

Captain Nash , MCPO-CGRF Jeff Smith, D1 CMC Jack Downey, retired BMCM Mark McKenney, BMCS Considine, past and present Station Chatham crewmates, family and friends.

It's a great honor to be here among so many extraordinary people.

I first heard about the Chatham Reunion from Jeff Smith who told me about an event on 'the Cape'. His rationale was that we were already **on** 'the Cape' and that it would only be a short drive. The only problem is that 'the Cape' we were on yesterday.... was Cape May!! So aside from the 12 hr drive through Friday afternoon traffic, it's great to be here.

Today, I would like to talk about the legacy...past, present and future of the Coast Guard heroes of Chatham.

Some of you may know that I spent a couple of years up on a patrol boat operating out of Woods Hole...so I know what kind of water is out there – once you get across the bar – it's cold, dark and deep. And the rescues that take place in these waters are generally of such magnitude that people around *here* still talk about them: there's the SECOND NATURE, the HONEYDEW III, the No Name gale of 1991 and the Blizzard of '78 just to name a few.

But the one rescue that the whole world talked about was the dramatic rescue of the crew of the tanker PENDLETON by the CG 36500 on the night of February 18, 1952.

For those of you who don't know or don't remember, the PENDLETON was a 12 year old tank ship with a crew of 40, trying to ride out a Nor'easter when she broke in two in mountainous seas. The bow immediately lost power and the captain and 7 crewmen were lost. The stern section, which housed the machinery and lighting, somehow unbelievably kept running and, for the time being, kept alive the hopes of the 33 surviving crewmembers. Their fate was in the hands of God and a Station Chatham cox'n named BM1 Bernie Webber and his crew of the CG36500.

It has been almost 55 years since BM1 Bernie Webber took his crew of three, a 36 foot motorized wooden lifeboat, and ventured out over the Chatham bar, into 60-foot seas and a 70-knot wind to rescue the crewmen from the stern of the PENDLETON.

But that rescue's legacy and the spirit of Chatham live on in the hearts and minds of Coast Guard personnel around the world.

My Coast Guard classmate at the Sergeant Major's Academy was BMCM William Paschal. His Company Commander in boot camp told *him* the story 30 years ago the account of Bernie Webber, the CG36500, the heroic rescue of 32 and the tragic death of one. That story influenced and inspired him to complete a career of service to our country in the U.S. Coast Guard.

There's a picture of BM1 Bernie Webber that was taken at the fish pier - away from the crowds - after the last of the survivors had been escorted off the 36500. He's leaning on the coxn flat with a dazed look on his face as if he is only *starting* to realize exactly what he'd just been through. He look's absolutely physically and emotionally exhausted.

I've thought a lot about that picture over the years and what it says about people who would venture out in such extreme conditions to save the lives of strangers.

Bernie Webber was not the first, and most certainly won't be the last Coast Guardsman at Station Chatham to perform a perilous rescue under exceedingly dangerous and demanding conditions. It's what we train our people to do. The Coast Guard does

extraordinary things every day and I know that the crews of Station Chatham will continue to so.

Today's recruits at boot camp still hear the story of Station Chatham, the 36500 and Tiny.

Chatham's legacy lives on.

Thank you and Semper Paratus.