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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary / Flotilla 5-11

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary assists the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation in opening the historic ‘Little Red Light House’ for annual visit**

NEW YORK, NY – On Saturday August 11, 2012, members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in New York City assisted the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation with tours of the historic Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse (‘the Little Red Lighthouse’), a 19<sup>th</sup> century lighthouse at the base of the George Washington Bridge.

Members of Flotilla 5-11 (Northern Manhattan) of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, partnered with NYC Urban Park Rangers in welcoming the public into the historic facility, which is listed on the National Park Service's *National Register of Historic Places*. NYC Park Rangers Martha Brodylo and Rebecca Rosenblatt were assisted by Michael McAllister (Flotilla Commander) and Juan Acosta (Marine Safety Officer) in welcoming the public to the historic structure. Both adults and children entered and climbed up the old iron stairs to the top of the red metal structure which was originally constructed in 1889 and which stood at Sandy Hook, NJ, until being positioned at its present location on the Hudson River in 1921.

Mr. Michael McAllister, the Commander of the Northern Manhattan based Flotilla, said: *“Lighthouses are part of the history of America, and to them is attributed the saving of many lives for they warned ships of approaching dangers.”* The Little Red Lighthouse is Manhattan’s last remaining lighthouse; it is owned by the City of New York which makes tours available for the public just a few times a year. Over the last few years, the USCG Auxiliary has assisted the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation in their making this historic facility an explorable adventure to visiting children.

The USCG Auxiliary is the civilian, uniformed volunteer component of the Coast Guard. And while they are not directly involved in military activities or law enforcement, nationwide, some 32,000 members directly supplement the Coast Guard through Maritime Observation Missions, Vessel Safety and Inspections, Search & Rescue, Marine Environmental Protection, and Public Education.

Persons interested in learning more about the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary should visit [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org) or contact Mr. Michael McAllister at [mcallister@USCGAUX511.org](mailto:mcallister@USCGAUX511.org).

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