

Shipmates,

It's a pleasure to be in Yorktown with you today.

And, it's truly an honor and a privilege to be here with you today and
preside over the Silver Ancient Mariner Change of Watch.

We are doubly honored to have some of the Ancients with us today
including – Several former Ancient Mariners, Silver Ancient Mariners,
Ancient Albatrosses and Ancient Keepers...

As the Gold Ancient Mariner, I wish to extend a special greeting to all
Sailors, salts, sea lawyers, swabs, square-knot admirals, gun deckers – and
even the landlubbers who are with us today – we are honored by your
presence!

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

We were born as a sea going service. It is who we ARE – it is both OUR future as well as our past. Today, we take time to celebrate the shipmates known as ancients who Guard our sea-going traditions.

For people who serve on or over the water, the term “Shipmate” represents the unique bond that is formed when the people you serve with, and their families, become part of your extended family. How else would you describe persons you spend 24 hours a day with, 7 days a week, sometimes in the most treacherous of circumstances, and other times observing the grandest spectacles of nature that few will ever see.

The term “Shipmate” also encompasses the adrenaline and emotion of our Service: the great joy and satisfaction of a rescue well performed; the deep sorrow when, despite your best efforts, you cannot save someone from the perils of the sea. It’s weathering these storms and difficulties—giving it

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

your utmost while cold, wet and tired that forges the bond that is called Shipmates.

There is no greater compliment than being known as a great shipmate, and no better goal than to become a good one.

Today, we are in the presence of two of our greatest shipmates, Master Chief Vobornik and Master Chief Hearn, and their families.

I **know**, from my years at sea, that my wife Linda had the much more demanding job of carrying for our family, *and every other matter*, while I was away at sea.

So to the Vobornik Family – Richard’s mother “Ceal”, his sons Stephan and Derek (who is a SGT in the Army), his sister Laurie and daughter-in-law

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

Robin, representing brother Mark—who is currently a merchant mariner serving at sea.....and other members of the Vorbornik family – thank you for supporting Richard’s service...

And to the Hearn Family, Steve’s wife Dina, Daughter Stephanie, Son Brandon, Brothers John and David – and, we are truly to honored to have with us Steve’s father **Captain John Hearn, USCG (ret.)** – who was the **4th Gold Ancient Mariner**...thank you all for being with us today ... thank you for supporting Steve’s service...Captain, thank you for encouraging Steve to serve!

I also want to recognize all the students in the audience today, including the trainees in “A” school, the training center staff – and our international students, International Maritime Officers Course (IMOC) – thank you for your presence today.

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

For you students, I want YOU to know that the discipline and regimentation of the seagoing experience is a great foundation for both service at sea or any other assignment you might be called on to perform...

I can tell you that going to sea has always been rigorous and demands great sacrifice – however the benefits of sea service are among the greatest experiences our service has to offer. Sea service is rewarding, challenging and gratifying. Sea service also builds character, empathy and understanding – it builds leaders – and enduring friendships!

Time-honored Naval Customs and Traditions like this provide a link to the past.

They bond Coast Guardsmen who have gone before with Coast Guardsmen who will carry our traditions into the future...

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

The Ancient Mariner is one of our most cherished traditions – observing this tradition **preserves our identity** – it is a **sign of respect** to experience, seamanship and seniority – and it ***celebrates our heritage as a unique seagoing service.***

The Silver Ancient Mariner is particularly noteworthy – Enlisted sailors constitute the majority of our workforce – over 80% in fact – they are the **heart of our crews** – **our key driving force** — **our main sail.**

The passing of the Silver Ancient Mariner Keeper's Cap symbolizes the passing of **wisdom**, **knowledge** and **experience** – as well as **trust** and **confidence** in those who will continue to carry on our seafaring ways...

Today, Master Chief Vobornik passes along the knowledge gained during 14 years on the sea – or before the mast!

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

Master Chief Hearn brings to bear over 20 years of sea time aboard seven Cutters – and is currently in Command of Cutter *Kankakee*, homeported in Memphis, Tenn.

One of the hallmarks of our Service is that the sea is in our veins.

It has been for over 220 years.

We were born as the U.S. Revenue-Marine.

Our mission was to safeguard our young Nation's shores.

From these humble beginnings, we have vigilantly, bravely and continuously stood the watch...

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

We protect those on the sea,
Protect against threats from the sea, and
Protect the sea itself.

We take great pride in being our Nation's oldest continuous seagoing
Service.

Man has always been drawn to the water's edge – but as mariners we are
drawn beyond.

We have a love for the sea. It's a strange attraction – a lure.

Our complex relationship with the sea has been the subject of the great
interest throughout the ages...

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

In the *Bible*, *Pslam 107* says “those who go down to the sea in ships, and do business in its great waters, see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep...

In the *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, tells a tale of the perils sea that can befall the unfortunate mariner, stuck in the doldrums, under a hot and copper sky, as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean, with Water, Water, Everywhere, but not a drop to drink...

In the opening Chapter of *Moby Dick*, Ishmael speaks of the irresistible force that draws man to the sea. “Wherever the ocean meets the shore”, says Herman Melville’s narrator, “man will be found keeping a vigil, watching the sea.”

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

President Kennedy spoke of this deep attraction to the sea in a speech he delivered at the America Cup races in Newport, Rhode Island in September 1962:

“I really don't know why it is that all of us are so committed to the sea, except I think it's because in addition to the fact that the sea changes, and the light changes, and ships change, it's because we all came from the sea. And it is an interesting biological fact that all of us have, in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea – whether it is to sail or to watch it – we are going back from whence we came.”

As mariners, you have been drawn by the call of the sea – you have gone down to the sea in ships, and bravely performed your duty.

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

But, as you, Master Chief Hearn take the helm as the Silver Ancient Mariner, you now have a NEW duty – an obligation of utmost importance.

You are charged with keeping a close watch to ensure that our sea-service traditions are continued ...

Your sea service will be a beacon of example for Coast Guard men and women to follow...

In the past, you may have performed your sea duty by following the well known rule “One hand for yourself, and one hand for the ship”

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

Now, as the Ancient mariner, you still may keep one hand to steady yourself, but your other hand is for *reaching out to shipmates*...to teach them about the wonders of the sea...and point them on a path to service at sea...

Guard this tradition well, as it is THE soul of our Service – the Sea has provided both challenges and rewards for our sailors, our Service, and our Nation for over 220 years...YOU must stand a taut watch to ensure this tradition continues...

Today, Master Chief Vobornik will rest his oars, pass his Keeper's Cap, and lay ashore – but he will always be a Coast Guardsman, a great shipmate, and forever part of our ancient order...Thank you for your inspirational service – you have stood the watch with **DISTINCTION** – as YOU stood *every* watch throughout your long and honorable career – YOU have kept our sea-

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

going traditions intact – YOU can take pride in duties well performed, and comfort in a job well done...

As Master Chief Hearn dons the Mantle of Silver Ancient Mariner, and affixes the Keeper's Cap, he joins an elite group of extraordinary Coast Guardsmen – the Ancients – made up of the Gold Ancient Mariner, the Silver Ancient Mariner, the Ancient Albatross, the Enlisted Ancient Albatross and the Ancient Keeper –

Together, the Ancients are the keepers and custodians of our rich maritime heritage...

So it's fitting that this honor is bestowed by placing upon you a Keeper's Cap – I couldn't think of more appropriate symbol for someone whose duty

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

is to keep the *torch of tradition burning* – and path to sea service well lit so that others might follow...

Today, we are truly honored to have Captain John Hearn, USCG (ret.), **the Fourth Gold** Ancient Mariner present....to welcome his son, Master Chief Hearn into the Order of Ancients...

Indeed, it's a proud day for all who are gathered here, and our Service...

Captain Hearn assumed the watch as Ancient Mariner on June 28, 1985 – at that time, he made an entry in the Log of the Ancient Mariner:

Quote...Times and missions are changing, *but the tradition remains.*

Honoring the men and women who put their lives on the line going to sea is a distinct pleasure...Unquote

Silver Ancient Mariner Remarks. Training Center Yorktown, VA. Aug. 26, 2010

The fourth Ancient Mariner's words ring as true today as they did then...the tradition remains...it will now be Master Chief Hearn's duty to keep her

so...

I am proud to share this sacred duty with him...

Semper Paratus....