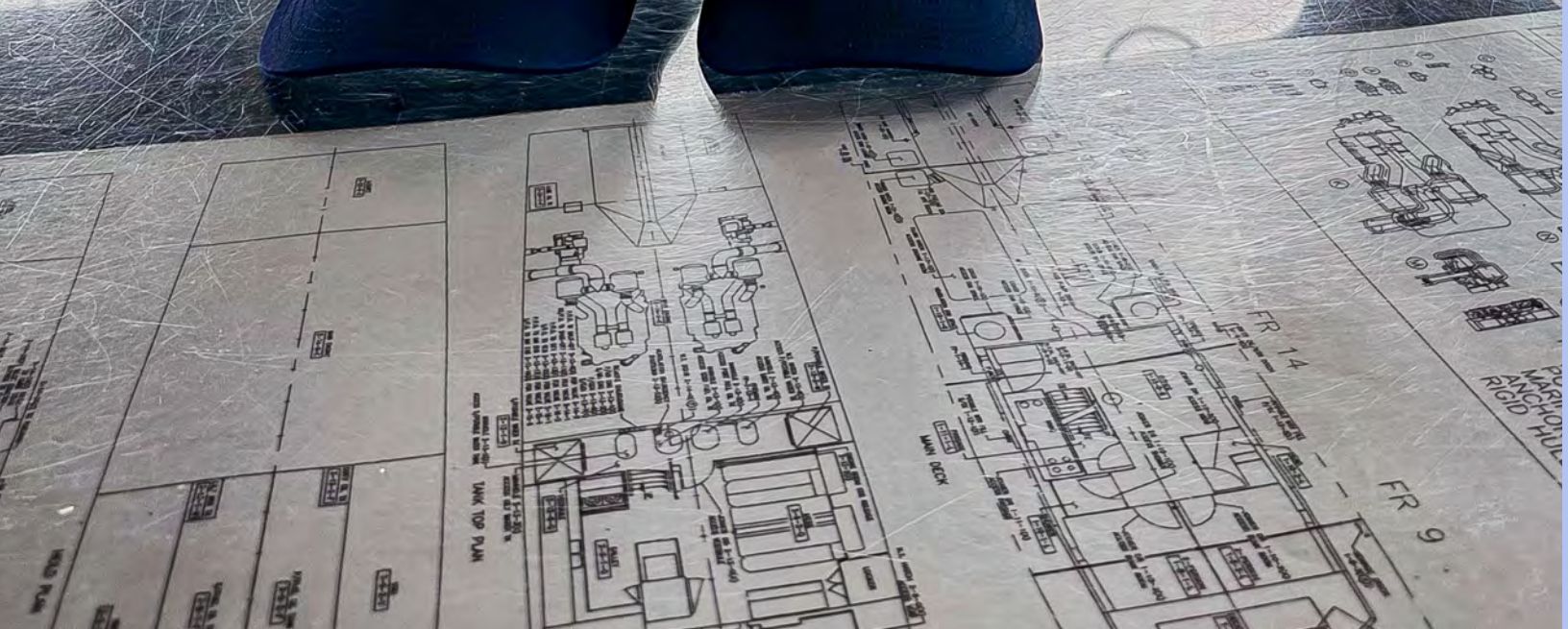




# topside



Inside this issue:

<i>Table of Contents</i>	2
<i>5NR Leadership</i>	2
<i>Messages from EXCOM and DIRAUX</i>	3-7
<i>Help Needed</i>	8-9
<i>Information from Around the District</i>	10-27
<i>History of the District</i>	28-32
<i>5NR Obscura</i>	33-34
<i>Photographs</i>	35-40
<i>Message from the Editor</i>	41
<i>Contact Information</i>	41
<i>Parting Shot</i>	42

**Confidentiality Notice Privacy Act of 1974**

The disclosure of personal information contained in this publication is subject to the provisions contained in the Privacy Act of 1974. The subject Act with certain exceptions prohibits the disclosure, distribution, dissemination or copying of any material containing home addresses, home telephone numbers, spouses' names, and social security numbers, except for official business. Violation may result in disciplinary action by the Coast Guard and/or civilian criminal sanction.

*Leadership of 5NR*

- Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)**  
CDR Laura M. Moose
- Operations Training Officer (OTO)**  
CWO4 Mickey T. Price
- District Commodore (DCO)**  
Kurt P. Sarac, Sr
- District Chief Of Staff (DCOS)**  
Noreen Schifini
- District Captain Central (DCAPT-C)**  
Joseph R. Matthews
- District Captain East (DCAPT-E)**  
Thomas H. Brouillard
- District Captain West (DCAPT-W)**  
Michael B. McElwee
- Immediate Past Commodore**  
COMO Joseph J. Giannattasio
- President Past Commanders Association** Alfred O. Grimminger
- Division \ Division Commander**
- 053-04** Andrew C. Crowley
- 053-07** Lawrence J. Nolan
- 053-08** Lorraine Bianco
- 053-12** Roy L. Zimmerman
- 053-15** Kimberly A. Weber
- 053-16** Anna M. Ackaway
- 053-17** Kenneth J. Sylvester
- 053-18** Robert M. Dimarco
- 053-19** Daniel J. Benny
- 053-20** William R. Turner
- 053-21** Walter Conway

- D-AD** Jason C. Flynn
- D-AD** J. Douglas Willwerth
- DSO-C** Jason C. Flynn
- DSO-C** COMO Ken Brown, Janet Brown
- DSO-DV** Elizabeth A. Pittinger
- DSO-FN** Mark F. Letavish
- DSO-LP** Francis P. Bigley
- DSO-SL** Harry W. Otto
- DFSO** Thomas Callahan III
- DDC-Logistics** Robert G. Vanderhook
- DSO-CS** Douglas R. Hoffman Sr.
- DSO-CA** Andrew C. Crowley
- DSO-HR** Ruth A. Bearce
- DSO-IS** Harry F. Dyer
- DSO-MA** Jeffery L. Wilt
- DSO-PB** Timothy P Marks
- DSO-SR** J. Douglas Willwerth
- DDC-Prevention** Alfred O. Grimminger
- DSO-AS** James Robert White
- DSO-MS** Gregg R. Bollinger
- DSO-MT** Terry F. Bearce
- DSO-NS** Lorraine Bianco
- DSO-PA** COMO K.C. Murphy
- DSO-PE** Pamela L. Thompson
- DSO-PV** Russell M. Galson
- DSO-VE** Edwin W. Seda
- DDC-Response** Vacant
- DSO-EM** Diego Herrera
- DSO-CM** Richard B. Taylor II
- DSO-AV** Carl S. Longenecker
- DSO-OP** Donald W. Merrill

**Front Cover:**

CAPE MAY, NJ - The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is a force multiplier for the U.S. Coast Guard. Members devote their time, skills, and expertise in many different missions with the goal of protecting & preserving our Nation's maritime interests.

*U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3 aboard the USCGC Heron at U.S.C.G. Station Cape May.*

## *From the Desks of the Commodore and Commander*

Commodore Sarac and Commander Moose were unable to provide a message for this edition of Topside due to their involvement in the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse.

**Baltimore, MD** - DCO Kurt Sarac (left) was presented with citations from the Governor of Maryland, Wes Moore, (right) and the Mayor of Baltimore for his work in the aftermath of the Ley Bride collapse. DCO Sarac has been serving as a government liaison between stakeholders.

DCO Sarac said he was proud to accept the citations on behalf of all of the shipmates that he has worked with and commended everyone for their hard work.

Congratulations and well deserved DCO Sarac!

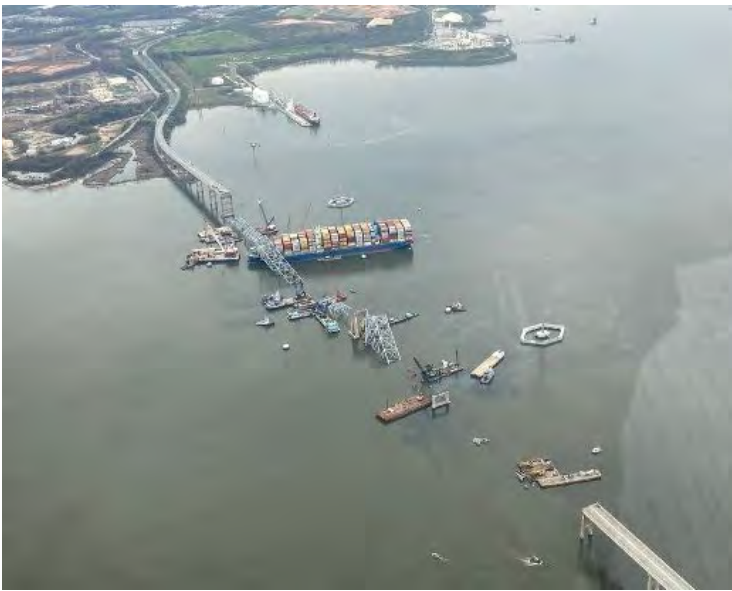
*Photograph courtesy of the Governor of Maryland office*



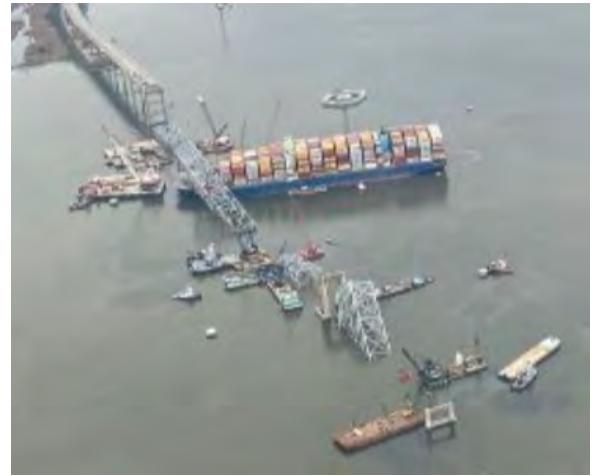
**Commodore Kurt P. Sarac Sr.  
District Commodore  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region**



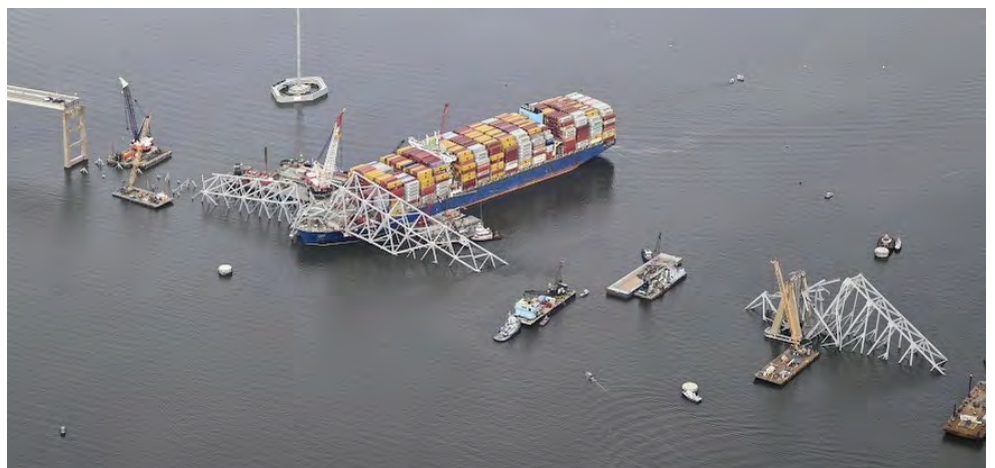
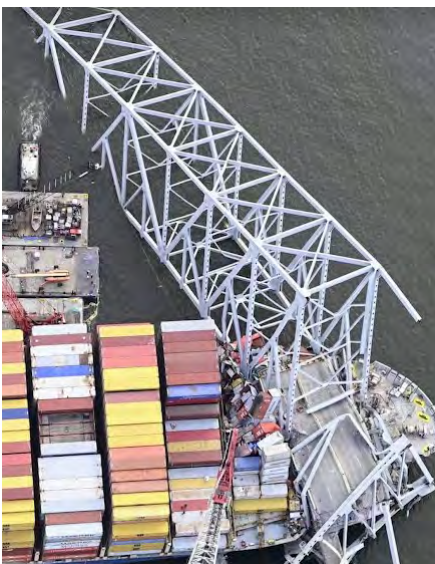
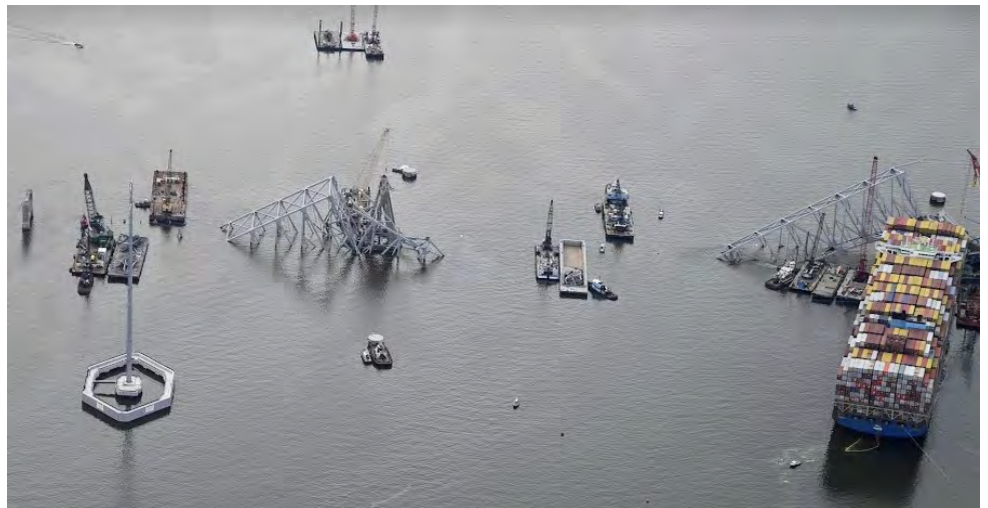
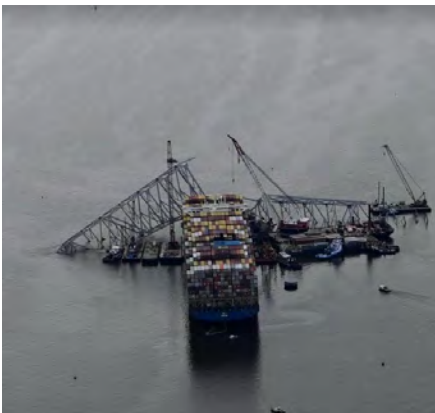
# *From the Desks of the Commodore and Commander* *Continued*



Auxiliary Air photos taken of the Key Bridge on 10APR2024 by Air Crew member Steve Longenecker, DSO-AV, District 5NR.



Photos taken by Ron Kripas (5SR) onboard an AUXair flight on 17APR2024.



## *Michael B. McElwee, DCAPT-W*

Greetings Shipmates!

We just recently completed our Spring Dtrain event in Delaware. This event had required workshops, Flotilla Leadership courses and other beneficial training sessions. The most important part of the weekend was the great fellowship shared with our shipmates from the Auxiliary and active-duty side. During the Commodore’s Banquet many of our amazing shipmates were recognized for all their dedication to our District and Team Coast Guard. Congratulations to all award recipients.

As we approach our boating season, participating in vessel examinations, conducting PE classes, performing surface patrols, and other important Auxiliary missions please remember you should always conduct yourself in a professional manner. Please wear the uniform correctly and proud. When conducting missions, please take a moment to weigh the risks involved. Do what you can to mitigate the risk. Please do not assume any unnecessary risk.

RBS continues to be job one for the Auxiliary, but there continues to be a great need for our members to support the active duty. There are so many opportunities available for members to work side by side with active duty, including augmenting operational units and providing administrative support. Your continued dedication has resulted in strengthening our standing as part of Team Coast Guard.

I continue to be honored to serve as your District Captain-West. Thank you for being Semper Paratus

Very Respectfully,  
Michael McElwee  
District Captain-Western Area  
Fifth Northern District  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



**Michael B. McElwee**  
**District Captain—West**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**



## *Joseph R Mathews , DCAPT-C*

I would like to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me. My name is Joe Mathews, I enrolled in the Auxiliary in February of 2012. I'm a member of Flotilla 17-02 and served as Division 17 DCDR from January 2017 to December 2018 and January 2020 to December 2020. I held certification as Boat Crew, VE, PV, and IT, but due to an illness in the family I had to put my auxiliary activities on hold by the end of 2020. In mid-2022 I was able to restart my active participation and start recertification to get out REYER on certifications that lapsed. I attended the Fall D-Train in 2022, was appointed Division 17 SO-FN in January 2023 and elected as DCAPT-C in September 2023. I retired in July of 2016 from Sprinkler Fitters Local 692, Philadelphia, where I held the positions of Financial Secretary/Treasurer and Director of Apprenticeship and Journeymen Training. Upon retiring from Local 692 I was appointed to the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters International Apprentice Contest Committee by our General President, where we plan and organize the UA's annual Apprentice Contest for Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinkler Fitters, HVAC Techs, and Welders, from the US, Canada, and Australia. I won't bore you further with my professional career.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as D5NR-District Captain Central and promise to perform my duties to the best of my ability. I have met the Division Commanders from the Central Area and some of the Flotilla

Commanders in person and plan to meet the rest soon. I'm a proponent for recruiting new members but we must do a better job on how we recruit. We need to recruit more women and people of color, if you look at the ratio of males to females and Caucasian to people of color, the auxiliary is way out of kilter, and it needs to correct its course to become more all-inclusive. I would like to challenge every auxiliary member of the Central Area to actively join a recruitment drive for your flotilla, to educate the public on who we are and what we do, to tell prospective recruits about all the programs offered, and to guide new members in the right direction to acquire what they need to be successful in the program they chose to pursue.

I look forward to this boating season, Divisions 04,12, and 17 are gearing up for patrols in their AOR, Vessel Safety Checks, Program Visits, Public Education Classes, and National Safe Boating Week, where Public Affairs will introduce the public to the Auxiliary and try to recruit new members. The Division members in the Central Area are also active as Culinary Assistants, Quarter Deck Watch Standers, Container Inspectors, Commercial Fishing Boat Inspectors, Marine Safety, Auxiliary Sea Scouts program, Aids Verifier, and Chaplin Services. I apologize if I missed anything our members do and participate in.

One last thing before I end, I love to hear new ideas on how improvements could be made in recruiting new members, retaining the members we have and educating our members on what they need to pursue a program of interest and certifications they need. I'm approachable if we meet in person to talk about what I mentioned above, but if you want to discuss other issues or problems, please use the Chain of Leadership and Management.

Respectfully

Joe Mathews D5NR DCAPT-C



**Joseph R Mathews**  
**District Captain—Central**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**

## *Tom Don, IPDCAPT-E*

Shipmates,

This will be my final message as your District Captain East Fifth Northern Region. I can truly state that it has been a tremendous Honor and Privilege to serve You as DACPT E 5NR! The last two years have gone by very quickly and I have had the privilege to work with some amazing members who inspired and motivated me to perform my duties to the best of my ability! When I was elected to the position of District Captain East fifth Northern Region, I pledged to make the District East better than when I first took the oath of office two years ago. There have been many challenges that I encountered immediately after taking office. I found that those challenges became opportunities for improvement over the course of the next two years. I have many Auxiliary members to acknowledge and Thank for their help during my term as DCAPT. I will start with our excellent Leader Commodore Kurt Sarac, my boss who was always readily available to answer questions and provide advice when needed. Our District Chief of Staff Noreen Schifini, who was very helpful to me, has performed her office with great skill and has shown Great leadership! My successor to the position of DCAPT E 5NR Thomas Brouillard. Tom has the extensive military and CG Auxiliary background to make an outstanding District Captain East Fifth Northern Region. I feel very confident that Tom will make an outstanding DCAPT E and make many important contributions to the Auxiliary in the years ahead! I would in addition like to personally Thank our Division Commanders and Vice Commanders for their outstanding Leadership and many contributions to our program. They are as follows: Division 07 DCDR Thomas Brouillard VDCDR Larry Nolan, Division 08 DCDR Lorraine Bianco VDCDR Marty Sannino, Division 16 DCDR Bill Iwanak VDCDR Jim McMahon, Division 18 DCDR Armand D'Auria VDCDR Harley Kasha.



**Tom Don**  
**Immediate Past**  
**District Captain—East**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**

This year marked my 26th year as a member of the CG Auxiliary. I consider serving in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary a Great Honor and Privilege. I always try to lead by example embracing the Core Values in which I took the solemn oath to live by Honor Respect and Devotion to Duty! In closing I would like to personally Thank all of my shipmates who continue to contribute to our Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary! Our services are needed more now by the Coast Guard than ever before in our history! One Mission One Coast Guard!! I wish you and your families fair winds and following seas in the days ahead. Thank You!

Respectfully,  
 Tom Don  
 IPDACPT E 5NR

# 5NR Help Needed



## 5NR Job Board

To get to the 5NR job board (as CDR Morgan discussed in his message):

- First, get on the 5NR website: <https://5nr.org>
- Next, hover over “Job Board” on the top right (see below):
- Then, in the dropdown, click on “AUX Help Wanted - For AUX Member”

The image shows a screenshot of the 5NR website. At the top left, the text reads "USCG AUXILIARY FIFTH DISTRICT - NORTH (D5NR)". The navigation menu includes "Home", "Who We Are", "Member Links", "Announcements", and "Job Board". A red arrow points from the "Job Board" link to a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu contains two items: "Auxiliarists Help Wanted" and "5NR Aux Support Request - For CG Unit Use". The background of the page features a collage of images related to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, including a sign that says "COAST GUARD", a boat on the water, a group of people in blue uniforms, and a group of people in orange life jackets. A large red arrow also points from the top right towards the "Job Board" link.

# Information from Around the District



## *Auxiliary Spotlight*

### **Auxiliarist Edna Winans**

February 23, 1939 – May 18, 2024

Edna enrolled in the USCG Auxiliary on September 24, 2002, and was assigned to Flotilla 053-07-04, Manahawkin, NJ. She was a very active and dedicated Auxiliarist over her 22 years of service. Edna was elected Vice Commander Division 053-07, Southern Ocean County in 2017, Flotilla Commander 053-07-04 four times and VFC numerous times. She also was appointed District Staff Officer HR in 2013 and DSO PB from 2006 – 2008, ADSO HR 2012, and ADSO PB for three years. Edna held Staff Officer positions in CS, HR, PB and Flotilla Staff Officer positions in HR, PA, PB, PE, and SR. She was certified in VE and PV, earned the Auxiliary RBS Insignia, and awarded the Auxiliary Achievement Award, 11 Sustained Service Awards, and Presidential Unit Citation. At the time of her passing, Edna held the active offices of FSO-CS, HR, SR and PB. Edna Winans was a special USCG Auxiliarist.



Edna owned her own construction company and was a Senior Project Control Specialist at RCA/Lockheed Martin, where she worked for most of her career. Edna was well known in her community and was never afraid to act when she saw a cause in need. A Sunday school teacher who was devoted to her church, she also made the time to sing in four choir groups. In February 2024, Edna was awarded a Proclamation by the mayor of Stafford Township for all of her contributions to the community.

#### **Elected Offices:**

VCDR 2017  
FC 2012-2013, 2015, 2020  
VFC 2001-2011

#### **Appointed Offices:**

DSO-HR 2013,	FSO-PB 2004-2008, 2011-2024
ADSO-HR 2012	SO-HR 2018
DSO-PB 2006-2008,	FSO-HR 2016-2022, 2024
ADSO-PB 2004-2005, 2009	FSO-PA 2005-2006, 2009-2011
SO-CS 2004-2006	FSO-PE 2018-2019, 2022
FSO-CS 2024	FSO-SR 2018-2022, 2024
SO-PB 2004-2011	

#### **Certifications**

VE 2005-2010  
PV 2005-2009

#### **Awards**

Auxiliary RBS Insignia 2009  
Eleven Sustained Service Awards  
Presidential Unit Citation 2006  
Auxiliary Achievement Award 2008

## Auxiliary Spotlight

### Auxiliarist Ellen Voorhees

September 24, 1933 - May 8, 2024

Ellen was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for 25 years. During her time, she served in many roles, including as FSO-PB for her Flotilla's newsletter and as ADSO-PB for Topside until her retirement from the Auxiliary in 2023. Along with those offices, Ellen served on the U.S. Coast Guard's Atlantic Strike Team (AST).

Voorhees joined AST as an Auxiliary Incident Response Center Watchstander in August 2001 and became certified in December 2001. In October 2006, she was asked to serve as the Auxiliary Unit Liaison Officer for the AST.

As Watchstander, she relieved the Command Duty Officer (CDO) and, under the direction of the CDO, acted as a control point, registered, granted or denied access to unit visitors, maintained the IRC phone watch, intercepted and transmitted phone calls and messages, monitored status boards and T-card racks, maintained and updated the Unit's daily log, received visitors and arrange for their escort to appropriate Unit site destinations, responded to external requests, and performed other tasks as requested.

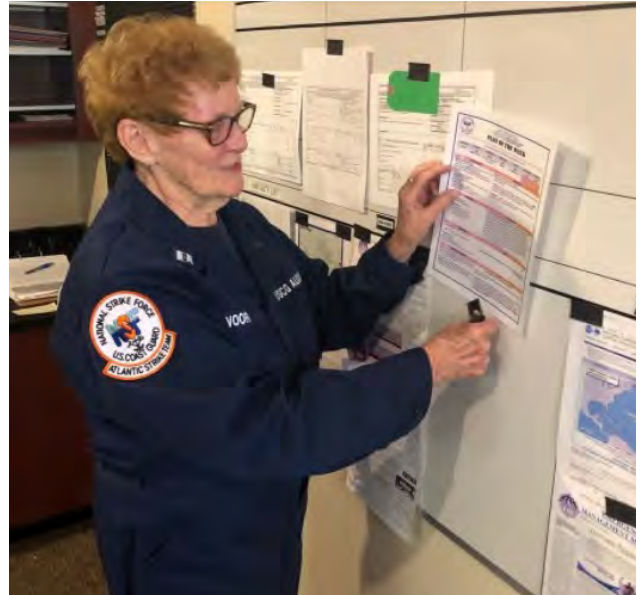
"Ellen Voorhees is an essential member of the AST, responsible for managing the unit's daily routine, tracking personnel and resources, and greeting visitors," said District Commodore Joseph Giannattasio. "For two decades Ellen has volunteered over 3,000 hours assisting the AST in case documentation and personnel launch of cases."

"AUX Voorhees is an AUXSOME Auxiliarist and a valued member of our team. Her kindness and mentoring of others continues to enhance our organization," said CDR Victoria L. Taylor-Davies, Director of Auxiliary Fifth District - Northern Region. "Her dedication to her shipmates is astounding. In addition, AUX Voorhees continues to produce Flotilla 79's newsletter, Guardian of the Bay."

*(Excerpts from an article written by Christopher Orlando in the Winter 2022 edition of Topside.*

*Please find the article on the Topside Archives on the 5NR website.)*

<https://5nr.org/topside-archives/>.



Ellen Voorhees at AST Command.

*Photograph by COMO Joe Giannattasio*

## *Marine Safety Article*

### **Proper Disposal of Rechargeable Batteries**

It goes without saying that batteries are an integral part of daily life. We find them powering machines and devices as diverse as cars, lawnmowers, power tools, toys, toothbrushes and even ships and airplanes. Recently, a 12-year-old Australian girl qualified for her pilot's license on a battery-powered airplane.

Closer to home and everyday use, with batteries being so ubiquitous, we use them and eventually use them up--they don't last forever. The question remains then, "how do you dispose of them properly keeping the environment from being endangered?" It must first be stated that rechargeable batteries contain hazardous-to-the-environment metals such as lithium and nickel. If the rechargeable battery becomes damaged, a chemical reaction may ensue causing a spark or explosion. If a damaged rechargeable or alkaline battery for that matter, finds its way into a stream, river, lake or ocean, harm to aquatic and/or human life may result. During the waste-management process, equipment and machinery striking the battery may result in fires being ignited posing risk to waste-management workers. The aforementioned situation may also occur on garbage trucks as well. Fires from this source are documented as being on the rise.

To do your part as a good steward of the environment, do not keep "end-of-life" or non-functioning rechargeable batteries or place them in the trash or recycling receptacles. Instead, take the batteries to a drop-off facility specifically designed to handle both rechargeable and alkaline batteries. If you don't know the location of a facility near you, go to <http://www.safebatterydisposal.com> to find the location.

If we all act responsibly with regard to battery disposal, people will be safer and the environment a little cleaner.

Semper Paratus,

Gregg Bollinger, BC-PWS, DSO-MS, D 5 NR



***Gregg Bollinger***  
***DSO***  
***Marine Safety***

## *Communications Article*

### **Push to Talk Communications Application**

The National Telecommunications Division is pleased to offer Push-to-Talk service to Auxiliarists, providing worldwide coverage in a familiar push-to-talk format on your cellular phone. Switching seamlessly between Wi-Fi and cellular coverage, AUXPTT is an encrypted system, available only to Coast Guard Auxiliarists. You'll have access to channels restricted for your District, and other channels to talk to members of other Districts. Your fellow AUXPTT users will be only a button press away. Gone will be the need to make repeat phone calls to send a message to your team — get them all onto AUXPTT and you'll reach them all with a press of a button!

Currently, the Fifth District Northern Region has two active stations. However, any Auxiliarist with or without the TCO qualification is legible to use it. There is a weekly drill on Sunday Nights 1900 hrs Eastern time that is called by District and every District is called across the country.

AUXPTT is not just for our COMMS personnel, but an easy and convenient tool for all Auxiliarists. Whether you use it to stay in touch with your flotilla members, coordinate field activities such as vessel inspections, conduct surface patrols, or communicate at civic events and contingency operations, you'll find it the perfect partner.

Plus, AUXPTT provides you with real-time mapping, showing your location and the locations of all other AUXPTT users right on your smartphone. National TeleCOMM has specially trained administrators on the system to provide you with help if you need it. Those ADMINS can reconfigure the system in an emergency, providing additional channels, or merging channels with other Districts.

Using AUXPTT is easy. Just push the PTT on the channel you want to talk on, mention the name of who you're calling, then your name, and announce the channel you're using — just like on a two-way radio. That's our only etiquette. We like keeping it simple, so you don't need "over" or "out" or call signs.



**Rick Taylor**  
**District Staff Officer -**  
**Communications**

*Continued on the next page...*

## *Communications Article, continued*

Plus, AUXPTT provides you with real-time mapping, showing your location and the locations of all other AUXPTT users right on your smartphone. National TeleCOMM has specially trained administrators on the system to provide you with help if you need it. Those ADMINS can reconfigure the system in an emergency, providing additional channels, or merging channels with other Districts.

### Frequently Asked Questions about AUXPTT

- Can I use AUXPTT while underway? Yes. National staff views AUXPTT as an enhancement to our two-way radios and both should be used as tools. Of course, the operator of a radio or AUXPTT must be careful to always maintain situational awareness.
- How much does AUXPTT service cost? The monthly service charge is \$4.57 per month (per device).
- Do I need special equipment? No, AUXPTT works on your existing smartphone, regardless of your cellular carrier.
- Do I need special training? No, AUXPTT is intuitive, plus National provides you with a custom written instruction manual and personal training, if needed.
- Who can I talk to? AUXPTT allows you to talk to any other Auxiliarist who has AUXPTT, anywhere in the world.
- Is AUXPTT secure? Yes, AUXPTT is encrypted, end-to-end. Also, only Coast Guard Auxiliarists are allowed AUXPTT service.
- What happens if I get a phone call while I'm using AUXPTT? AUXPTT is polite and will automatically stop when you get a call. Your phone will work just like it does normally. AUXPTT will resume after your call is over.
- I use hearing aids; will that be a problem? If your cell phone has Bluetooth, you'll hear AUXPTT through your hearing aids, and through your car radio's Bluetooth as well.
- Can I use AUXPTT on my computer. Yes, AUXPTT will work on your smartphone and tablet computer. There is also a special version of AUXPTT that will work on a computer. SPECIAL NOTE, each device that has AUXPTT installed and setup for use is charged a monthly usage fee. If you have it installed and setup on two phones, you will be charged two usage fees. The fees are not based on user, but on each device.

Feel free to contact me for more information.

Rick Taylor

DSO-CM

[Rbtaylorii@comcast.net](mailto:Rbtaylorii@comcast.net)



## *Lucky Bag - Hours*

### **Days and hours for Auxiliarists to access Lucky Bag:**

**Every Wednesday 0900-1100**

**Every Thursday 1000-1300**

**Every Friday by appointment**



## *Useful Resources*

### **HURRICANE RELATED**

National Hurricane Center <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Mike's Weather Page (one-stop shop with tons of information) <https://spaghettimodels.com/default.htm>

Tropical Tidbits <https://www.tropicaltidbits.com/storminfo/>

### **MEASURED RAINFALL**

Interactive Daily Measured Rainfall Amounts Map <https://cocorahs.org/>

### **CLICKABLE MAPS FOR WEATHER and MARINE FORECASTS**

NWS Weather Forecast Map (all US) <https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/wfos>

NOAA NWS Marine Weather Forecasts <https://www.weather.gov/marine/>

### **CLICKABLE MAPS AND HYDROGRAPHS FOR RIVER LEVELS AND FORECASTS**

NWS River Forecast Centers (Entire US) <https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/rfcs>

### **Mid-Atlantic RFC River Hydrographs – S. NY to VA**

[Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center Map](#)

### **Southeast RFC River Hydrographs - Wilmington NC to Key West, FL**

[Southeast River Forecast Center Map](#)

## *Flotilla 82 Cape May NJ COW and 80th Anniversary*

*Marty Sannino, VCDR, FSO-CS*

“On December 16, 1943, a group of residents braved a chilly Thursday evening to gather for a dinner meeting at a local eatery, known then as Arnold’s Café on the corner of Decatur and Beach Ave in Cape May. After some friendly socializing and a modest supper, the attendees got down to the important business at hand. Four years earlier the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was created by an Act of Congress to assist the Coast Guard and help promote safety on the water. Four other communities in the southern New Jersey area had already formed Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas. By the end of the evening, Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Cape May was officially inducted.”

That historical description of the Cape May flotilla’s establishment is an excerpt taken from an article written by IPCOMO Joe Giannattasio, a member of FL 82. It was published in the Navigator Express earlier this year. Each table has a laminated copy of the full article on your table which some of you might’ve seen. Another factoid about our flotilla not mentioned in that particular article is that the flotilla’s unit number upon its founding was Flotilla 3-5 or 35, not 82. Flotilla 82 came about years later as a result of redistricting from the 3rd district into the 5th district.

On Saturday evening, December 16, 2023, Flotilla 053-08-02 held its Change of Watch and celebrated its 80th year Anniversary. Coincidentally, it was eighty-years to the day. The ceremony was held at the Lobster House in Cape May, NJ. There were a combined 48 members and guests in attendance. The gold and silver side leadership were well represented and included: CAPT Warren Judge (CO – TRACEN Cape May), CDR Brad Conway (XO - TRACEN Cape May), CDR Laura Moose (DIRAUX-5NR), COMO Kurt Sarac (5NR) and DCOS Noreen Schifini (5NR). Also in attendance was NJ State Assemblyman Erik Simonsen.



**CAPE MAY, NJ** - On Saturday, December 16th, USCG Auxiliary Cape May Flotilla 82 observed its 80th anniversary, coinciding with the exact date of its official induction in 1943.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Michael Hamilton.*

*Continued on the next page...*

## *Flotilla 82 Cape May NJ COW and 80th Anniversary*

### *Continued*

Some highlight of the evening's program were:

- Oath of Office pledge by incoming FC Dave Sedlak and VFC Jim Stokes, presided over by CAPT Warren Judge and COMO Kurt Sarac
- Oath of Office pledge by incoming Flotilla Staff Officers, presided over by FC Dave Sedlak
- Presentation of award to Auxiliarist Anne-Marie Gillesberg for 2023 deployment on the USCGC Polar Star by CDR Laura Moose and COMO Kurt Sarac
- NJ state assemblyman Erik Simonsen presented a proclamation honoring Flotilla 82's 80 years of service
- FC Dave Sedlak and VCDR Marty Sannino presented an award plaque to Flotilla 82 Auxiliarist John Burns in appreciation for his 30 years of service to the USCG Auxiliary and USCG. Since John was unable to attend due to a health issue the reading of the award was recorded on video and sent to John.

Presentation and reading of a plaque provided by IPCOMO Joe Giannattasio that describes the history of Flotilla 82, then Flotilla 35, establishment in the USCG Auxiliary. This includes a history of the local restaurant in which the flotilla met on the evening of its formation 80 years ago. The plan is to ask the current property owner to hang the plaque in the restaurant to commemorate the origination of this piece of Cape May and Auxiliary history.

Here are a few information resources you can reference for social media contents if desired:

- COW ceremony program attached
- Cape May Flotilla Celebrates Ruby Anniversary - plaque provided by IPCOMO Joe Giannattasio, history read by Marty Sannino, VCDR
- Online photo album with many of the attendees identified.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/uac8hbBHEMi1xmbMA>

Marty Sannino, VCDR, FSO-CS

USCG Auxiliary – Div 053-08

610-329-3772



# *QE Workshop 2024*

*Article and photos by Joseph Giannattasio*

Over two days in May, a group of sixteen D5NR Qualification Examiners (QEs) and Qualification Examiners In Training (QEITs) convened at USCG Station Atlantic City. The gathering, overseen by CWO4 Mikey Price OTO, Steve Marthouse Project Manager, and Jason Flynn CQEC, featured informative sessions on District & BSX information and presentations tailored for Auxiliary and Active Duty Qualification Examiners, culminating in a dockside Qualification Exam.

Key topics covered during the event included:

- A comprehensive overview of the new Training & Qualification handbooks.
- Discussions on waivers and standardized drills.
- Guidelines on QE Travel Reimbursement, encompassing lodging when necessary.
- Strategies for fostering a team approach and enhancing communication.
- Insights into Aux Data II.
- Practical guidance on QE Administration & Processes.
- Understanding Order Issuing Authorities.

The training session on Sunday included a dockside Qualification Exam, offering participants hands-on experience.

In attendance were notable figures such as BMCM Park (Chief, Auxiliary Operations Management Branch), BMC Whitlow (XPO, Station Barnegat Light), BM1 Torpie (Sta Cape May), BM1 Levin (Sta Atlantic City), and BM1 Pluard (Sta Barnegat Light), who generously shared their wealth of experiences with the group.



# *Out with Old and In with the Old!*

*by Nick Russo*

We all heard the expression on New Year's Eve, "Out with the Old and in with the New!" But in District 5 North, an applicable phrase referring to Coastie the Robot, is "Out with the Old and then back in with the Old!" Coastie is a small blue and white animatronic replicating a remote-controlled Coast Guard Boat travelling the ground via hidden wheels. Coastie has concealed speakers providing the perception of talking, singing, and playing music. He can blink his eyes individually or simultaneously, move them left and right, display realistic navigation lights, engage a spotlight, and sound a siren and foghorn. And Coastie is never alone while on display! Coastie is always with two Auxiliarists: one is the "operator" away from the robot controlling all Coastie's functions while the other is Coastie's "escort" and ensures that Coastie's fans remain at a safe distance.



What is Coastie's charm to both children and adults? It is Coastie's simplicity. Coastie can provide life-like characteristics to an otherwise inanimate object. But it's his lack of space age instruments that provide us with a refreshing feeling of simple, wholesome fun! Today's fast-moving technology has many of us struggling to ascertain what is real or fantasy. That is certainly not true regarding Coastie. Coastie is a simple, mechanical device utilized to promote our Coast Guard missions by conveying basic messages for safe boating, safe swimming, and safe water enjoyment.

## **A Historical Perspective**

A Topside article over two decades ago, (Topside Vol.104, No1) by Auxiliarist Edna Winans and titled "Coastie" provides our backdrop. The article begins with "Coastie the Auxiliary's robot boat, ambassador of boating safety, paid a visit to the recent Atlantic City, NJ Boat Show. Auxiliarists from Divisions 7 and 8 accompanied "Coastie" on this outing." The article highlighted the different tasks Coastie performed and the positive reactions from adults and children.

That Topside article also included historical details of the Auxiliary certification process to operate Coastie. It references the Fall DTRAIN Conference of September 2003 during which a "Special Project Officer" (SPO) "accepted responsibility of Coastie." Subsequently that SPO and seven (7) additional Auxiliarists met at Station Barnegat Light and a "train the trainer" session occurred. After that session those auxiliary members were authorized to train "handlers" who were further authorized to utilize Coastie at future Public Affairs events. I assume our original Coastie was operational until about 2016 when the robot began to experience malfunctions and subsequently remained inactive for about 7 years.

In 2022 District 5 North, secured a new, original Coastie and showcased it at DTRAIN. The attendees saw Coastie in action and the response was positive. The goal seemed for District 5NR to ultimately possess two workable Coasties providing Public Affairs Officers the ability to utilize two Coasties simultaneously.

*Continued on the next page...*

# *Out with Old and In with the Old!*

## *continued*

### Restoration of Coastie v1.0

Division 8 leadership authorized a small, enthusiast team to identify what was needed to get the original Coastie back operational. The restoration of the first Coastie could not have begun without the technical expertise of Auxiliarist Al Horner (8-5). Al's formal training and experience allowed him to identify electronic components that were not working and to carefully dismantle each one. Our team then gingerly packaged and shipped the parts to Coastie's factory in Utah. While awaiting parts, work began on preparing Coastie's 8-foot trailer to become aesthetically presentable and road-worthy. Trailer work included replacing unrepairable parts, power-washing, wax buffing, and re-painting the trailer tongue. After months of anxiously waiting, the new Coastie parts returned, and utilizing USCG Station Cape May the team reassembled Coastie and he came back to life!

The revitalization of Coastie only occurred via a talented and skilled Auxiliarist effort. The main team, Al Horner and Mike Kedziora, were nothing short of impressive. Al Horner is college educated in physics and electrical engineering. When not participating in Public Affairs events or HELO OPS, he is an owner-operator of two radio stations. Mike Kedziora is the Flotilla 8-1 FSO for Materials and Program Visitor and has his own home maintenance business. Mike also possesses acute mechanical and construction knowledge. Further he serves as Harbor Master for the City of Somers Point, NJ and is a member of their Office of Emergency Management

Both Coasties look basically the same and perform the same functions. There are only two slight differences I detect; the original Coastie is sporting a larger Spotlight and the name "Coastie" appears on the bow with a plastic shield protecting Coastie's eye lids. Other than those differences, they look like identical twins to me.

As of this writing it is not clear where the Coasties and trailers will be housed. However, we do know our Coastie mascot first appeared at the February 2004 Atlantic City Boat Show and then reappeared 20 years later at the February 2024 Atlantic City Boat Show! And as the photos attest, Coastie has not lost his charisma attracting children or the child in each of us.



**Above:** AC Boat Show 2024, Larry Nolan, Santiago Fuertas, and Allen Moose

# *Division 08's Annual Picnic*

*Article and Photos by COMO Joseph Giannattasio*

In May, Division 08 gathered for their annual picnic at Training Center (TRACEN) Cape May. Ahead of a bustling summer filled with various program duties, and mission support, over 40 division members, families and guests, took a well-deserved respite. Everyone indulged in a delectable barbecue spread complete with delightful side dishes and desserts.

Active Duty friends contributed to the picnic's success; CS1 Eric Havelin oversaw the cookery with Chiefs Kate Vassalle and Joe Lambert organized set up, grilling and serving chores. CS1 Charles Gasaway expedited ordering and shopping all the food.

This year, the Division has outlined an array of Marine Dealer Visits, Vessel Safety Checks, patrols, and Boating Safety Classes, alongside comprehensive support for Coast Guard Units.

Through diligent work and cherished fellowship, the Division ensures a balanced and thriving community.



**PHOTO CAPTIONS:**

Top Row: Division 08 members, family and friends enjoying great chow and camaraderie.

Middle Row: A varied and delectable feast was a highlight of the day.

Bottom Row: Gift Basket Raffles awaited lucky winners.



# *Strengthening the Auxiliary*

*Article by Timothy Q Wah*

## **Recruitment and Retention Strategies for the Coast Guard Auxiliary**

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary plays a vital role in supporting the mission of the Coast Guard, with dedicated members contributing to maritime safety and security. However, ensuring a robust and committed force, requires effective recruitment and retention strategies. In this article, we explore key approaches to attract new members and maintain the enthusiasm of existing members within the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

### **Recruitment Strategies:**

#### 1. **Strategic Outreach:**

Engage in targeted outreach efforts through community events, local fairs and through partnerships with organizations. Attend boating safety courses, community workshops and maritime related gatherings to connect with individuals passionate about marine safety.

#### 2. **Online Presence:**

Establish a strong online presence through an informative and user-friendly website. Leverage social media platforms to share engaging content, success stories and upcoming events.

#### 3. **Information Sessions:**

Host regular information sessions to educate potential recruits about the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Provide insights into the various roles, training opportunities and the impact they can make on maritime safety. Answering questions and addressing concerns can help dispel misconceptions and generate interest.

#### 4. **Collaborate with Local Entities:**

Forge partnerships with local schools, businesses and community organizations to broaden recruitment efforts. Establishing connections with these entities can lead to increased visibility and access to potential volunteers.

*Continued on the next page...*

Michael McShane, (left) Timothy Wah, from flotilla 053-15-02 enjoy fellowship at the 2024 spring D-Trains commadore's banquet Wilmington, DE.

Photo: Kate Swat



---

# *Strengthening the Auxiliary*

## *Continued*

### **Retention Strategies:**

#### 1. **Continuous Training Opportunities:**

Keep members engaged by offering ongoing training and skill development programs. This not only enhances their capabilities but also demonstrates the organization's commitment to their growth.

#### 2. **Recognition and Rewards:**

Establish recognition programs to celebrate the achievements and contributions of members. Acknowledging their efforts through awards, certificates, or public recognition boosts morale and fosters a sense of pride and commitment.

#### 3. **Effective Communication:**

Maintain transparent and open communication channels. Regularly update members on organizational developments, upcoming events, and opportunities for involvement. Ensuring that members feel informed and connected is crucial for retention.

#### 4. **Leadership Development:**

Provide avenues for leadership development within the organization. Offering leadership roles and responsibilities to deserving members. Not only will this motivate them but also strengthens the overall leadership pipeline.

#### 5. **Community Engagement:**

Foster a sense of community within the Coast Guard Auxiliary by organizing social events, gatherings and community service projects. Building strong relationships among members creates a supportive network and enhances the overall volunteer experience.

### **Conclusion:**

Recruitment and retention are dynamic processes that require a multifaceted approach. By combining strategic outreach, effective communication, and continuous support for members, the Coast Guard Auxiliary can strengthen its ranks and ensure a dedicated force ready to meet the challenges of maritime safety and security. As the organization continues to evolve, prioritizing these strategies will contribute to a thriving and committed Coast Guard Auxiliary.

## USS New Jersey (BB-62) in Drydock at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard

*By Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA2*

On March 21, 2024, The Battleship New Jersey departed her Camden moorings for the two-mile journey down the Delaware River for her historic dry dock maintenance at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Various USCG small response boats along with the USCGC Heron were assisting with the movement of this historic battleship.



**Delaware River** - USCGC Heron from Station Cape May assisting with movement of USS New Jersey (bb-62) for dry dock maintenance.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA2



*Continued on the next page...*

## USS New Jersey (BB-62) in Drydock

### *Continued*

The USS New Jersey (BB-62) launched from the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on December 7, 1942—just one year after the Pearl Harbor attack that brought America into WWII. She returned to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for the first time in decades for drydock repairs. The arrival in Philadelphia will make something of a homecoming, as the ship was built in the yard and commissioned for service. The 45,000-ton hulking battleship was in active duty for more than 21 years, she served in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, during the Cold War and conflicts in the Middle East. The ship was ultimately decommissioned, restored as a museum and moved to the Camden waterfront where it has been berthed since 2001. During the two months stay at dry dock, the water surrounding the battleship has been drained, allowing shipwrights to inspect and address potential damage. Priorities for the upcoming maintenance include repainting the hull and removing marine growth. Workers will also inspect “through-hull openings” (which allow water and gas to enter and exit the ship) and replace “anodes,” which help fight corrosion from the briny water, according to the Battleship New Jersey.

The New Jersey belongs to the Iowa class of battleships, which were the fastest and longest of their kind. (The New Jersey is 887 feet, 7 inches long. For comparison, the Empire State Building is 1,250 feet tall.) New Jersey, which boasts massive 16-inch guns, saw more combat in WWII of any Iowa-class battleship. The New Jersey is the most decorated battleship in American history, the most of any surviving U.S. Navy ship, and the second-most decorated ship in American history, according to its website. “She was launched on the first anniversary of Pearl Harbor, and went on to steam more miles, fight in more battles, and fire more shells in combat than any other battleship in history,” the site says. She was often referred to fondly as “Big J”. New Jersey earned more battle stars for combat action than the other three completed Iowa -class battleships and was the only US battleship used to provide gunfire support during the Vietnam War.

During World War II, New Jersey shelled targets on Guam and Okinawa, and screened aircraft carriers conducting raids in the Marshall Islands. During the Korean War, she was involved in raids along the North Korean coast, after which she was decommissioned into the US Navy reserve fleets, better known as the “mothball fleet.” She was briefly reactivated in 1968 and sent to Vietnam to support US troops before returning to the mothball fleet in 1969. Reactivated once more in the 1980’s as part of the 600-Ship Navy program, New Jersey was modernized to carry missiles and recommissioned for service. In 1983, she participated in US operations during the Lebanese Civil War. New Jersey was decommissioned for the last time in 1991 after having served a total of 21 years in the active fleet. During her career she earned a Navy Unit Commendation for service in Vietnam, and nineteen battle and campaign stars for combat operations during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Lebanese Civil War, and service in the Persian Gulf.

The New Jersey will be towed back to the Camden waterfront after the dry dock maintenance is completed. Tours are available every day from 10:00 to 5:30 (last boarding is at 4pm). Although the state of New Jersey does support the Battleship, the non-profit museum relies on tours, overnights, and rental events to help defer operating and maintenance costs.

Sources:

Website: [www.battleshipnewjersey.org](http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org). Garzke, William; Dunlin, Robert (1995). *Battleships: United States Battleships 1935-1992* Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press. Polmar, Norman. *The Naval Institute Guide to the Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet*. 2001 Naval Institute Press.

# *Battleship USS New Jersey*

## *Article and Photos by Morgan Caswell*

USS New Jersey (BB-62) is the longest, fastest, and most decorated battleship in history. Coming in at 887'7" long, 108' wide, 47,000 tons, and a top speed of 33 knots, New Jersey amassed many records over her four commissions. Serving in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War, including peacekeeping missions off the coast of Lebanon, New Jersey earned 19 battle stars.

New Jersey was decommissioned for the last time in February of 1991 after 21 years of active service. She was mothballed in Bremerton, Washington before becoming a museum in Camden in October of 2001. New Jersey has been in her Camden berth since then, serving as a museum and memorial to all the sailors who called her home.

On 21 March 2024, New Jersey departed that berth to make the trip down the Delaware River to Dry Dock #3 at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for a two-month yard period. Since steering and propulsion systems are no longer operable, she was tugged down river by four McAllister tugboats.

The return to Dry Dock #3 was special for New Jersey, as she is returning to the place of her original construction. New Jersey was launched on 7 December 1942, one year to the date after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. This will be her third trip to Dry Dock #3.

This two-month yard period has three main goals: inspecting and painting the hull, replacing the anodes in the cathodic protection system, and inspecting and repairing the 'blanks' welded over the opening in the hull that allowed water to enter the ship as a coolant during active service.

With 136,000 square feet of surface below the waterline, it is expected to take 36,000 gallons of Sherwin Williams paint. A total of 1,204 zinc anodes have been removed and will be replaced with aluminum anodes. Each anode weighs 23 pounds. There are 160 blanks that will need to be inspected for watertightness and repaired if necessary.

Dry dock tours are happening on Saturdays and Sundays through 27 May 2024. Limited tickets are available at <https://www.battleshipnewjersey.org/drydock/>. Standard tour tickets are available for a donation of \$225 per person. Participants must be at least 16 years old.



# History of the District and Auxiliary



# *Saving 5 NR History*

*By Tim Marks, DSO-PB*

*Previously ran summer of 2023:*

In talking with Steve Marthouse, our 5NR Historian, he thought it would be interesting and more valuable to you, the members, if he would have your input as to what you might like him to write about, cover, or explain rather than him trying to write something that he thinks you would be interested in.

The idea is that Steve would create a column in each newsletter such as "Ask the Auxiliary Historian" or "Ever wonder why the Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_?"

So, here is your chance! The Coast Guard Auxiliary and 5NR have a long and storied history, with the Coast Guard having a history as old as the country. Is there something you were wondering about? Is there a topic you wanted to learn more about? Is there a piece of Coast Guard or Auxiliary history that you wish you knew more about?

Feel free to ask your questions directly to Historian Marthouse. He will then address them in future issues of Topside.

**Email: [sjmarthouse@gmail.com](mailto:sjmarthouse@gmail.com)**



*Steve Marthouse  
5NR Historian  
ADSO-PB History*



# Evolution of Membership in District 5NR Over Time

by **COMO Joseph Giannattasio, History Branch**

“Ebbs and flows” is an idiom that refers to the natural rhythm of life and the continuous change that is inherent in it. It means that things constantly change and that there are times when things are on the rise and other times when they are on the decline.

Researching Fifth District’s membership trends over the years has shed some light upon the ‘ebb and flow’ of enrollment; demonstrating the constant change of times when membership is on the rise and other times when it is on the decline.

In 1940, our district, then called Third-Southern, started with 210 members, growing to 800 by 1942 when the United States was fully engaged in WWII. The introduction of the Temporary Reserve in 1942 led to substantial increases, reaching 2,641 in 1943, 3,494 in 1944, and 3,533 in 1945. However, post-World War II in 1946, membership plummeted to 1,700. The first recorded figure after this decline appeared in the 1952 issue of TOPSIDE, reporting 726 members. Subsequent years showed a pattern of gradual increases and minor declines, peaking at 3,183 in June 1984 before tapering off to 2,900 in 1998.

The aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks prompted another surge in Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers, leading to a membership spike of 3,060 by 2003. However, nearly two decades later, in September 2019, the district's membership had decreased to 1,809. This fluctuation reflects the dynamic nature of membership over the years, influenced by historical events and changing circumstances.

So, what lies ahead for us? The role of the Auxiliary in the Coast Guard is in a constant state of evolution and expansion. With these shifts come fresh possibilities and exciting adventures. For each of us, it's an opportunity to face challenges and broaden our horizons. The chances to directly support the Coast Guard Sector, along with various units, stations, and cutters, will continue to multiply as our role develops and aligns with the future.

As we gaze into this future, our objective, our mission, is to shape it into a vibrant one, irrespective of our numbers. By keeping existing members engaged and motivated, and by preparing new members while ensuring they feel embraced, we'll be well-equipped for whatever the future holds.



**Above:** Vessel Examiner 1966

**Below:** Vessel Examiner 2023



*Continued on the next page...*

# Evolution of Membership in District 5NR Over Time

Continued



**Above:** Cape May Flotilla members 1958  
**Below:** Cape May Flotilla members 2008



# Alexander Hamilton

## Founder of the United States Coast Guard and Namesake of the USCG Cutter Hamilton (WMSL-753)

By Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3

On January 11, 1757, Alexander Hamilton was born on the West Indian Island of Nevis. In 1772, Hamilton immigrated to New York. Hamilton authored many widely read political publications, even though he was not yet twenty years of age. After the start of the American Revolution, Hamilton became the captain of an artillery unit and fought in the principal campaigns of 1776. Hamilton later advanced to the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1777, joining the staff of General Washington. He became a close confidant of General Washington and ended the war as a lieutenant colonel commanding an infantry regiment.

Considered the father of the United States Coast Guard, Hamilton played a pivotal role in the development of the government of the United States. Hamilton proposed the establishment of a national bank, encouraged manufacturing, and was the driving force behind the creation of a revenue marine service. The revenue marine service was the precursor to today's Coast Guard. In 1787, Hamilton wrote about the need for the revenue marine in the Federalist papers. The young nation needed to combat smugglers seeking to avoid the payment of import tariffs. The collection of tariffs would be an important revenue source for the young nation. Hamilton advised Congress to build a fleet of ten Cutters to help direct ships to ports of entry along the eastern seaboard. Hamilton's plan was adopted by Congress on August 4, 1790, which is celebrated as the Coast Guard's birthday. Revenue cutters were assigned to the East Coast's ten major seaports. The fleet of cutters also rendered assistance and aid as needed, in addition to their law enforcement role. The humanitarian life-saving role with the revenue marine and defines the Coast Guard to this day.

In January 1795, Hamilton resigned from the cabinet and never returned to public office. He became a leader in the abolition of the international slave trade. On July 12, 1804, Hamilton was mortally wounded following a duel with Aaron Burr. The duel was the culmination of a bitter rivalry that developed over years between both men. Hamilton was laid to rest at Trinity Church in New York City. The USCG cutter Hamilton (WMSL-753) was named in his honor. She is a Legend-class cutter and was commissioned on December 6, 2014.

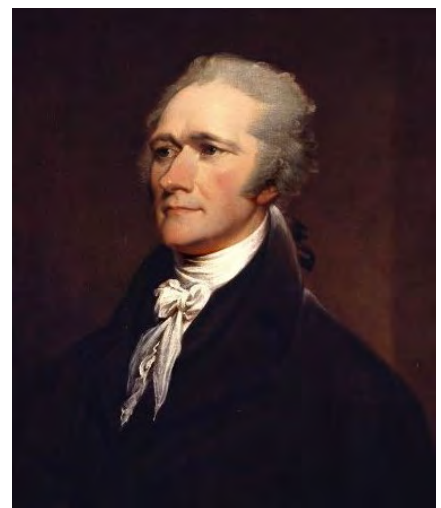
### Sources :

USCG.mil; Newton, Michael (2015). Alexander Hamilton: The Formative Years. Eleftheria Publishing; Murray, Joseph (2007). Alexander Hamilton: America's Forgotten Founder. Algora Publishing. Coast Guard Christens 4th National Security Cutter. Military.com

### Photos:

Photo #1: USCG cutter Alexander Hamilton (WMSL-753). Source: U.S. Coast Guard

Photo #2: Alexander Hamilton. Source: Public Domain



# 5NR Obscura



## Covered Bridges

Covered bridges are great for slowing down, photographing, and exploring while you are out enjoying the sights and sounds on District 5NR trails in the fall. It's easy to combine enjoying the outdoors with a visit to these historic and romantic structures.

Between 1825 and 1875, a period during which more than 10,000 covered bridges graced the American landscape, most of these iconic structures were constructed. Today, roughly 750 remain, with Pennsylvania having the largest number of covered bridges in the nation: 219 in 40 of its 67 counties.

One of the most commonly asked questions about covered bridges is why were they covered in the first place? While there are many theories, the primary reason was that covering the wooden trusses extended the life of the bridge from roughly 20 years to 100 years. A more romantic utilization of covered bridges was as a location for courting couples to meet. Covered bridges are also known as “kissing bridges” for that very reason!

Not only are Pennsylvania's covered bridges beautiful and historic structures, but the quest to see them will take you along some of the most beautiful backroads in all D5NR. Many of these are roads that you would never find yourself on unless you were hunting down covered bridges.



*Photographs by COMO Joseph Giannattasio*

TOPSIDE presents the District 5NR Obscura platform as a space for members to exchange discoveries of unique, hidden, and extraordinary attractions within Auxiliary District Fifth Northern. If you're aware of a captivating, intriguing, or lesser-known spot in your area of the district, please share a couple of photos along with a concise description with our Editor. This way, fellow members can savor these gems and perhaps experience them during their own journeys.

---

# Photos from Across the District



On Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day, consider bringing your OSCAR along for the ride! Coast Guard District 5NR Auxiliarist Marty Sannino is spreading the word as he transports Auxiliary materials for tomorrow's Coast Guard Community Festival at USCG Training Center Cape May. The festival, proudly presented by the Cape May County Coast Guard Community Foundation, celebrates the Coast Guard's vital role. For those unfamiliar, "OSCAR" is a man-overboard dummy utilized in training water rescue personnel.



*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by  
COMO Joe Giannattasio*



Bruce Henry 19-01 conducting a class on "Knots for Mariners"

Photo by Mel Collins

**CAPE MAY, NJ - Cloudy day at Station Cape May**

Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by  
Leon C. DeFulgentis,  
AUXPA2



# *AUX Boat and Air Swim*

*Bill Fithian, Division Staff Officer – Operations*

## **Air and Boat Crew initial and re-qualification Swim.**

A cold and rainy March Saturday afternoon was a perfect day for Water Survival Exercises for district Boat Crew and Air Crew members in the pool at TRACEN, Cape May.



**Left:** Boat Crew trainee Joe Lane demonstrates the HELP (heat escape lessening posture) position.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo  
by Joseph Giannattasio*

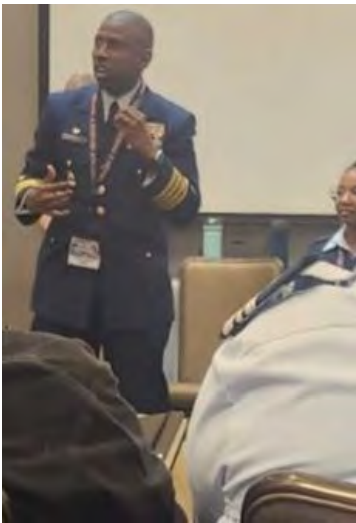
**Below:** An AUXAIR member successfully boards life raft.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo  
by bill Fithian.*



# Spring 2024 DTRAIN

Photographs taken by Mel Collins, SO PA 53-19-01



**Clockwise from Top Left:**

National Commodore Gus Formato and Kate Swat, FC 15-10 at the "Lucky Bag" session

Chris Orlando in his Public Affairs session

Eric Jeschke 19-05 and MaryBeth Roadarmel 08-01 at the "Lucky Bag"

Mike Mcelwee and wife

Nevaeh Mallea, USCG, and Don Dissinger 19-01



"Lucky Bag" session with Lorraine Bianco 08-02 and Tim Wah

Captain Warren Judge at "Meet the Leadership" session during the Spring D-Train 2024



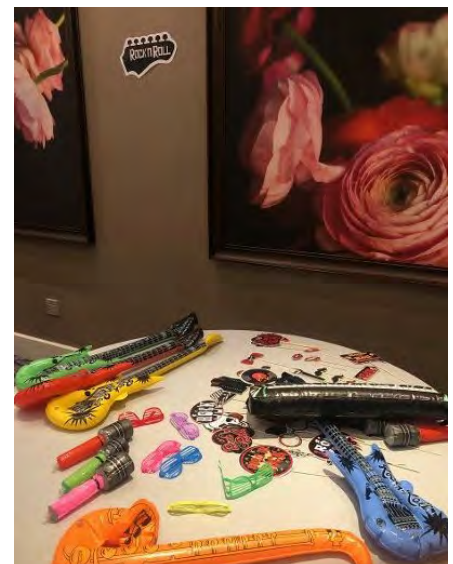
# Spring 2024 DTRAIN

Photographs taken by *COMO Joseph Giannattasio*



# Spring 2024 DTRAIN

Photographs taken by *COMO Joseph Giannattasio*



# A Message from the Editor

Good day 5NR,

I hope you enjoyed the latest edition of our newsletter. As the editor, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your invaluable contributions. Your articles, pictures, and stories are what make our newsletter a vibrant and engaging publication.

With each edition, we strive to bring 5NR together, share insightful perspectives, and celebrate our collective achievements. Your dedication plays a crucial role in making this possible. As we look ahead, I encourage you to continue sharing your expertise, experiences, and activities with us. Your contributions enrich our newsletter and make it a reflection of our organization.

Your involvement is what makes this newsletter special, and I am excited to see what wonderful content we can create together in the future. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any ideas or submissions you may have. Your input is always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Finally, please take the time read about that history and peruse the Topside Archives at <https://5nr.org/topside-archives/>. You never know what interesting fact or tidbit you might find!

Semper Paratus,  
Tim Marks  
DSO-PB



**Timothy Marks**  
District Staff Officer -  
Publications

## United States Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th District, Northern Region

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY 5NR  
FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT  
1 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147-4393

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



### Come Visit us on the Web

Coast Guard Auxiliary homepage:

<http://www.cgaux.org/>

5NR Website:

<http://www.5nr.org/index.php>



## Newsletter Staff

**Editor**  
**Timothy Marks**  
District Staff Officer for Publications  
— U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District, Northern Region  
[tpmarks@comcast.net](mailto:tpmarks@comcast.net)

**Support**                      **Leon C. DeFulgentis**  
**Historian**                    **Steven Marthouse**  
**Media**                        **Christopher Orlando**





# Participation

**D-Train entertainment: As part of a very strange game of “Musical Chairs”, OTO Price was charged with finding a woman with a tattoo. He found Division 19’s VCDR Betsy Pittinger.**

*Coast Guard Auxiliary Photograph by Jeff Kuhn*