Nov-03	38
Whalen, J	F&S4	1-Mar-04	28
Whaley, Mark	DCC	1-Mar-04	22
White, Christopher	BMCS	1-May-04	20
Williams, Isaiah	PS1	27-Mar-04	35
Winans, Terry	PSC	7-Feb-04	34
Yager, John	CDR	1-May-04	22
Ybos, Walter	MK1	17-Feb-04	27
Zimnoski, John	WEPS4	1-Apr-04	26

NOAA Retirements			
Name	Rank	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Celone, Peter	CDR	1-May-04	24
Lemon, Michael	LCDR	1-May-04	21
Tennessee, David	CAPT	1-May-04	30

**Congratulations
to our new Retirees!**

TRICARE Goes to College

As parents prepare to send their children off to college, it is important to assess health care coverage for students living away from home. TRICARE-eligible dependents may maintain coverage until age 23 as long as he/she is a fulltime student, but there are several TRICARE options available. Contact a health benefits advisor at your local military treatment facility or a TRICARE service center representative to discuss which option best serves your family's needs. Visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/collegestudents/> for more information about TRICARE coverage for college students.

TAPS

**The United States Coast Guard wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy
to the loved ones and friends of our fallen shipmates.**

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Date	City	State
Abernethy	William	CDR	02-Apr-04	Jacksonville	FL
Ammons	Woodrow	DC1	02-Mar-04	Bradenton	FL
Anderson	Donald	DCC	16-Apr-04	Hithcock	TX
Andrews	Ralph	BMC	17-Feb-04	Lyman	ME
Ashby	Karl	BOSN4	26-Feb-04	West Memphis	AR
Austin	Ronald	EN1	10-May-04	Moyock	NC
Azbill	Boyce	QMC	26-Mar-04	Tucson	AZ
Babcock	George	SKC	09-Oct-03	Kirkland	WA
Bell	Charles	EMC	11-Apr-04	Beaufort	NC
Bertrand	Robert	MK1	08-Mar-04	Fall River	MA
Bielecke	Thomas	F&S3	19-Apr-04	Jackson	NJ
Black	Leo	EMCS	02-Apr-04	Mountain Home	ID
Blackwell	Carrol	BMC	19-Feb-04	Sacramento	CA
Brazell	John	BM1	01-Apr-04	Semmes	AL
Brice	Robert	BM2	29-Aug-02	Poughkeepsie	NY
Brockway	David	AMC	18-Feb-04	Elizabeth City	NC
Brown	Samuel	LT	30-Mar-04	Raleigh	NC
Brule	Robert	MUCS	22-Mar-04	Irving	TX
Brummeler	Edwin	CDR	20-Feb-04	Juneau	AK
Buetow	Gary	CWO4	18-May-04	Milwaukee	WI
Bunch	Peter	RADM	12-May-04	Williamsburg	VA
Carr	Ralph	BMCM	24-Apr-04	Vancouver	WA
Chiovari	Antonino	YNC	12-Jan-04	Lyons	CO
Coe	Jack	ENC	06-Apr-04	Gualala	CA
Collins	Peter	CSC	14-May-04	Mystic	CT
Conley	Henry	EN1	28-Mar-04	Union	SC
Coombs	Robert	BM1	17-Mar-04	Waldorf	MD
Corlett	James	BM1	10-Mar-04	Astoria	OR
Cotter	Robert	ELC4	10-Mar-04	Fairview Hgts	IL
Couch	Joseph	SKC	15-Apr-04	Rapid City	SD
Cribben	John	BMC	09-May-04	Oxnard	CA
Didio	Marylee	SN	14-May-04	Franklin	MA
Dormer	Martin	CSC	08-May-04	Santa Rosa	CA
Drumgoole	Paul	BOSN3	07-Apr-04	Falmouth	MA
Durrance	Robert	BMC	13-Apr-04	Brownsville	TX
Etheridge	Jessie	MK1	13-Jan-04	Columbia	NC
Fall	Lawrence	ATCS	23-Aug-03	Okeechobee	FL
Farlow	Charlie	ENG2	16-Feb-04	Melfa	VA
Farrow	Linville	BMLC	19-May-04	Mattituck L I	NY
Faulkner	John	AD2	27-Feb-04	Oceana	WV
Fender	William	AD1	19-Feb-04	Apopka	FL
Fikes	George	GM1	18-Jan-04	San Antonio	TX
Fitzgerald	Redmond	CDR	09-Mar-04	San Diego	CA
Fox	Eugene	BMCS	27-Mar-04	Rock Island	IL
Fox	William	CDR	21-Feb-04	Auburndale	FL
Gage	Raymond	RMCM	25-Feb-04	Sebastian	FL
Garleb	Oliver	WO1	29-Mar-04	Orange	CA
Gipson	Stanley	HMC	09-May-04	Micco	FL
Goodell	Philip	MK1	25-Mar-04	Sandstone	WV

see 'TAPS' on page 22

'TAPS' continued from page 21

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Date	City	State
Gorman	Sidney	LCDR	13-Mar-04	Framingham	MA
Haines	George	LCDR	19-Mar-04	Centerville	MA
Hamilton	Lawrence	LCDR	13-May-04	Kent	WA
Harris	Steven	MK2	24-Mar-04	Cincinnati	OH
Harrison	Benjamin	LT	12-Mar-04	Fredericksburg	VA
Haynes	David	CS1	10-Apr-04	Detroit	MI
Henson	Bradley	GMC	05-Feb-04	Virginia Beach	VA
Herman	John	BM1	06-Mar-04	Perrysburg	NY
Hinds	Heywood	MAT3	22-Mar-04	Washington	ME
Horky	Oliver	LCDR	02-Apr-04	San Diego	CA
Hyer	Louis	GM1	31-Mar-04	Hauppauge	NY
Johnson	Robert	BMCS	19-Apr-04	Hope Mills	NC
Johnson	Stanley	RMC	30-Apr-04	Bluffton	IN
Jones	Seaborn	LT	23-Feb-04	Daytona Bch S	FL
Josselyn	Clifton	SKC	12-Mar-04	S Yarmouth	MA
Kelland	Frank	BMCS	08-May-04	Las Vegas	NV
Kim	On	ENC	10-Mar-04	Honolulu	HI
Knight	William	QMC	27-Feb-04	Anacortes	WA
Langford	Everette	BMC	09-Mar-04	Lake Jackson	TX
Lauri	Arnold	MSTCS	06-Mar-04	Anchorage	AK
Lawrence	William	BOSN2	12-Apr-04	Portland	ME
Lebleu	Chad	BM3	25-Feb-04	Clearwater	FL
Legaspi	Vince	F&S3	15-Apr-04	Honolulu	HI
Legault	Alexandre	LCDR	14-Mar-04	Sebring	FL
Leith	John	WEPS3	25-Mar-04	Yuma	AZ
Lemargie	Paul	CAPT	08-Apr-04	Ephrata	WA
Lersch	Joseph	LCDR	08-May-04	Mobile	AL
Lester	Roosevelt	DCC	22-Mar-04	Plainfield	NJ
Lipscomb	James	RADM	30-Apr-04	Jacksonville	FL
Lovett	Hubert	BMC	16-Mar-04	Franklin	LA
Low	Keith	CDR	21-Jan-04	Charlestown	RI
Lyon	Kenneth	PSS4	13-Feb-04	Duncanville	TX
Mann	Graeme	CAPT	07-Mar-04	Stratham	NH
Marsdale	Allen	CHSCLK2	08-Mar-04	Norwich	CT
Martin	Charles	BM1	26-Mar-04	Searsport	ME
Martinez	Harold	BMC	06-Apr-04	Gretna	LA
Martinez	Severo	BM1	08-May-04	Guaynabo	PR
Mason	Herbert	SD1	07-Feb-04	Philadelphia	PA
Mason	Preston	BOSN2	14-Mar-04	Beaufort	NC
Mayes	Charles	CAPT	23-Mar-04	Mercer Island	WA
Mazzotta	Frank	BMC	14-Jan-04	Staten Island	NY
Mckeithan	Roy	BMC	15-Apr-04	Little River	SC
Mercado	Bonifacio	SS2	28-Mar-04	Philippines	RP
Mercer	Charles	ELC4	24-Mar-04	Miami	FL
Meyer	Arthur	SPCK,W1	24-Apr-04	Bethlehem	CT
Miles	Richard	CDR	11-Apr-04	Frankston	TX
Miller	Charles	CHPHAR2	24-Feb-04	North Port	FL
Miranda	Ernesto	SS1	25-Jan-04	Philippines	RP
Moore	William	ENC	16-May-04	Sugar Grove	NC
Muchow	Thomas	MKCM	09-May-04	East Tawas	MI
Murphy	James	YNCS	11-Apr-04	Warner	NH

see 'TAPS' on page 23

'TAPS' continued from page 22

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Date	City	State
Nepote	Mendes	CDR	12-Feb-04	Lodi	CA
Nuse	Herbert	LCDR	15-Apr-04	Ormond Bch	FL
Ohana	Matthew	PHC	08-Mar-04	Rocky Mount	NC
Ohara	Patrick	MAT2	12-Feb-04	Colfax	WI
Oneal	Timothy	LCDR	23-Mar-04	El Lago	TX
Osieczonek	Ernest	ENCM	04-May-04	Pensacola	FL
Packard	John	CDR	02-May-04	Fairview Park	OH
Palmacci	Arnold	QMCM	13-May-04	Vero Beach	FL
Pangrass	Edward	CDR	29-Apr-04	Tehachapi	CA
Parks	Richard	LT	13-Feb-04	N Miami Bch	FL
Patrick	Stanley	ETCS	15-Sep-03	Mandeville	LA
Patrick	Robert	BMCM	06-Mar-04	Riverside	TX
Pecoraro	Daniel	CDR	11-Apr-04	San Bruno	CA
Peters	Robert	ADC	26-Feb-04	Ft Lauderdale	FL
Piper	Lee	RD1	13-Mar-04	Milton	FL
Pirillo	Michael	BM2	03-May-04	Oelwein	IA
Portz	Harold	ENC	10-Mar-04	Lebanon	IL
Prall	Whitney	LCDR	14-Mar-04	Seattle	WA
Radoff	Allen	GM1	08-Feb-04	Los Angeles	CA
Randall	William	LT	09-May-04	Gretna	LA
Redfield	John	CDR	05-May-04	New Roads	LA
Reiman	Frederick	BM1	20-Mar-04	Wood Cross Rd	VA
Reinert	Frederick	MU1	03-Apr-04	Westfield	MA
Reuss	Robert	CWO4	15-Apr-04	Snohomish	WA
Ries	Anthony	CS1	18-Mar-04	Navarre	FL
Rogowski	James	EM1	09-Apr-04	Satsuma	FL
Roos	Paul	CSC	27-Mar-04	Marietta	GA
Rowe	Eugene	ENCS	03-Apr-04	Rehoboth Bch	DE
Royce	Bruce	BOSN2	10-Apr-04	Carson City	NV
Rusch	Raymond	AD2	06-Apr-04	Silver Spgs	FL
Sanderlin	Celius	BMC	03-Mar-04	Grantsboro	NC
Savage	George	YNC	21-Apr-04	Topeka	KS
Schulz	Robert	CAPT	08-May-04	Sarasota	FL
Scott	Earl	YNCM	10-May-04	Long Beach	CA
Sears	Walter	BOSN2	17-Mar-04	New Braunfels	TX
Sigler	Bernard	BMC	09-Feb-04	Excel Springs	MO
Slenzo	John	MKC	02-Apr-04	Coxsackie	NY
Smith	Guy	CSC	23-Feb-04	Livermore	CA
Smith	John	ENG2	23-Apr-04	Zebulon	NC
Squires	Frederic	CAPT	03-May-04	Martinsburg	WV
Steinhorst	Klaus	ENG4	10-May-04	Sequim	WA
Steinman	George	CAPT	13-May-04	Phoenix	AZ
Strauss	John	LCDR	26-Feb-04	Palm Harbor	FL
Stroberg	David	ATC	03-May-04	Hertford	NC
Theriault	Kenneth	ELC2	27-Apr-04	Naples	ME
Timko	Lawrence	MKCS	01-Mar-03	Lanexa	VA
Turnage	Victor	RM3	28-Apr-04	Chipley	FL
Tyler	Robert	ENC	23-Apr-04	Long Beach	CA
Urann	Arthur	MK1	08-Feb-04	Sullivan	ME
Valadez	Jacob	AEC	21-Apr-04	Cibolo	TX
Valencia	George	GMC	12-May-04	El Cajon	CA

see 'TAPS' on page 23

'TAPS' continued from page 23

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Date	City	State
Valentino	Charles	LCDR	22-Jan-04	Chatham	NJ
Varvel	Jerry	BOSN4	04-May-04	Gulfport	MS
Vaughan	Maurice	CDR	02-May-04	Reidsville	NC
Wahlkamp	Rudolph	SKC	13-Apr-04	Yorktown	VA
Walton	Clayton	CS1	04-Apr-04	Unadella	GA
Ward	Joseph	CDR	20-Mar-04	Sun City Ctr	FL
Wasiejko	Michael	ETC	25-Apr-04	Manchester	NH
Whipple	Richard	CDR	07-May-04	Newark	DE
Winship	Robert	CDR	16-Apr-04	Lakeland	FL
Winstead	Bobby	MKCS	31-Mar-04	Vinton	VA
Wright	Billy	AEC	11-Feb-04	Bloomington	IN
Young	Maynard	CAPT	29-Feb-04	Shepherdstown	WV
Young	Thomas	CDR	28-Mar-04	Mobile	AL

Report of Death

To report the death of a Coast Guard,
NOAA retiree/annuitant, or a Lighthousekeeper call:

- ❖ 1-800-772-8724 (Toll-free, US only)
- ❖ (785) 339-3415 (O'Seas long distance)
- ❖ FAX: (785) 339-3770

Or write:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
Coast Guard Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

A MARINER'S REQUIEM

When I die don't bury me
Commend my remains to the sea

For 'twas there I got my birth
Not under some plot of musky dirt

Earth's beauties are enhanced by the sea
Thus, 'tis there my immortal self should be

Lest the seaward wind carry away my naked soul
To a place so very bold

Alas, into Neptune's Kingdom
Every Mariner's immortal realm
Where I may again be at the helm

By: CAPT DANIEL KOZAK, USMM (RET.),
LT, USCGR (RET.) & PILOT, NYFD (RET.)
NYC CORRECTION OFFICER
(CIRCA 1954-1957)

Dependent TAPS

Name	Relationship	Date	Location
Anna T. Bell	Wife of SKCM William T. Bell, USCG (Ret.)	07 Sep 03	Chesapeake, VA
Dolores M. Boyd	Wife of YNC Thomas R. Boyd, USCG (Ret.)	13 Dec 03	Evansville, IN
Wanda Brasel	Wife of RMC Neal Brasel, USCG (Ret.)	21 Jan 04	Salem, IL
Don Owen Call	Son of LTJG Don J. Call, USCG (Ret.)	27 Mar 04	Clearwater, FL
Judith A. Crabill	Wife of BMC Joseph B. Crabill Sr. USCG (Ret.)	20 Dec 03	La Marque, TX
Pat Jozwiak	Wife of PYA4 Tom Jozwiak, USCG (Ret.)	28 Apr 04	Nahcotta, WA
Fay F. Kinimaka	Wife of CWO3 James A. Kinimaka, USCG (Ret.)	07 Apr 04	Bensville, Australia
Nancy R. Soper	Wife of CWO3 Harold L. Soper, USCG (Ret.)	11 Apr 04	Romona, CA
Helen M Sweeney	Wife of AD1 Thomas J Sweeney USCG (Ret)	22 Mar 04	San Diego, CA

If you have lost a loved one and would like their name printed in Dependent TAPS, please contact the Editor with their name, date of death, your name and retired rank, and city/state of residence. You can write the Editor at USCG Retiree Newsletter, PSC (RAS), 444 SE Quincy Street, Topeka, KS 66683; or e-mail to: "PSC-RASNewsletter@hrsic.uscg.mil".

You may also fax your request to (785)-339-3772.

Personnel Service Center, Retiree & Annuitant Services (RAS) - Directory Assistance

Questions, Address or Direct-Deposit Changes

If you need information or have questions about:

- ❖ Your Retired or Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity payments
- ❖ Your Retired/Annuitant Statement Of Monthly Income (RASOMI)
- ❖ IRS Form 1099R (reporting taxable income)

- or you need to change:

- ❖ Your Home Mailing Address (for RASOMI, Newsletter, 1099R)
- ❖ Your Financial Institution or account number for your Direct Deposit
- ❖ Report a change to your Designation Of Beneficiary For Payment Of Unpaid Retired Pay (Note: Use form *CG PSC-3600 Designation Of Beneficiary For Payment Of Unpaid Retired Pay)

You may make the requests listed above by **telephone**, by **Fax** or in **writing**. Our telephone and Fax numbers are:

Toll Free: 1-800-772-8724
Commercial: 785-339-3415
Fax: 785-339-3770

Allotments, SBP Coverage and Beneficiary Changes

If you need to:

- ❖ Start, Stop or Change an allotment (Use form *CG PSC-7221 Retired Allotment Authorization Form)
- ❖ Report a change to your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage

You must make the requests listed above in **writing**. You may **Fax** your request to 785-339-3770 or mail to:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
U. S. Coast Guard
Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy St
Topeka KS 66683-3591

(* Note: Forms available from our website
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/forms>

1-800-PSC-USCG/1-800-772-8724
If Outside the U.S. (785) 339-3415

Income Tax Withholding Changes

If you need to:

- ❖ Start or change the amount of State Income Tax Withholding (Retirees use *IRS form W-4, Annuitants use *IRS form W-4P or State form. If using IRS form, indicate that the form is for State Tax Withholding, not federal).
- ❖ Change your Federal Income Tax Withholding
- ❖ Change Exemptions or Additional Withholding

You must make the requests listed above in writing. The original Form IRS W-4 or W-4P must be mailed to PSC (RAS) for action and filing, per IRS requirements. PSC (RAS) cannot accept a faxed W-4 or W-4P. Please mail to:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
U. S. Coast Guard
Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy St
Topeka KS 66683-3591

(* Note: Forms available from our website
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/forms>
or directly from the IRS

Report of Death

To report the death of a Coast Guard, NOAA retiree/annuitant, or a Lighthousekeeper call:

Toll Free: 1-800-772-8724
Commercial: 785-339-3415
Fax: 785-339-3770

Or write:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
Coast Guard Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

Newsletter

E-Mail articles, dependent taps entries, reunion notices, etc. to PSC-RASNewsletter@hrrsic.uscg.mil or call us at the numbers listed below (phone menu option #4). The deadline for the next issue is 9 August 2004.

E-mail: PSC-RAS@hrrsic.uscg.mil
Website: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/ras.htm>

Other Important Phone Numbers and Websites

Medical/Dental Benefits	Phone	Website/Notes
Eligibility (DEERS)/ ID Cards	1-800-538-9552 (TTY/TDD) 1-866-363-2883.	http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers In CA: 800-334-4162. In AK & HI: 800-527-5602
Mail-Order Pharmacy	1-866-363-8667	http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/tmop.cfm
Retiree Dental Plan	1-888-838-8737	http://www.ddpdelta.org/retiree/
TRICARE Overseas	1-888-777-8343	http://www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas/
TRICARE United States	See Map on page 15 for phone numbers	http://tricare.osd.mil/
TRICARE For Life	1-888-363-5433	http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tfl/default.cfm
Senior Pharmacy Program	1-877-363-6337	http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/seniorpharmacy.cfm
Federal Long –term Health Insurance	1-800-582-3337	http://www.opm.gov/insure/tlc/
CG Health Benefits Advisor	1-800-942-2422	
Veterans Benefits	Phone	Website/Notes
Department of Veterans Affairs	1-800-827-1000	http://www.va.gov/
Insurance Information	1-800-669-8377	http://www.insurance.va.gov/
Veteran's Group Life Insurance		http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/vgli/vgli.htm
New VGLI Applications and VGLI Reinstatements: OSGLI PO Box 5000 Millville, NJ 08332-9928	1-800-236-6142 Overseas (973) 548-5699	Death and accelerated benefits claims only: Phone: 1-800-419-1473, Fax: 1-877-832-4943 or e-mail: osgil.claims@prudential General Correspondence : Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, 290 West Mt. Pleasant Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039.
Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents	1-800-827-1000	http://www1.va.gov/pubaff/fedben/Fedben.pdf VA Pamphlet 80-02-1
Headstones & Markers	1-800-697-6947	http://www.cem.va.gov/hm.htm
Other	Phone	Website/Notes
		http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/ses.htm
Final Active Duty Pay	1-866-772-8724 Overseas (785) 339-3550	Commanding Officer (SES) Coast Guard Personnel Service Center 444 SE Quincy St. Topeka, KS 66683-3591
Contact PSC (SES) for information on Severance Pay, Separation Pay, Disability Severance Pay, LES's, IRS Form W-2.		
Travel Claims	1-866-772-8724 Overseas (785) 339-2200	http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/tvl.htm Send Final Travel Claim to: Commanding Officer (TVL) Coast Guard Personnel Service Center 444 SE Quincy St. Topeka, KS 66683-3591
Service Records	(314) 801-0800	http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs Write to: National Personnel Records Center 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
For copies of DD214's, personnel records, medical & dental records, and service medals - requests must be in writing and include complete name, rank, SSN, dates of service and date of birth.		
Social Security	1-800-772-1213	http://www.ssa.gov/
WWII US Merchant Marine Awards and Decorations	1-800-996-2723 Overseas: 202-366-2646	http://www.marad.dot.gov/contact_us.html Attn: Patricia Thomas, Medals and Decorations Maritime Administration U.S. Department of Transportation 400 7th Street, SW, Room 7304 Washington, D.C. 20590

NOTE: For those requesting by mail, booklets are being printed at this time. After submitting your request please be patient and they will be mailed as soon as available. The booklet was extensively updated in January 2004, mainly to reflect correct phone numbers and to add Web Links. Most information in previous editions is correct and the Online version is updated as well.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, WILL YOUR SURVIVOR KNOW?

- How to file a death report**
- How to claim final retired pay due**
- How to get the elected survivor annuity started**
- How to claim other federal benefits that may be due such as:**
 - ❖ Department of Veterans Affairs Entitlements
 - ❖ Dependency Indemnity Compensation
 - ❖ Social Security
 - ❖ ID Cards
 - ❖ Burial Flags

After a retiree dies the survivor is faced with applying for many benefits, with little knowledge of the often very confusing processes. All this happens while they are trying to deal with overwhelming grief. To help answer the many questions during that stressful time we have simplified our *Survivor Information Booklet*. By taking the time now to review this booklet, gather the supporting documents that are required and filing them in a location from which they can be readily retrieved, you can help to ease the stress that is experienced during this time. To further assist your survivors, we have initiated an Express Annuity Start system to simplify the processing and expedite payment of benefits. To take advantage of this new system, fill out the Form PSC-1884, (found in booklet or on our website at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/forms/psc1884.pdf>) sign, date and return to us.

The booklet "**Information for Survivors of USCG, USCGR, and NOAA Retirees**" is available on our web site: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/survivorguide.pdf>.

.....
 You may order by providing the below information to us either by mail, fax, or e-mail, please provide all information.

Name and Grade: (for Officers) or Name and Rate: (for Enlisted)	
SSN: (last 2 digits only, if ordering by e-mail)	
Street Address or P.O Box #:	
Apt or Unit #	
City	
State/Country	
Zip/Postal Code	

Mail to: COMMANDING OFFICER (RAS)
 USCG PSC, ATTN: SURVIVOR PKT
 444 SE QUINCY
 TOPEKA KS 66683-3591

Fax to: 785-339-3770

E-Mail: psc-ras@hrsic.uscg.mil (Be sure to include all the information requested above with the exception of the full SSN. Only send the last two digits of your SSN when corresponding with us by electronic mail)

US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
COMMANDING OFFICER (RAS)
COAST GUARD PERSONNEL SERVICE CENTER
444 SE QUINCY ST
TOPEKA KS 66683-3591

BULK RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U. S. COAST GUARD
PERMIT NO. G-157

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Retiree & Annuitant Services

We're on the web!
www.uscg.mil/hq/psc

Ships's Bell Found in Mexico

To the editor of Evening Colors.

On a recent trip to Isla Cozumel, Mexico, I discovered this bell on display in front of a public building along with other Naval artifacts. The bell had no ship's name and is engraved "USCG" and "1941"

Perhaps some of your readers can reveal some reason or circumstance that would cause the bell to be on display so far from home and tell us something of its history.

Isla Cozumel is an Island lying off the south east coast of the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula. The western end of Cuba is across the Yucatan Channel to the East.

Respectfully submitted.

Alvin Sumner, CDR, USCG retired. (aviator #1141)

