



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



Flotilla 082-11-04 8ER
Percy Priest, Nashville and Middle Tennessee

Flotilla Commander: Michael Simpson Flotilla Vice Commander: James Mayo

Volume 16, Issue 9

NEXT MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING 19 SEPT 2016, 19:00 HOURS

Paul B. Huff Army Reserve Center
3598 Bell Road Nashville, TN 37214
Contact Phone: (615)-346-5362

FELLOWSHIP

Last month the flotilla honored and thanked Ruth Ring for all of her work and dedication to the efforts of the Auxiliary. Later, those who could attend dined at Elm Hill Marina for a proper send off. Thank you Ruth, Best of Luck, clear sailing and “Blue Skies” in Beautiful Traverse City, Michigan.

2016 FALL D-TRAIN 8ER

Dates: 15 –17 SEPT 2016

Place: Chattanooga, TN
Chattanooga-Marriott
at the Convention Center, Two Carter Plaza

Activities:

- Friday Fun Night
- Training
- Commodore’s Banquet

Ramon Llorens 11-04, 8ER. Please Submit Stories, Articles, Photos or Ideas to: RamonLJr@Yahoo.com

The USCG 15 Years after 9/11



Photo by: Ramon Llorens 2015

I recently had the opportunity to visit New York City. As I walked the streets of Lower Manhattan and gazed upon the spectacle of the new One World TradeCenter, I could only imagine the tragedy and ensuing pandemonium on 9/11/2001. There is still much construction going on and grim reminders of that day not to mention the flowers, mementoes, memorials and museums. Much honor and respect has been given to the first responders “Americas

Bravest” as they have been dubbed, however the actions of the United States Coast Guard on that tragic day are not often discussed in documentaries I have viewed. Continued

September Is Also National Preparedness Month

Many people were concerned on the first of the month when these text alerts popped up on their smart phones.



Perhaps you also received one or both of the alerts as I did. I screen grabbed it so I could investigate it further. Fortunately, as it turns out it was a test by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency to bring awareness to National Preparedness Month.

An explanation and apology for the confusion was later released in this Statement by TEMA Director Patrick Sheehan.

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National Preparedness Month Continued:



"Today the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency conducted a statewide test of the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts to mobile devices. The purpose of the test was to assess the readiness and effectiveness of the system to address the public during times of emergency. The purpose of this system is essential to ensure we can communicate to save lives and protect property. We timed today's test to coincide with the beginning of National Preparedness Month and it was designed to have limited impact on the public. TEMA spent the last several weeks working with our partners, EAS participants across the state, and the public to prepare for today's test. Unfortunately, during today's test we learned valuable lessons about the Emergency Alert System, our protocols, and areas to improve on the delivery of these types of alerts in the future. We have received calls and messages from hundreds of Tennesseans letting us know about problems with receiving messages and the concerns caused by the messages received. In many instances the caveats that the message was part of a test were not received, making it seem like an emergency was imminent. While many are understanding, knowing that we need to test our systems, many have voiced their concerns about the angst this test cause. Please accept my sincerest apologies for any inconvenience today's test caused. In the coming days and weeks TEMA will be reevaluating our protocols and systems. We will not be conducting any public tests of the system in the foreseeable future. We do these tests to make certain we know about problems before we need the systems. In this regard alone, this test has been very valuable. Again, please accept my apologies on behalf of TEMA and my gratitude for your patience and understanding." TEMA Director, Patrick Sheehan

For additional information visit the TEMA website or like them on Facebook

America's Volunteer Guardians, Directly Supporting The U.S.C.G., Promoting Boating Safety And Security Since 1939

15 Years after 9/11 Continued

The U.S. Coast Guard as in many past situations was the first military branch with boots on the ground and most importantly in the case boats on the water. Lower Manhattan was in total gridlock as traffic came to a halt, the subway trains were all stopped and there was nowhere to run for many trapped on the South West tip of the island. By some accounts people were even going into the frigid waters of the Hudson River to



Photo by: Ramon Llorens 2015

escape the flames and destruction. The U.S. Coast Guard was instrumental in coming up with a solution. They organized a flotilla made up of tugs, ferries, police and fire boats as well as private vessels to evacuate an estimated half a million survivors to New Jersey and Staten Island. Their coordinated efforts on this epic scale have been compared to "Dunkirk" in 1940 when an armada of mostly private vessels rescued more than 300 thousand soldiers trapped on the beaches of France and carried them to safety across the English Channel. The good news is, their heroic efforts did not go completely unnoticed, The Secretary of Transportation, the department which the Coast Guard was operating under in those days has since approved and authorized the Guardian Medal, Transportation 9-11 Medal, and Transportation 9-11 Ribbon for Active, Reserve, Auxiliary, and Civilian Coast Guard employees who responded to the terrorist attacks, which occurred on Sept. 11th 2001.

Bravo Zulu !



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