

**River Currents**  
Division 11 District 8ER  
Cumberland River and Middle Tennessee  
Division Commander: Frederick Gilman    Division Vice Commander: Michael Simpson

**Jan/Feb - Volume 18, Issue 1**

Editor: Ramon Llorens, Jr. SO-PB Division 8ER



Photo by Simone Llorens

# DATES AND EVENTS.

## NEXT DIVISION BOARD AND STAFF MEETING THURSDAY. 22 MARCH, 1900

Nashville Police Dept. East Precinct  
936 E. Trinity Ln, Nashville, TN 37211  
Contact: Fred Gilman (757) 894-0151

## SPRING 2018 D-TRAIN 8TH DISTRICT EASTERN REGION APRIL 26TH THRU 28TH

Pullman Plaza Hotel  
1001 3rd Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25701

**(304) 525-1001**

When Making reservations, please state:  
You are with the USCG Auxiliary.



*Commodore's Banquet*

# ONE TEAM



District Commodore  
Randy Ventress

Welcome everyone to 2018, a year I trust will be even better than the great year we had in our region in 2017. We as a team accomplished much, and I know we will continue that trend through the coming year and I thank everyone in Eighth Eastern Region for all the great work you have put forth.

I equate 2018 in a couple of terms I am personally familiar with. From my years of playing baseball and softball, "We have rounded second", and my aviation experience "We have turned Downwind" that our aviators and many others will understand. Both terms reflect the fact that this administration is half over. Time has flown by and I am grateful to have been able to experience 2017 even though it seems a blur.

Eighth Eastern has just completed our Change of Watch season. I made a personal commitment in 2016 as Chief of Staff to attend all the C.O.W.s that I wasn't able to attend that year in my first year as Commodore. This was a bit of a challenge this year between bad weather and bad-timing due to the shutdown, I did miss three that I had planned to attend, and I apologize to those Divisions. I do appreciate Dave Stroup, DCOS, for filling in for me where I couldn't be and thank you all for your hospitality.

If you attended any Change of Watch that I attended you heard part of my message to the membership. I would like to repeat in part for those that did not attend the C.O.W. and to re-emphasize a point of two that I whole-heartedly believe in, leadership.

" Leaders as you set your respective Staffs, I ask you to relay to your Staff Officers to remember that each of them are part of the Leadership Team. I also encourage and expect our elected leaders to reemphasize the importance of reporting in our organization to our respective Staff Officers. Reporting is communication and as leaders we need this communication so that we

can better make decisions, and better lead our membership because our membership has a need to know of what is going on in our respective areas."

In November I and the other two District Eight Commodores had the opportunity to meet with Rear Admiral Thomas and his Commanders of all the units and cutters in District Eight. This was a very positive and productive meeting for everyone there I believe.

I would like to share a bit of that meeting with you.

Admiral Thomas themed the meeting with the statement "ONE TEAM" and his emphasis was on everyone wearing the blue of the Coast Guard is an integral part of that team. Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian employees, and Auxiliary alike are part of **ONE TEAM**.

Captain Andy Sugimoto, D-8 Chief of Staff, who by the way is scheduled to be our Keynote speaker at Spring DTRAIN, passed on words of wisdom that I would like to

share with you as well. "Leadership starts with yourself. As a Leader you have to look at yourself first and if you haven't recognized your strengths, and weaknesses you haven't looked hard enough." Every person on the team needs to feel relevant and part of the team. Your unit will reflect who you are".

(please take time to let this sink in)

In closing I would like us all to focus on 2018 and make

it the "Year of Leadership". Everyone is a leader in his or her own right, in

some way, even without knowing, leads others, whether positively or negatively. In the words of John C. Maxwell, noted author and team builder,

"There are no Lone Ranger Leaders. If you are alone, you aren't leading anybody"

Happy 2018 everyone and I look forward to another great year with you!

***"There are no Lone Ranger Leaders  
If you are alone, you aren't leading anybody"***

## ***Division 11 Team for 2018, Bridge and Staff Officers***

**DIVISION COMMANDER (DCDR)**

**Frederick Gilman**

**DIVISION VICE COMMANDER (VCDR)**

**Michael Simpson**

### ***Division Staff Officers***

SO-CM	Randy Hawkins
SO-CS	Bill Weeks
SO-DV	Christopher Jones
50-FN	Bruce Anstey
SO-HR	Kelley Crecelius
SO-IS	Diane Gilman
SO-MA	James Mayo
SO-MS	William Welty
50-MT	Randy Ventress
SO-NS	Ralph Underwood
SO-OP	Bill Weeks
SO-PA	Diane Gilman
SO-PB	Ramon Llorens Jr.
SO-PE	George Warde
SO-PV	Diane Gilman
SO-SR	Kelley Crecelius
SO-VE	Ralph Underwood

### ***Flotilla Commanders and Flotilla Vice Commanders***

#### **Flotilla 11-02**

Gary Potterpin FC  
Paul Fernandez III VFC

#### **Flotilla 11-04**

J. Buell Noteboom FC  
Ramon Llorens Jr. VFC

#### **Flotilla 11-05**

Patrick Brown FC  
Bradley Cochrane VFC

#### **Flotilla 11-06**

Christopher Jones FC  
Charles Bader VFC

#### **Flotilla 11-07**

William Welty FC  
Dale Leighton VFC

# Veterans Day 2017 and Military Families Month

Written By Ramon Llorens Jr. SO-PB

The Veterans Days started a bit early in Tennessee for Division 11 as MTSU held their 36th annual salute to veterans and armed forces during its football game against UTEP. This was a great event which honored our Military Veterans and Active Duty Service Personnel as well as their families who also serve in many ways. There was a great barbecue lunch served and activities and games for children and adults alike. Sometimes we forget the sacrifices our loved ones must make as we answer the call to protect and serve our nation. This was a great event which let our families be in the mix, get to know our friends and colleagues and enjoy a beautiful Saturday at the stadium.

Of course there was a reason for the gathering, that is to honor our veterans and remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the lifestyle we enjoy in this country. We gathered at the site of the MTSU Veterans Memorial Wall for the playing of Taps and some heartfelt remarks from a member of the Grand Ole Opry and Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Jan Howard

**"Our nation owes each day of security and freedom that we enjoy to the members of our Armed Forces and their families. Behind our brave service men and women, there are family members and loved ones who share in their sacrifice and provide unending Support"**

**President, Barack Obama**

who was introduced by her longtime friend and fellow musician Bill Anderson. She was followed with a moving tribute to the families of veterans in song by John Conlee. Whether planned or just a feeling that swept the event, Family seemed to be the theme of the day. I was glad to be able to bring my family along to witness the occasion. The game started as night fell and soon it was half time when Veterans, Active Duty, Reservist, ROTC, Boy Scouts, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary were invited to the field.

Many of the Vets brought their kids and grandkids out to walk with them. It was great to meet and march alongside Coasties from WWII to the Vietnam Era and the present. Although there were only a few, the smallest branch of the military was well represented. It was an honor and a privilege in the spirit of the Auxiliary to march for those who could not attend and for those who were not able march. 🇺🇸🇨🇦



Photo by Ramon Llorens, Jr

Above: Kevin Gallagher, Samuel Saccheri and Buell Noteboom



# NASHVILLE VETERANS DAY PARADE 2017

Written by Ramon Llorens, Jr. SO-PB



Photo by Hernan Flores-Ortiz

Above: A great turn out for the Nashville Veterans Day Parade, L-R: Rosemary Halldorsson, Bill Weeks, Buell Noteboom, Larry Carter, Sammy Saccheri, Michael Simpson, Jessica Clark, Mark McDonald, James Mayo, Ramon Llorens and Jean-Pierre Llorens.

Right: Larry Carter reminds us of what the mission is, then briefs the participants on what to expect as he hands out assignments

It was sunny but a bit brisk as we gathered in the parking lot to prepare for the parade. Nashville being a very supportive and patriotic city we knew there would be a great turnout on the parade route. We did a brief uniform check then manned and outfitted our boats with all of the proper signage



Photo by Ramon Llorens, Jr.

and donned our type 3s and float coats. Even PFD Panda and Sara the wonder dog were wearing the recommended PPE.

We proceeded to the parade route where we waited and had a chance to meet and greet some of the other participants. As I was sitting in the driver's seat of our boat, a voice from below shouted, "hey! How do I join this outfit" I turned



Photo by Hernan Flores-Ortiz

and saw a gray haired gentleman in a vintage reefer coat with Petty Officer Second Class emblems on his sleeves. I gestured with my hand and said "come on aboard" we both had a good chuckle, I think it made his day to see we were there for him.

As I thought the streets were crowded on both sides, even with all of the construction barriers along the parade route. There were men, women, and children of all ages. Some waving flags, some wearing uniforms from bygone days, even some in wheel chairs who obviously made an extra effort to



Photo by Hernan Flores-Ortiz

Left: Bill Weeks, PFD Panda, Jessica Clark and Sara the Flotilla Dog

Above L-R: Bill Weeks, PFD Panda, Ralph Underwood, on the boat: Ramon Llorens and Jean Pierre Llorens



Photo by Ramon Llorens, Jr.

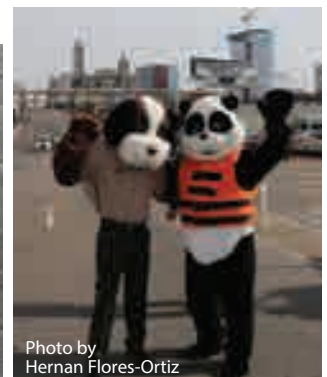


Photo by Hernan Flores-Ortiz



Photo by Hernan Flores-Ortiz

Left: Larry Carter, Jessica Clark and Sara the Dog, Sammy Saccheri and Chris Jones wave to the crowd by Hume-Fogg High School.

be there. There were also folks wearing ball caps of all branches with veteran written proudly across the brims in gold letters. It was humbling from my vantage point to see a veteran, sitting alone in silence offering a wave or salute as we passed. I did my best to make eye contact with those folks and extend a wave of thanks directly to them. To my surprise, a group of young children actually sang "Semper Paratus," the Coast Guards Marching Song at the top of their lungs as our floats passed by.



Photo by Hernan Flores-Ortiz

Above: The 179105 is back. not pictured: Auxiliarists who were notably present Justin Elam, Chad Clark and DCO Randy Ventress I would like to extend my appreciation to everyone who participated in both the MTSU Veterans salute and the Nashville Veterans Day parade. It was an honor and privilege to be part of these events as we proudly exhibit our presence and resources. We would like to send out a special thank you to Chad and Jessica Clark, for allowing their vessel to participate in the Nashville Veterans Day parade on a short notice. Once again Panda made an impression to the children and some adults along the route. We also had a special guest appearance by "Sara", Flotilla 04 mascot. Sara wowed the kids and awed the adults. Although her legs were a bit short, Sara completed the parade route with pride. Thanks again everyone.

The parade was a great experience which I was able to share with my youngest son who tagged along and rode on the boat with us. I think the kids enjoyed seeing another kid in a PFD and a real Coast Guard Recruit Hat.



Photo by Ramon Llorens, Jr.

The Parade was a success and so we fulfilled the last tenant of the Auxiliary which of course is fellowship. Being that we are in the South, that pretty much means food has to be shared, so we filled the back room of the local "Road House" where we toasted our vet's, shared a few stories and a great meal.



Photos by Jean-Pierre Llorens

***"That's what we call Teamwork!"***

- Larry A. Carter IP Division Vice Commander

Please direct all comments, suggestions, inquiries and story ideas to Ramon Llorens, Jr. FSO-PB RamonLLJr@Yahoo.com

# Clarksville Veterans Day Parade 2017



Clarksville Veterans Day Parade, Saturday, Nov 11 2017. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time. There was a super crowd along the parade route waving and cheering as we went by.

Standing in front of boat  
Left to Right:  
Irv Staats,  
Diane Gilman,  
Fred Gilman,  
William Welty,  
Dennis Ealey,  
and Dale Leighton.

Standing in the boat:  
Sammy the Sea Otter -  
Shane Hicks and  
Handler Kelley Crecelius

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone for taking part in the MTSU event and the Nashville and Clarksville Veterans Day Parade's. PFD Panda appeared with you all in the Nashville Parade and we thank him for making the time to come and join in. With the Division boat ready after being cleaned up and restored, by Rosemary Halldorsson, it made its first appearance in the Nashville parade. Chad and Jessica Clark also provided their boat and tow vehicle. Thank you to all who participated in the Nashville area events. The parades took place on the same day so it wasn't possible to be at both. It is great seeing the photos shared from the events.

Clarksville had a wonderful day. Members of Flotilla 11-07 and guests took part in the Clarksville Veterans Day Parade with Sammy the Sea Otter making his first appearance in Clarksville. Thank you Shane Hicks, (Sammy) and Kelley Crecelius, (Handler). We were well represented with Flotilla 11-07 patrol boat owned by Fred Gilman, an antique 1957 Chris Craft Sea Skiff owned by Auxiliariest Irv Staats and Auxiliariest Dennis Ealey's vehicle. It was a bit chilly but everyone had a good time.

It was a good day to reflect and thank all Active, Retired or Auxiliary service members for giving of their service. As SO-PA for Division 11, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Larry Carter and Michael Simpson for organizing both MTSU and the Nashville Veterans Day Parade for our members.

To all Division 11 members who participated in the Nashville, Clarksville and MTSU Murfreesboro area events, thank you all once again for making these events a success.

Respectfully, Diane Gilman SO-PA

# Clarksville Christmas Parade 2017

Recreational boater safety takes no holidays. Members of Division 11 and Flotilla 11-07 lit up the night at the Clarksville Christmas Parade. To the Right: PFD Panda waves to the crowds. Below: Parade vehicles lined up and ready to get underway. Bottom Right: - Glenda Stout at the helm of a beautiful 1957 Chris Craft Sea Skiff owned by Irv Staats.



Photos by Diane Gilman SO/ADSO-PA/PB



Photo by Anne Staats

Above: PFD Panda & The Grinch LtoR: Irv Staats; Fred Gilman, DCDR; Diane Gilman, SO-PA; PFD Panda & Glenda Stout