

D-7 Connection



Human Resources - Fall Issue 2013

Issue 23

Editor: Angela Pomaro

Human Resources

Mentoring



Fingerprints



Food Services



Orientation





USCG Auxiliary

District 7



District Commodore
Commodore John Tyson



District Chief of Staff
Robert A. Weskerna, DCOS



Logistics Directorate



James E. Dennen, DDC-L
Directorate Chief

The DSO-HR Team



Angela Pomaro DSO-HR
Human Resources Department



Amy Estrela, ADSO-HR
Special Projects



Paulette Parent, ADSO-HR
AUXCHEF



Tom O'Connor, ADSO-HR
Mentor—North



Rich Steinbach, ADSO-HR
Mentor—East



Gil Thomas, ADSO-HR
E-Responder Program
Mentor—West

South Carolina

Georgia



John Owen 12



Tom O'Connor 10



Larry Cook 2

The District 7 SO-HR Team



Bruce McAllister 15



Paul Thomas 14

Florida



Sharon Breece 17



Harvey Prior 11



Judith Clapp 7



Bill Griswold 4



Rich Steinbach 5



Kyle Wallace 8



Arnold Greenhouse 3



Lou Conti 9



Wilson Iziarry-dehoyos 1



David Richardson 16

Puerto Rico



Dorothy Cain 13

Virgin Islands



Manuel Estrela 6



THE AUXCHEF



AUXFS News

Submitted by Paulette R. Parent, ADSO-HR/AUXFS

D-Train Orientation

ADSO-HR/AUXFS conducted a two hour Instructor Orientation at the District 7 DTRAIN held on September 27th in Orlando, Florida. A total of nineteen AUXFS attended which included fourteen current AUX ITs. Initially, there was a presentation regarding the development of a cadre of AUXFS Instructors. A portfolio of class materials and helpful information for conducting classes was given to each participant. In addition, a new form "Intent to Teach" was distributed. This will enable the ADSO-HR/AUXFS to keep track of classes and send out the information to other interested members. Several current AUXFS Instructors contributed to the presentation. A lively round table discussion followed and it is evident that there is the potential for a number of new AUXFS Instructors.

Time Out for a Vacation

Cape Cod is a popular vacation destination and there is a lot to do and see while there. Having visited the "Cape" briefly a few years ago, I decided to make another visit this past September. One of the Division 8 AUXFS, Roger Mitchell, has a vacation home on Martha's Vineyard, just a short ferry boat ride from the mainland so a rendezvous was arranged during my trip. Roger has cooked in the galley at Coast Guard Station Menemsha so he arranged for us to have a tour of the Station. In 1895 the Coast Guard established a station at Gay Head on the island. In 1952, the Coast Guard station located at Cuttyhunk was moved by barge to Menemsha, replacing the Gay Head Station. Commissioning of the new station took place on March 12, 1954. The station was not renamed Menemsha, however, until 1974. The station is atop the highest point on the Island and is a classic example of a New England seaside building. The boathouse used for Coast Guard assets burned down in 2010 and has not been rebuilt. Plans to rebuild are still in the making. There are about 22 Coastguardsmen assigned to the station and Auxiliarists are involved in watchstanding, operations and food service. Some of the AUXFS actually travel by ferry to the station and spend the entire weekend cooking for their shipmates. We toured the galley and it was surprisingly roomy for an old building. However, the mess hall was rather small and on occasion there is standing room only. The reputation of AUXFSs is well known even at this small boat station. We were asked if we would like to stay and cook a meal, however, a vacation is a vacation and that is exactly why we had to decline the offer. We may be tempted to oblige during a future visit! One thing is for sure, whenever an AUXFS visits a Coast Guard unit it is evident that they would love to have you cook for them and that is the reason we "serve".



For more information on the AUXFS program in District 7, please contact: Paulette Parent ADSO-HR/ AUXFS, PRPARENT175@AOL.COM.





The Mentoring Gurus



District 7 USCG Auxiliary Mentors

Submitted by Rich Steinbach,
ADSO-Mentoring, East

Flotilla 56 Vero Beach/Sebastian Commander Frans Eyberse has embraced the D7 Mentor Recruiting/ Training Program by being the first flotilla in District 7 to recruit and train members as USCG Auxiliary Mentors.

Several months ago the D7 Mentor Recruitment/Training Plan was presented to thirteen members of Flotilla 56 that the leadership felt would make excellent mentors. The D7 Plan describes what mentoring is, why it benefits the mentor, mentee and the flotilla. The plan continues with a description of twelve training modules that the mentor candidates will need to complete in order to qualify to be USCG Auxiliary Mentors.


At the conclusion of the meeting we asked the group if they felt they were ready to proceed with training and twelve members committed to continue.

Our next step was to ask for volunteers to assist with the creation and presentation of the training modules. Five members stepped up and starting researching and preparing their presentations:

- Fred Combs, FSO-HR, Proper Wearing of Uniforms-Protocol and Etiquette-Manuals on the Web
- Bill Boluk, FSO-IS, Chain of Leadership-On Line Reports-Member Training Programs
- Harvey Niblack, FSO-OP, Acronyms and Their Meaning
- Frans Eyberse, FC, Coast Guard Offices/Ranks/Ratings-Watch Standing
- Rich Steinbach, ADSO-HR, Dues-Member Status-Elected Officers and Staff


Five training sessions were held over the course of three months and on August 26, the program was completed with eleven members qualifying as USCG Auxiliary Mentors. Congratulations to the following:

District 7 USCG Auxiliary Mentors



Division 5—Flotilla 56

Tommy Augustsson-VFC,
 Bill Boluk-FSO-IS,
 Linda Boluk-SO-PB,
 Fred Combs-FSO-HR,
 Linda Combs-FSO-PE,
 Frans Eyberse-FC,
 Agnes Mical-FSO-NS,
 Bill Moseley-FSO-VE,
 Harvey Niblack-FSO-OP
 Rich Steinbach-SO-HR
 Sandy Thiel, VE





The Retention Guru



In addition to the training, Flotilla 56 has adopted two “Best Practices”:

- 1- “The Acronym Jar”, any member that uses an Acronym during a meeting without explaining its meaning deposits a quarter in the jar. At the end of the year the monies collect will be donated to the Station Ft. Pierce Children's Christmas Fund.
- 2- As soon as a prospective new member submits their application for membership a mentor is assigned to the candidate to coach and guide them through their first year of membership.

Flotilla 56 is very excited about the mentor program and how they feel it will have a positive effect on retention and the moral of the flotilla.

Anyone interested in starting a Mentor Recruitment/Training Program in their flotilla or division is encouraged to contact the District 7 Human Resource Department for assistance:

Divisions 2-10-12 and 14 Tom O’Connor tomofssi@gmail.com

Divisions 7-8-9-11 and 15 Gil Thomas gthomas901@msn.com

Divisions 3-4-5-6-13 and 17 Rich Steinbach caneman20@comcast.net

Rich Steinbach Caneman20@comcast.net

772-569-5348 home 772-643-2067 cell



Paperwork!

Paperwork!



New D7 AUXDATA Inputters Training Program

Submitted by Sue Hastings, DSO-IS

This year with the budget constraints from the Coast Guard, the National AUX-10 C School sessions were cancelled. AUX-10 was the official training program for Information Service officers to be certified to input data into AUXDATA. The National Information Department came out with a new directive that each District was now responsible for this training.

With District 7 so large it would be impractical and costly to have individual hands-on training for new inputters by the District staff. The decision was made with approval by the District Commodore to have the training coordinated by the Division Information Services Offices with certification done by the District IS. Sue Hastings, DSO-IS and Ed Duda, ADSO-IS Special Projects, put together a new training program using elements of the AUX-10 session which will be given to each Division to use in training their new inputters.

At DTRAIN in Orlando, the new D7 training program was introduced. The DSO-IS aided by Bunny Johnson, ADSO-IS ICS, were the instructors for the all-day session. After the training, the new program will be sent out to each SO-IS in the District to use in training their new FSOs-IS. Once the member is verified by SO-IS and certified by DSO-IS and appointed as an IS officer (District/Division/Flotilla), they will be given access to the production AUXDATA database. Others who take the course will receive a certificate that can be used for a future IS office.

What is in the new Training course. An IS officer has to be familiar with many aspects of the Auxiliary. We have four sections to the training. The first is an introduction going over the duties of an IS officer and systems he/she would be interacting with such as AUXDATA, AuxInfo, AOMS, Aux Officer, ANSC 7029 and 7028 Webforms as well as the new 7028 Webform IS Dashboard. The second section will be on Forms and Missions Codes. This is important as members look to the IS officer to help them in determining what code to use for their mission and what forms to use to submit the information. The third section will be going over the reporting function which is AuxInfo and the final section will be the AUXDATA system and the actual hands-on input.

Our goal is to have a Flotilla inputter for every Flotilla in the District. If your flotilla does not currently have a Flotilla inputter and you are interested in finding out more about what the job entails, please let your Flotilla Commander and/or Division Information Services Officer know. It is important to have a good base of trained officers to spread the workload out and to have future officers available to step into an IS position.



The Webmaster

Why Am I Getting This Mail!!!

Submitted by Dave Hastings, DSO-CS

To get to the D7 Connection, you probably received an email message from District 7 stating that the “D-7 Connection” was ready for viewing on the District 7 webpage. This a quick and easy way to let the members of District 7 know that the “D7 Connection” and the “Breeze” are ready for viewing or for members to received other important communications from the District 7 leaders.

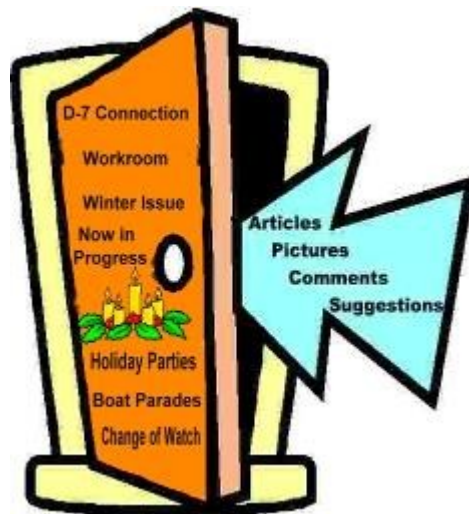
Upon receipt of certain emails, some members go to the bottom of the message and click **Unsubscribe**, thinking that they won’t get any more messages. However, the next time the “D-7 Connection” or other communications is sent out, they will get another email message. Why is this happening?

The software that District 7 uses to send out emails to its members is required to have this “unsubscribed” function. However, in District 7, the list of recipients is taken from AUXDATA and is updated twice a year. So if you take your name off for one message, it could show up again. If your email address is listed in AUXDATA, you will receive the message once the system is updated.

If you receive certain messages from the district that you are not interested in, the District 7 Bridge recommends that you please just delete it and not reply “Unsubscribe” as it saves time in not having to remove names from the list that will automatically be added back the next time the list is updated. The next message you receive may be one that you really want to read.

Why do we pull the email addresses from AUXDATA? This is done because many people change their email addresses often and AUXDATA is the place where these changes are reflected. Also with the large number of members in the district, there is no easy way to keep track of who wants to get information and who doesn’t for this email program.

We are setting up separate lists for the “D-7 Connection”, the “Breeze” and general communications from the D7 Leadership to see if this will solve the problem.



A special thanks to all who have submitted articles and photos in this issue.

**Articles/photos for the Winter Issue will graciously be accepted at:
d7happyrecruiter@gmail.com**

HR Challenge Coin Awards



The following are recipients of the D7 HR Challenge Coin Award. This award is presented to those Flotilla Commanders who have maintained a 3% or less disenrollment rate for the previous year -- and to the Division Commanders with the most flotillas that have maintained a 3% or less disenrollment rate. This is determined by calculating 3% of the total number of members in each flotilla at the beginning of the year from AUXDATA --disenrollments are noted. If disenrollments are 3% or less, that Flotilla Commander would qualify for the award. This award cannot be given or purchased but earned.

The awards were given to the District Captains East, North and West for presentation in their areas.

Division 1

Flotilla 11 – Angel Rivera – 2nd Award – Certificate
Flotilla 12 – Luis Rodriguez – 2nd Award – Certificate
Flotilla 18 – Samuel Ortiz – Challenge Coin
Division Commander—Ramses Rodriguez-Diaz - Challenge Coin

Division 2

Flotilla 22 – Philip Yost – 2nd Award – Certificate
Flotilla 27 – Julian Fobbus – Challenge Coin

Division 3

Flotilla 31 – Gary Krantz – Challenge Coin
Flotilla 34 – Richard Leys – 2nd Award – Certificate
Flotilla 37 – George Kozel – Challenge Coin
Division Commander—Samuel Ed Duda—Challenge Coin

Division 4

Flotilla 43 – Anton Kurth – Challenge Coin
Flotilla 48 – Roger Strock – Challenge Coin

Division 5

Flotilla 57 – Joyce Moore – Challenge Coin

Division 7

Flotilla 78 – James Armstrong – Challenge Coin
Flotilla 7-16 – Leonard Dolney – Challenge Coin

Division 8

Flotilla 83 – Dennis Munhall – Challenge Coin

Division 12

Flotilla 12-1 – Joe Livingston – 2nd Award – Certificate
Flotilla 12-6 – Ronald Foreman – Challenge Coin
Flotilla 12-12 – Karen Andrews – Challenge Coin
Division Commander—Vito Giardina—Challenge Coin

Division 13

Flotilla 13-3 – Robert McNamee – Challenge Coin

Division 14

Flotilla 14-5 – Willem Loupatty – Challenge Coin

Division 15

Flotilla 15-1 – Linda Jones – Challenge Coin
Flotilla 15-5—Bruce Heavens – Challenge Coin

Division 16

Flotilla 16-3 – Malcolm Sprauve – Challenge Coin

Division 17

Flotilla 17-11 – John Holmes – Challenge Coin

Human Resources Awards

Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award



The Auxiliary Recruiting Service award is awarded for recruiting seven or more new Auxiliarists into the Auxiliary as determined and credited through the FC. A new Auxiliarist must be fully processed through completion of their favorable PSI determination and be shifted out of AP status before being credited towards this award. The year in which the date of the new Auxiliarist's shift from AP status to IQ or BQ status shall be the year to which the new Auxiliarist shall count toward recruiting award recognition.

The following are recipients of the Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award :

<u>Division</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Flotilla</u>
1	Jose Caban	1-10
	Marcos Cruz_Resto	1-10
	Angel Rivera	11
3	Mario Stagliano	36
5	Fred Combs	56
	Paul Horbal	59
	Stuart Spector	52
6	Roger Kidder	61
7	Judith Clapp	75
	Donald Hershman	7-16
	Marla Short	72
	Tom Teahan	79
	Gil Thomas	74
8	Stanley Blumenthal	82
9	Doug Johnson	95
11	Larry Gellinger	11-3
	Rosario Greco	11-1
	Marcel Traficante	11-3
12	Paul Thomas	12-8
13	Elsie Metcalf	13-1
17	Sharon Breece	17-11

Human Resources Awards

NACO Membership Growth Award - Individual

To recognize the individual achievement of an Auxiliary member who has recruited at least five (5) or more new members during a single calendar year.

To earn this award, the individual must have recruited five new members and be considered the sponsor of those members. Each new member must have completed the New Member Course and have been assigned a member number by DIRAUX.

The following are recipients of the NACO Membership Growth Award—Individual Award :

<u>Division</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Flotilla</u>
1	Angel Rivera	11
3	Arnold Greenhouse Mario Stagliano	34 36
4	Carolyn Page	43
5	Fred Combs Paul Horbal Stuart Spector	56 59 52
6	Monica Zima	6-11
7	Judith Clapp Donald Hershman Marla Short Heleyde Aponte Gil Thomas	75 7-16 72 79 74
8	Stanley Blumenthal	82
9	Doug Johnson	95
11	Rosario Greco	11-1
12	Paul Thomas	12-8
13	Virgil Allmond	13-3
15	Michael Bollinger	15-8
17	Sharon Breece	17-11

Human Resources Awards

NACO Membership Growth Award - Flotillas

To recognize the achievement of an Auxiliary flotilla that has gained a net increase of at least two (2) or more new members during a single calendar year.

To earn this award, the individual flotilla must have recruited enough new members to net two additional members from the previous year-end totals from AUXDATA information.

The following are recipients of the NACO Membership Growth Award—Flotillas/Divisions Award :

<u>Division</u>	<u>Flotilla</u>	<u>Flotilla Commander</u>	<u>Division Commander</u>
1	11	Angel Sandana	
2	25	Lyle Letteer	
	29	Patricia Lindsey	
3	34	Marvin Merritt	
	38	Robert Corbett	
4	00		Fred Hill
	44	Bruce Perri	
	45	Josephine Opisso	
5	00		Les McDermott
	52	Greg Barth	
	54	Charles Pecoroni	
	56	Tommy Augustsson (VFC)	
	59	James Stone	
6	61	Roger Kidder	
	6-10	Jack Benveniste	
7	72	Gene Keller	
	75	Oscar Kramer	
	79	Paul Cook	
	7-16	Donald Hershman	
8	85	Thomas Johnson	
9	91	David Schwartz	
	93	Robert Adubato	
	99	Ronald Willis	
11	11-3	Charles Lambeth	
	11-6	Roger Anderson	
12	12-4	Charles Budnick	
	12-6	James Poole	
13	00		Elsie Metcalf
	13-2	James Gallagher	
	13-3	Virgil Allmond	
14	14-2	Mark Henricks	
	14-5	William Loupatty	
	14-7	David Patrick	
15	15-5	Richard Roberts	
17	00		Carl Motes
	17-6	Jack Miller	
	17-11	Wagner Nolasco	



Around District 7 Division 2

Members of Flotilla 29 Perform with the USCG Pipe Band at the 2013 Coast Guard Festival



Taken from “Underway” Flotilla 29
Publication
Article by Dawn Vornholt

As many of you know, August 4, 2013, marked the 223rd Birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard. Every year, Grand Haven, Michigan, a/k/a “Coast Guard City, U.S.A.” hosts a weeklong Coast Guard Festival that includes an array of entertainment such as carnival rides, a grand parade, concerts, and a spectacular fire-works show. But the real heart of the festival is the National Memorial Service, a time to remember and honor those service men and women who have given their lives in service to the nation, with a special focus on those who passed over the bar in the previous year. The fallen who were commemorated this year were Senior Chief Petty Officer Terrell E. Horne III, retired Chief Petty Officer Richard W. Belisle, and Petty Officer 1st Class James A. Hopkins.

The USCG Pipe Band once again performed in many festival events, marking its 12th consecutive year at the festival. **Flotilla 29** was well represented with six pipers: Pipe Major **ML Loudermilk, Mike Grest, Greg McKellar, Jack Pierce, John Quinn, and Dawn Vornholt**. All told, 32 band members performed, with 19 pipers, 11 drummers, a Drum Major, and Color Guard. What made this year particularly extraordinary for the band was the addition of a new USCG Pipe Band marker in their Central Park as a Point of History on the Grand Haven Walk of Coast Guard History. From the Dedication:

This year, 2013, we are recognizing and celebrating the music of the Coast Guard. On September 6th, 2002, the U.S. Coast Guard Pipe Band became officially incorporated as a nonprofit organization. After having learned how to play the bagpipes, U. S. Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Gilheany decided to share his passion of the pipes by soliciting other members, active and retired, of the U.S. Coast Guard to come together in Grand Haven, Michigan, for the 2002 Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival. Ten pipers arrived to share their talents and time at the National Coast Guard Memorial Service playing the service anthem “Semper Paratus” and then marching in the Grand Parade on the next day. Today this 60 member, all volunteer pipe band travels from their homes all across the country to play at events from National Memorial Services to private Coast Guard functions.”

Additionally, Mayor Geri McCaleb awarded each member of the band a City of Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival Medallion. The band was overwhelmed with sentiments of support and appreciation from a full spectrum of festival attendees: from Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, and Festival Executive Director CDR Mike J. Smith, USCG (Ret.), who commended the band for their **countless volunteer hours (--this is what we Auxiliarists do!)**, to the revelers at the Enlisted Men’s Dinner, to those who enthusiastically cheered us on along the parade route (including **Flotilla 29’s own Commander Mary Larsen!**).





Division 4



Flotilla 45 on Patrol

Submitted by Bill Griswold,
SO-HR, Division 4

Flotilla 45 patrolling the St Johns River
near Astor Florida in their new Facility.

Any day on the river is better than any day at work.



L to R - At the helm, owner and Crew
Member, Bob Elliott VFC, Josephine
Opisso FC and Dan Reaume FSO-HR.

Picture submitted by Coxswain Dwight Gardstrom



Division 5



Submitted by Chris Abernethy,
FSO-PE—Flotilla 51

For Immediate Release

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Volunteer Chris Abernethy Receives Sea Tow Foundation Golden Life Jacket Award Award Honors Local Heroes as Part of Sea Tow’s 30th Anniversary Celebration

Palm Beach, Fla.—August 30, 2013—[Sea Tow Palm Beach](#) President and Captain Will Beck presented Chris Abernethy of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) with the Sea Tow Foundation’s Golden Life Jacket Award on Wednesday, August 28. Abernethy received the award for his countless hours of volunteer service manning the communications desk at Coast Guard Station Lake Worth Inlet and his dedication to promoting boating safety by teaching monthly Boating Safety Courses.

"It's both a privilege and a pleasure to work with Chris," said Capt. Beck. "His knowledge, professionalism, especially in times of crisis, as well as his commitment to helping others has been a great service to our boating community."

The Sea Tow Foundation is a nonprofit organization established by Capt. Joe Frohnhoefer, Founder and CEO of leading on-water assistance provider Sea Tow Services International, Inc., to promote boating safety practices across the U.S. The Foundation launched the Golden Life Jacket Award this year as part of Sea Tow’s 30th Anniversary celebration, and plans to continue it as an annual awards program.



Capt. Will Beck (left) presents the Golden Life Jacket Award to Chris Abernethy.

The Golden Life Jacket Award is presented to “local heroes” in communities across the nation who provide guidance to youth on boating safety issues on a volunteer basis, and/or have made a positive difference in their community by promoting boating safety and life jacket use – one of the Sea Tow Foundation’s core missions. Each year, Sea Tow franchisees may nominate candidates from their community whom they feel are worth of receiving the Golden Life Jacket Award from the Sea Tow Foundation and a local franchise.

“Local heroes like Chris Abernethy are making a huge difference every day in their boating communities by helping to make boating safer and more enjoyable for everyone,” said Gail Kulp, executive director of the Sea Tow Foundation.

In addition to running the USCGA Safe Boating Courses, Chris also has been the VHF radio “Voice of Station Lake Worth Inlet” for a number of years. He has devoted hundreds of hours to the station without thought of compensation, and shared boating safety information at marine events throughout the county and through the safe boating course he teaches in Riviera Beach.

In 2007, Sea Tow Founder and CEO Capt. Joe Frohnhoefer created the Sea Tow Foundation – a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – to promote safe boating practices. The Foundation’s goal is to reduce accidents, fatalities and property damage related to recreational boating. For more information, please visit boating-safety.com.



Division 5



FLORIDA'S 2013 LOBSTER SEASON



Submitted by Otto Spielbichler,
Flotilla 54

A two- day Sport Season begins one minute after midnight on July 28th and ends midnight July 29th.

VEs and RBS staff will find some of what follows useful, especially if they don't dive or run a boat that caters to lobster divers. Note, regulations differ somewhat in Monroe County and the Keys where night diving is not permitted and bag limits vary. Some parts of Key Biscayne, the Keys Marine Sanctuary and the Everglades are off limits at all times. Use the following web site for the regulations: <http://floridakeys.noa.gov> or call 305 8562 7717 for regulations governing the area from the Keys to the Dry Tortugas National Park. Visit MyFWC.com or MyFWC.com/RECREATION/Saltwater_index.htm for lobster regulations for the state of Florida. A printable edition of the regulations can be found at, myfwc.com/RULESANDREGS/Saltwater_Regulations_lobster.htm

A Saltwater fishing and crawfish permit are required with some exceptions for senior citizens and military personnel. Information can be found on the FWC web site.

Divers who have a license or stamp can take six lobsters a day. The carapace of a lobster must be more than three inches from between the horns to the rear edge of the shell. **Lobsters must be measured underwater. Regardless of species, undersized lobsters and egg bearing females must be released underwater.** Egg bearing females carry eggs on the underside of the tail. Egg masses are pale red/orange in color and look like a blob of jelly. Lobsters must be kept whole and not rung until returned to a dock. The myfwc.com/lobster.htm web site above shows how to measure lobsters with a device that can be purchased at dive shops and sporting goods stores. The device must be in the possession of divers while underwater.

When divers enter the water, dive boats must display a dive flag (red with a white stripe). The minimum size of the boat flag (rectangular or square) is 20 by 24 inches. The flag must be placed at the highest point of the vessel when divers enter the water and lowered when divers are out of the water. Divers must tow a ball or float with a staff and dive flag while under water. The minimum size of the diver down flag is 12 by 12 inches. **Both flags (boat and diver) must have stiffeners.** See state regulation 327.331 at www.MyFWC.com/boating/safely/divingflag.htm for details. Snorkelers should also tow the same size dive ball and flag while snorkeling in any area. Boats carrying snorkelers need to display the same flag as dive boats. Boaters may display an Alpha flag if desired, but they must also display a red and white dive flag.

Divers on the surface must make an effort to stay within 100 feet of a dive flag. Vessels traversing in an area where diving is taking place must maintain a distance of 300 feet from a dive vessel and/or a ball and flag being towed by divers. Dive boats operating near divers or retrieving divers must proceed with no more speed than is necessary to maintain headway and steerageway.

Diving in inlets and rivers is permitted as long as it does not interfere with navigation. Boats traversing a river or inlet must maintain at least 100 feet, if possible, from a dive boat or diver down flag and travel and proceed at minimum speed.

This is not an official, nor is it a complete copy of the regulations for Florida's Spiny Lobster season. Go to one of the web sites above for detailed information.

Help make the lobster sport and the rest of the recreational season safe.



Division 6



Boating Educator of the Year



Submitted by Diane Riggan, AUX-PA

Flotilla 67 member, Henry Cespedes, was nominated and selected as National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Boating Educator of the Year for South Florida. The award was presented by Captain Richard Moore of the Fish and Wildlife Commission at D-train.

Henry was in competition in Boise Idaho with other organizations who have paid staffers who teach safe boating and he came in third place. Henry's tireless efforts to teach in the Miami Dade County area have reached thousands. Both he and his instructor staff teach in both English and Spanish. Henry was the only recognized non-paid boating educator whose name was entered in nomination at the national level. He was recognized for devoting twenty-two Saturdays to teach in the Miami-Dade area.

Henry joined the Auxiliary in 1975 and has been an active member for the past thirty-eight years. He is a dedicated Flotilla Staff Officer—Publication Education. There is so much more to Henry's accomplishments but that is not what he is in the Auxiliary for, he is in it to help save lives.



Capt. Richard Moore of the Fish & Wildlife Commission presenting the award, Henry Cespedes, Bob Weskerna and Judith Hudson



Division 6



Submitted by Vickie Aponte
The Mariner Minute-Flotilla 6-11
Photos by Nichole R. Betterson,

Happy 72nd Anniversary Flotilla 6-11

On August 1st, 2013, Flotilla 6-11 celebrated its 72nd Anniversary as a member of TEAM COAST GUARD.

To commemorate this historic event, a Hot August Anniversary Cookout was held at Oleta River State Park, Sunday, August 4, 2013. Flotilla members, along with Active Duty Guardsmen, family, and friends enjoyed food, games, and fun in the sun .



During the celebration, the 1st Kayathalon Race was held. Race participants faired the blistering heat and kayaked the park's inner loop in record time. Flotilla participants included Jose Alava, Victor Garcia-Barreras, Richard Laird, Mihaela Stancu, and Monica Zima





Division 7



Polk County Detachment

Submitted by Gil Thomas, ADSO-HR

The Polk County Detachment is located between Tampa and Orlando, Florida. Polk County is in central Florida and covers 1875 square miles. It has 575 lakes and 135 square mile of water.

On September 7th, the detachment was invited to take part in the SerVapalooza sponsored by the Volunteer Polk at Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland. The SerVapalooza objective was to educate the citizens of Polk County about the many volunteer agencies that are serving in the county and the opportunities available to volunteer. The detachment set up a display of the various aspects of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and boating safety. This was an opportunity to meet the citizens of Polk County and to share the mission of Coast Guard Auxiliary and the possibility of joining the detachment.

September 14th a second Vessel Safety Checks inspection site at Lake Summit in Winter Haven, Florida was formed. Vessel Safety Checks are now held on Lakes Arianna in Auburndale and Lake Summit. As the detachment grows, we will add more three-member man teams at other lakes in our county, allowing greater out-reach and improving boating safety in Polk County.

On Saturday, September 21st, the detachment was invited to join the Chain of Life Safety Expo at Lake Silver in downtown Winter Haven, Florida. The Chain of Life Safety Expo started at 2 PM and finished with a free water ski show. It was a beautiful day with light winds to set up our tent and display. The detachment had displays of the various boating safety equipment and literature. The Mayor of Winter Haven, James H. Powell, and Karen Thompson, the Expo organizer, joined the detachment members for pictures, and thanked them for their efforts. This was another opportunity to meet the citizens of Winter Haven, Polk County and to share about the mission of Coast Guard Auxiliary.



From the Left are Vessel Examiners James Ubanawiz, Dustin Buxton, Karen Thompson, (Organizer of the Safety Expo), James H. Powell (Mayor of Winter Haven), Gilbert F. Thomas (ADSO-HR) and James Mulligan (Vessel Examiner)



Division 9



Flotilla 95 Classroom Gets Updated

**Submitted by Doug Johnson,
FSO-HR, Flotilla 95**

Over the summer, Flotilla 95 completed a joint project to increase the capacity of their classroom and replace tables and chairs. The joint project involved Collier County replacing the old worn carpeting in the building, Friends of Marco Island Flotilla 95, Inc. purchasing new tables and Marco Office Supply donating new chairs.

The new classroom now has a capacity to comfortably seat thirty-four individuals where the old classroom could only accommodate twenty-four. The old folding tables varied in sizes and colors. The folding chairs were twenty-five years old. The old equipment was donated to a number of groups on Marco Island including the new Marco Island Academy.





Division 11



Local Coast Guard Auxiliaries Receive Award



**Submitted by Tom Loughlin,
SO-PA, Division 11**

Coast Guard Auxiliaries Karen Miller of Clearwater and Dudley Davis of Tarpon Springs were honored at the recent All-Hands meeting at Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg. This monthly meeting of all available personnel is for the purpose of sharing new information and the presentation of awards to both military and civilian personnel assigned to the Sector headquarters.

Miller and Davis were cited by Rear Admiral John H. Korn, the commander of Coast Guard District 7 for their extraordinary efforts during the past year in supporting the Coast Guard Ready For Operations program. Admiral Korn thanked them for their unselfish efforts in greatly helping to reduce the time for these annual top-to-bottom inspections from a full week by two inspectors down to a matter of a few days.

Ready for Operations (RFO) inspectors evaluate the unit training program, administer written tests, evaluate equipment condition and documentation, evaluate the boat and crews for readiness and safety according to the appropriate Coast Guard regulations and manuals, conduct underway drills, review the physical fitness of all boat members and assists the unit in preparation for the Standardization Team assessments. In this respect, Miller and Davis are very unique since they are the only Auxiliaries in the entire area covered by Coast Guard District 7 who participate as fully-qualified members in these critical inspections. Miller and Davis exemplify the volunteer efforts of all Auxiliaries who believe in the Coast Guard motto, "Semper Paratus", meaning "Always Ready".

Coast Guard District 7 is responsible for Coast Guard air and sea operations covering the southeast United States with over 15,000 miles of shoreline from South Carolina, Georgia and Florida to the Caribbean Basin including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is a uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America's Volunteer Lifeguards, support the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions.



Karen Miller, Admiral John H. Korn, Dudley Davis



Division 11



Longest Serving Auxiliarist Retires



Don Brackett

**Karen L. Miller, Commander,
Division 11 Photos Submitted by
Tom Loughlin SO-PA Division 11**

Regular readers of the *D7 Connection* will recognize the name Don Brackett on the D7 Golden Anniversary Club page. Don always led the page since he started in the Auxiliary in 1947. And, Don actually wanted to join right at the birth of the Auxiliary (when it was the Coast Guard Reserves), but had to serve in the military for World War II. As soon as he got out of service, Don signed up for the Coast Guard Auxiliary and he never lost his fervor.

Unfortunately, time and age has caught up with Auxiliarist Brackett; he has had to enter an Assisted Living Facility (ALF) where he has experienced a number of health setbacks. But there is a very bright spot to Don's difficult decision to retire from the Coast Guard Auxiliary: Rear Admiral "Jake" Korn was scheduled to arrive at Sector St Petersburg for his initial tour of his Area of Responsibility and he enthusiastically agreed to present Don with his retirement "papers"

On September 25th, just two days prior to completing his 66th year in the Auxiliary, Don Brackett was presented with an Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal. He looked spiffy in his freshly laundered uniform and with the help of his daughter and several members of the Auxiliary, Don rose from his wheelchair to accept the award medal and to pose with

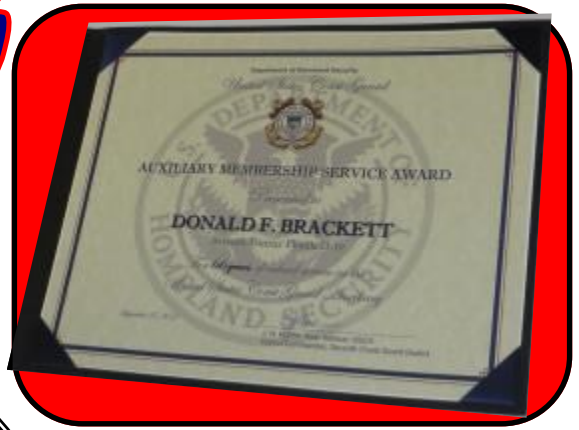
RADM Korn for some congratulatory photos. In addition to the Meritorious Service Medal, Don received the Member Service Award (13th), Retirement Certificate and Pin, and a plaque from Chief DIRAUX for his 66 years of service to the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

This ceremony was attended by the other residents of the ALF, Don's Daughter-Carol Brackett Spooner, Tom Loughlin, Division 11 Public Affairs Officer, Don Hoge, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator for Sector St Petersburg, Jim Ryder, Immediate Past Division 11 Commander, the Command Master Chiefs from both District 7 and Sector St Petersburg – J. Griffin and J Wong, respectively, Lieutenant Haley, District 7 Aide, Commander Ryan, Deputy Commander at Sector St Petersburg, Captain Case, Sector St Petersburg Commander and Admiral Korn, District 7 Commander.

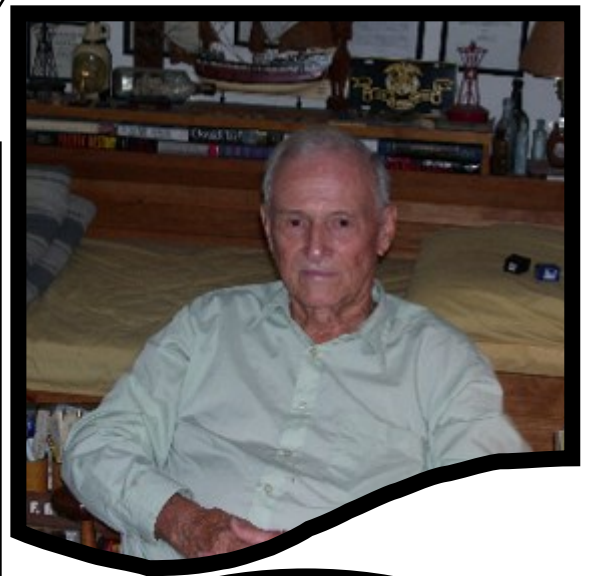


"Mr. Brackett's 66 years of steadfast dedication to the Coast Guard Auxiliary is an inspiration and I cannot express the gratitude I have for his unwavering commitment and charitable service to the American people," said Korn. "He truly embodies the Coast Guard's core values and I am honored to present him with the Meritorious Service Medal recognizing his remarkable devotion to maritime safety."

Memories



**Don Brackett—Flotilla 11-10
USCG Auxiliary 1947-1913**





Division 14



Flotilla 14-5 Celebrates New Coast Guardsman John Doubleday



**Submitted By Helen Russette,
Flotilla 14-5**

Flotilla 14-5, Green Cove Springs, enjoyed a special Fellowship event in July at their Headquarters, celebrating the USCG Boot Camp graduation of fellow Auxiliarist, John Doubleday. John's parents, Auxiliarist Jeff Doubleday and wife MiAe, and Iowa grandparents, De Wayne and Joy Doubleday, joined in the festivities to help congratulate John on his recent accomplishments. Flotilla 14-5 Auxiliarists Neil and Libby Rattrie, parents of USCG Chief James Rattrie, were on hand to share their experiences as Coastie parents and encourage John in his new career path. Flotilla Commander, David Hensel, proudly presented John with a Patrol Marlin spike knife, commemorating the occasion.

After munchies, drinks and socializing, attendees were regaled by John with glimpses of life at Boot Camp. The nation's only Coast Guard Training Center at Cape May, New Jersey transforms recruits from civilian volunteers into military members of the United States Coast Guard, guided by the core values of *Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty*. Some insights John shared with the group included:

- 1) Boot Camp is a total of 7½ weeks,
- 2) Yes, female recruits train (not live) with male recruits,
- 3) Units are comprised of about 40 recruits, but there is churn of personnel during training. Some recruits need more time to matriculate and enter later units, and then there is intake of recruits from earlier units, and
- 4) John's time spent before Boot Camp as an Auxiliarist and Watch Stander helped familiarize him with Coast Guard decorum.

Flotilla 14-5 is especially proud of fellow Auxiliarist John Doubleday as he serves his country and lives by the Coast Guard Ethos: ***I serve the people of the United States. I will protect them. I will defend them. I will save them. I am their shield. For them I am Semper Paratus.***



John Doubleday & Mom, MiAe



John Doubleday & Dad, John



Division 15



Flotilla 15-4 Homosassa—National Safe Boating Week Activity

Homosassa Flotilla 15-4 was very active in recognition of National Safe Boating Week with numerous vessel safety checks being conducted throughout the week.

On Saturday, May 18, two booths were in operation at the new Super Wal-Mart store in Homosassa. The booths were located on each side of the main entrance to the store.



L to R: Georgia Young, Ned Barry, FC, and Bill Mauer.

The booth closest to the entrance was utilized as an informational booth. An assortment of pamphlets, booklets and brochures were distributed to the general public. Also taking place at this booth were recruiting activities and the taking of reservations for upcoming Public Education courses.



Wilbur 'Scotty' Scott completed a Vessel Safety Check on Raymond Becker's boat.

The second booth was operated by Flotilla Vessel Examiners and was also a distribution

point for additional safe boating materials. Five actual vessel safety checks were conducted at this booth during the hours of operation and in full view of the general public, who seemed very interested in the activity. Appointments were made for future VSCs with boat owners who did not have their boats with them at the store.



Gemma, a trained service dog, and mascot of Flotilla 15-4, Homosassa, Florida, takes a rest from her NSBW 'duties'

A new twist was added at the PA booth with the presence of Flotilla 15-4's mascot, Gemma, a Golden Labrador Retriever who is a trained Service Dog owned by Rusty Hays, FSO-VE. Gemma was the source of lots of attention and admiration by numerous children and their parents during the course of the day. She loved all of their attention, being the friendly dog that she is, and of course, it also gave flotilla members an opportunity to discuss safe boating issues with both the children and their parents. Gemma was identified on her halter as a friendly dog who loved to be petted. She proudly wore her "Service Dog" halter which was adorned with her "On Duty" USCG Auxiliary patch

Taken from Division 15 Publication "Charlie Noble" Article & Photos submitted by Wilbur 'Scotty' Scott, FSO-PA, Flotilla 15-4,



Division 16



USCGC Reef Shark Visits St. Croix Auxiliary

**Submitted by Robert A. Fabich Sr., FSO-PA
Flotilla 16-1—Photo by Robert A. Fabich, Sr.**

GALLOWES BAY, St. Croix - Crew onboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Reef Shark met with members of the USCG Resident Inspection Office (RIO) St. Croix, Coast Guard Auxiliary and Hovensa representatives during a port stop at the Gallows Bay Commercial Dock July 28, 2013. Lieutenant (LT) Katherine E. Murray, Commanding Officer (CO) of the Reef Shark and the crew dedicated their personal time off to hosting a luncheon and tour. The 87 foot Reef Shark is stationed at USCG Sector San Juan, Puerto Rico and patrols the Caribbean waters.

owned boats and aircraft to assist with Search and Rescue (SAR), establishing safety zones for boating and swimming events, pollution assessments, checking navigational aids, conducting recreational boating safety checks and logistical support.

Following the superb meal made from scratch by FS2 Neal, representatives from USCG RIO, USCG Boat Forces, Auxiliary and Hovensa enjoyed a tour of the cutter. LT Murray explained how the navigation, communication and mechanical equipment of the boat is integrated with resources used on St. Croix.



Food Service Specialist, FS2 Hilary Neal (left), thanks fellow shipmates BMC Gustavo Giron (rear), LT Katherine Murray (center), and MKC Heather Friedrich (right) after serving lunch



LT Katherine Murray, commanding officer, USCGC Reef Shark, explains the operation of navigation equipment on the bridge.

"It is important for me to relate a face to a voice, a person to a position, and a duty to an operation" explained Lt. Murray. "Conducting emergency operations, vessel boarding, or dealing with the weather at sea can be stressful. Getting to know Coast Guard and other supporting organization personnel, understanding their available local resources and how they can support our missions from St. Croix is very comforting."

The July 28th informal training was presented to members of the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 16-1 Christiansted during a scheduled port stop.

"We always appreciate meeting with active duty Coast Guard when they come into port." said Mr. Lee Elvins, Commander of Auxiliary Division 16 . "Greeting the new crew, exchanging ideas, and learning the operation of new equipment is essential. It was an honor to be invited here on their free day." The crew of the Reef Shark gave up their personal time off for the betterment of Team Coast Guard.

USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 16-1 Christiansted provides team support with surface and air assets. Members of the Auxiliary utilize privately



Welcome



July 1 to September 30, 2013

Division 1

**Cordero_Rodriguez, Zoharis
Declat_Sevilla, Jesus
Falcon_Rodriguez, Jorge
Luyando_Gonzalez, Jose
Medina_Morales, Wilmer
Torres_Hernandez, Jose**

Division 2

**Ashe, James R., Jr.
Copeland, Matthew
McCleary, Mark
Owen, Richard
Prater, John M., Jr.**

Division 3

**Abbott, Christopher
Bohager, Kimberly
Bohager, Michael
Coto, Leandro
Byers, Stephen J.
Hammarstrom, Donald
Lanning, Richard D., Jr.
Mowers, James W.
Rabb, Laura
Sawh, Ian R.
Soler, Rolando A.**

Division 4

**Gaitan, Alejandro
Martin, Bobby R.
Nealis, Beatrice**

Division 5

**Bradley, Joseph
Camarda, Vincent
Essegian, Austin M.
Gawel, Robert
Kelly_Jameson, Sonja L
Jordan, Charles
Jordan, Christina M.
Lebeau, Francis Sr.
Mahoney, Bernard P., Jr.
Manson, Robert
McKinney, Damien R.
Meigs, Thomas L., Jr. Pat-
rick, Laurence
Pettengill, Richard
Simkins, Michael F.
Valderrama, John D.**

Division 6

**Arritola, Adam E.
Bello, Yeider
Chiappone, Mark
Cusano, Louis D.
Dorrbecker, Jorge
Fernandez, Dennis
Ferrando, Alvaro
Forero, David G.
Frank_Lopez, Tyler M.
Knickerbocker, William
Lopez, Richard
Nagar, Shneur
Rios, Hernan
Rovirosa, Dania
Rovirosa, Lester
Scoggin, Erick E., Jr.
Valdes, Juan**

Division 7

**Abruzzo, Judith
Ahern, Michael J.
Aubery, Andrew O.
Bendis, Alan
Bodi, Thomas
Dominguez, Ronald
Fahari, David
Ferguson, Rodney
Hathaway, Jessica
Jacobs, Gregory
Larkin, John W. IV
Lawser, Richard W. Jr.
McCarty, Shayne
McKenzie, Ethan
Merrell, Shenan E.
Novellino, Anthony
O'Connor, Sean
Ogborn, Nathan
Pinto, James E.
Tierney, James E.
Torres, Ryan
Vargas, Ulises
Watters, Nathan J.
Ziegler, Frederick**

Division 8

**Chapman, Carl
Dach, Maryann
Dilley, Gary
Folan, Martin J.
Gushwa, Stephen**



Welcome



Division 8—Contd

**Chapman, Carl
Dach, Maryann
Dilley, Gary
Folan, Martin J.
Gushwa, Stephen M.
Herington, John R.
Lucas, Robin R.
Motta, Donald
Mull, Mark H., Jr.
Myers, Luke
Neguib, Abraham
Oliveira, Belisa
Petty, Stephan M.
Rotering, Margaret A.
Tapovatz, William E.
Tomasi, Thomas
Udice, Stephen P.
Vonmueller, Eric A.
Walton, Marietta
Walton, Ronald**

Division 9

**Brunell, Barry
Grundborg, Jeanne
Martin, Mary A.
Whitney, Jeffrey
Schwartz, Martin L.
Zogaib, Junieth E.**

Division 10

**Delgado, Joseph H.
Deloach, Philip A.
Klein, Robert J.
Luker, Nona K.
Marshall, Laurel A.
Peller, Arnold
Stewart, Marshall
Williams, Marvin M.**

Division 11

**Brown, Clarence T. IV
Bush, Kinda K.
Davis, Kim M.
Fanning, Ryan T.
Ferrara, Angela
Fritts, James A.
Gilbert, Lawrence
Kowalski, Amy
Little, Cheryl
Wheeler, Sean M.**

Division 12

**Blodgett, Robert S., Jr.
Flamm, Jason
Johnson, Jimmy M., Jr.
Sanyer, Wolfgang
Smith, Crystal**

Division 13

**Dietz, Peter
Di Giovanni, Kris
Downes, William
Gill, Catherine
Gittings, Dale
Sage, Georganna H.
Tarlton, Thomas**

Division 14

**Binkley, Aron
Bomgardner, Frederick
Dean, Ronnie
Defilippo, Charles
Droege, Karen S.
Fisher, Kenneth
Hoyos, Javier A.
Koenig, Andrew
Lally, Robert K.
Marcon, Michael
Okeeffe, David
Parker, Carly
Poole, Reginald A.
Schleich, Ronald T.
Torres, Abraham**

Division 15

**Altavilla, Ralph
Delucia, Frank
Hubert, Andre
Marsiglia, Richard
Miner, Brandon
Rivera_Matos, Wanda
Rose, Albert C.**

Division 17

**Bayona, Frank
Chaffin, Stuart W. Chaf-
fin, Tahitiana
Dicicco, Robert J.
Krupsky, Joan
Marchman, Decann
Palou_Massas, Jaime
Perni, Mark
Sanchez_Cepeda, Luis A.
Whalen, David**



2013 Retirees

July 1 to September 30, 2013

Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Takes pleasure in conferring to:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Flotilla</u>	<u>Service Year</u>
Bracket, Don	11-10	66
Sires, Norman	25	37
Davis, Donald	12-3	31
Long, Robert	10-10	31
Alvanos, Neal	52	26
High, Robert G.	86	26
Goepfner, Joe	25	25
Ball, John W., Sr.	22	23
Barutha, Sandra	9-10	22
Harper, Robert	85	21
Kelly, James	15-4	21
Reinhold, Rodney	15-8	21
Christianson, Lester	36	20
Gras, Edward	54	20
Hepburn, Winthrop	12-8	20
Hill, Curtis	96	18

RETIRED STATUS

*in the
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary*

In recognition of significant contributions and devoted service to the organization and its boating safety programs.



2013 Retirees

July 1 to September 30, 2013

Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Takes pleasure in conferring to:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Flotilla</u>	<u>Service Year</u>
James, Thomas	6-10	18
Rogers, Margaret	51	17
Rogers, William	51	17
Whitehead, Glenn	29	17
Furphy, William	56	16
Meyer, Gizella	86	16
Meyer, John F.	86	16
Morrison, Robert	96	16
Ranguette, John	9-10	16
Whaley, Billy	12-2	16
Andress, Laurence	67	15
Berry, Kenneth	45	15
Haggerty, Shirley	48	15
Schiller, Lenore	67	15
Smith, Peter	43	15

RETIRED STATUS

*in the
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary*

In recognition of significant contributions and devoted service to the organization and its boating safety programs.

Crossing the Bar

July 1 to September 30, 2013

*Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,*

*But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;*

*For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.*

By Alfred Lord Tennyson



Jorge Mercado
Division 1



Buford Brock
Division 4



Karen Miller
Division 8



Joseph Frock
Division 9



Gayle Way
Division 5



David Wood
Division 4



Michael Murphy
Division 9



Kenneth Winfield (Ret)
Division 9



Harold Belcher
Division 14



Joseph Bratt III
Division 15



Jane Davis
Division 16



William Dunne
Division 16



Margaret McGuinness
Division 17



William Spencer
Division 17

Remember When



Remember When



D-Train - The Ceremony



D-Train - The Banquet



Picture Page



Trivia

“Uncle Sam” was born in 1813 after meat packer Samuel Wilson began supplying the army with barrels of beef stamped U.S., for United States. Soldiers saw the initials and dubbed it “Uncle Sam’s” Newspapers picked up on it and the name stuck!

Author Johnny Gruelle patented the “Raggedy Ann” doll in 1915. When Gruelle’s daughter found a faceless, dusty old rag doll, he drew a face on it, gave her a name and began illustrating a book about her adventures!



Fingernails grow about three times as fast as toenails and that the fingernails of your dominant hand grow more rapidly than those of your nondominant hand. The accepted theory is that since you use your fingers more than your toes (and your strong hand more than your weak one), the faster nail growth might result from the body’s attempt to repair whichever parts are undergoing the most “trauma” from activity.

Years ago, “eeny-meeny-miney-mo” was considered the best way to reach a decision.

One in 20 men is at least partially color-blind and color-blindness is 10 times more common in men than in women. All babies are color-blind at birth.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: “abstemious” and facetious.”

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

The words ‘racecar,’ ‘kayak’ and ‘level’ are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left.

Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

A large meal will temporarily make your hearing less sharp.

The opposite sides of a dice cube always add up to seven!

A cat’s jaws cannot move sideways