



MIDWEST MARINER



DIVISION 3, SWR

Issue 1 March 2016

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

DIVISION 3 CHANGE OF WATCH



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| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Todd Richardson FVC-3-15 | Stella Francis SO-SR |
| Carl Livingston FC-3-16 | Dan Rhoades SO-VE |
| John Waigand FVC-3-16 | |

Deborah Howard, Parliamentarian
Chris Ware DCAPT East

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Table of Contents is "live linked" even though it doesn't show as the normal blue color with an underline.

The MIDWEST MARINER welcomes all articles on Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary customs, traditions, heritage, history and current events. The right to decline any submission will be based on content. Articles and photos may be sent via email to the editor, Barbara Rhoades at: bcrhoades@centurytel.net.

COVER INFORMATION: Clockwise from top left: Diana Arisman, Division Commander passes out Certificates to Board Members. Mark Zoellner receives nautical clock for his achievement as Auxiliarist of the Year. Board members getting ready to take their Oath of Officer. Gold and Silver Side COW attendees: Left to right: LCDR Kathryn Moretti, Chris Ware, D-Capt E, Gary Smith, VFC Division 3, Diana Arisman, Division Commander Division 3, CDR Ryan Rhodes, and LT Matthew Considine.

STAFF OFFICER REPORTS



DIVISION STAFF OFFICER - MT

Marilyn Aten

Training is the Key to Success

It may be only January, but it won't be long till Auxiliarists will be distributing safe boating literature to boat dealers or teaching a Public Education class or inspecting boats for a VE decal.

Keeping members up to speed and well trained is important to the success of our Auxiliary programs. Most flotillas like to do their training within the flotilla. This helps members stay active and current members to stay qualified. Training and seminars help members get out of REYR as well.



It's important for flotillas to use the talents of their members. Setting up an ABS class lets instructors teach to keep their skills sharp. Vessel Examiners need a VE Station at a launch ramp on a lake, river or marina to inspect boats and give out VE decals. If your members are trained, they are ready to work and use the skills they have developed.

Program Visitors get to work with marine dealers so they can spread the word about legal requirements. Safety classes give new boat owners skills. They also learn how to properly equip their boat for its first launching.

Auxiliarists with boats that have offered them for use usually want to be active in operations and develop their skills as crew or coxswain. This involved a lot of training, mentoring and time to develop the new skills.

Promoting boating safety should be our #1 job. We can't promote safety or assist the public if we are not trained in an Auxiliary program. Members join to be active; they join to get some training; they join to advance their boating skills and share their knowledge with the boating public.



Training your members is the key to a successful flotilla, your flotilla.

Paraprosookians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous. Winston Churchill loved them.

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.



DIVISION STAFF OFFICER - PB

Barbara Rhoades

THINGS TO KNOW WHEN WRITING AN ARTICLE

I want to share with you a few writing tips that will make your articles more readable and grammatically correct. Below is a list of examples of how certain words and numbers should be written.

1. When you write the word Auxiliary or Auxiliarist, it should always be capitalized.
2. The words division, flotilla and district are written with both a capital and with a small case letter.
 - a. They should always be capitalized if you talk about a specific. Example: Division 3 held mandatory training.
 - b. They should never be capitalized if you talk about a generality. Example: The division held mandatory training.

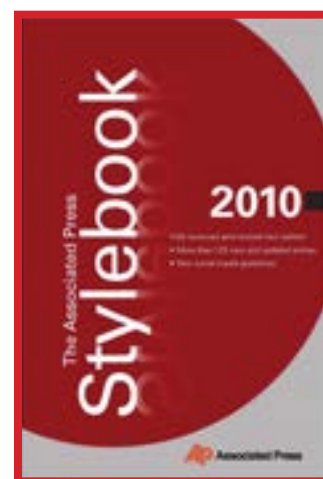


3. Numbers are another issue.

- a. If you are using the numbers from one to nine, they should be written out.
- b. If you are using the numbers 10 and above, they should always be numerical.

I hope this helps clarify a few of the stumbling blocks of writing. The art of writing and the grammatical rules that go with that are numerous. Some have changed over time such as the following example:

1. The conjunction words of and, or and but have had their rules changed. When I was back in high school (OK so that was a half a century ago!), you always put a comma after those three words. When I went to college 20 years later (I was a slow starter!), the rule had change to NEVER put a comma after those words. Today, The Associated Press Stylebook of 2010 says the comma is not needed.



While you are writing your articles for the May deadline of the Midwest Mariner, think of these four examples to make your writing better.





DIVISION STAFF OFFICER - PE

Larry Miller

PUBLIC EDUCATION

It's a new year, time to start planning and scheduling in your flotillas which Recreational Boating Safety courses you wish to present. After you get your schedule set, make sure your Public Affairs officer gets the word out in plenty of time for potential students to sign up for the course. Also, ensure you complete a Form 7023, Notice of Intent to Teach Public Education Course, and get that submitted up the chain. This will get the course details on the web for people searching for courses in their area.



As a division, we did pretty well in calendar year 2015. Flotillas in Division 3 reported 58 instructional hours in Public Education by presenting eight courses with a total of 490 graduates. This put us first in District 8WR for numbers of graduates but tied for fourth in the number of PE courses completed. We would like to see a 5% increase in the number of graduates in 2016, but to do so, we need to hold more classes than last year. The bulk of the graduates reported in 2015 were from presentations in schools. Don't forget that we have that option to present

boating safety information to our next generation.

In the division, we would also like to increase the number of certified Instructors by two. This would give flotillas more flexibility in presenting the Public Education courses, and for that matter, member training events.

As we all know, the job isn't complete until the paper work is done. I would encourage those who are presenting Public Education classes to ensure the Forms 7030, Activity Report - Missions, are properly completed so everyone, instructors and flotillas, get credit for their efforts.



As I pointed out in the beginning, it's a new year. Even though we are a month or so into the year, it's not too late to make resolutions. Make one today, resolve to teach a boating safety course (or three) in 2016.

INTERESTING FACTS

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.



DIVISION STAFF OFFICER - VE

Dan Rhoades

As we sit around and try to stay warm and wait for the groundhog to tell us when winter will be over, a new season will start giving us new opportunities to help people be safe on the water. So, again, we have time to train new personal and plan events and locations to inspect all types of watercraft. Remember, an inspection is the first step in having event free boating adventures.

We did inspections last summer, except during floods, with added attention to detail as we always have. If we continue as in the past, then getting an inspection will be viewed as very desirable and almost a requirement.

If anyone wishes to be added to VE e-mail list, please send me your e-mail and I will add you to the list.

Thank You

FLOTILLA COMMANDER REPORTS



FLOTILLA COMMANDER - 34

Marilyn Aten

Flotilla 34 started off January with the Let's Go Fishing Show at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, IL. After just two days with Auxiliarists Larry Miller, Veronica Williams, Dan Rhoades, Charles and Marilyn Aten staffing the Exhibit, they saw over 6,000 enthusiastic fisherman and boaters.

Tons of boating brochures and information on the new Illinois Boating law that took effect January 1 of this year were handed out. Plus, the big talk at the exhibit was life jackets and where to take a boating class. We passed out flyers announcing our About Boating Safely class starting in February at the Edwardsville Moose Lodge.

As always there were a lot of questions. It was a fun event just talking to everyone that came from miles and miles around and even surrounding states.

Mandatory Training is still a hot topic for flotillas trying to get members to complete these courses. Flotilla 34 is happy to note that 39% of our members have completed all their training and required ICS courses.



FLOTILLA COMMANDER - 38

Stella Francis

Flotilla 38 started off the New Year on a good note. We got to meet one of our new members. He is a student at St. Louis University. He is already asking what classes he can take to be active in the Flotilla.



We had a mini-training on how to access AUXOFFICER. Each member was given a print out of the three steps. It was stressed that all members should check their data in AUXOFFICER and AUXDIRECTORY often to make sure their information is up-to-date.

Six members of the flotilla attended the mandatory training at Missouri Baptist Hospital Auditorium on January 23rd. I hope many more will attend the next training session.

Gloria Tobin received her 35th year certificate and Stella Francis received her 15th.

Members also attended the Change of Watch. What a great night! Friends, good food, award and interesting talks.

Division 3 Sponsors Mandatory Training

Division 3 recently had a successful morning of Mandatory Training at Missouri Baptist Hospital. With four instructors, flotilla members were able to complete at least four of their required Mandatory Training classes. The courses taught were Civil Rights, Privacy Awareness, Sexual Harassment Prevention and Security Education and Training Awareness.

The Division will sponsor another Mandatory Training day on Saturday, February 13 from 0900 to 1200. Doors open to sign in at 0830 at Missouri Baptist Hospital's Auditorium. Courses to be taught will include Ethics and Personal Gifts, Influenza, Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide, plus Sexual Assault Prevention.

Let your Flotilla Commander know if you plan to attend so we have enough paperwork for everyone.



FLOTILLA COMMANDER - 3-13

Betty Zoellner

What a way to end 2015 and begin 2016!

Out of 160 total mandatory classes as of 1 January 2016, we, as a flotilla, had 155 classes completed. That means that Flotilla 3-13 was 96.875% finished.

The members of Flotilla 3-13's payday at the Change of Watch was huge, every member received an award. There were a total of 16 awards presented to Flotilla Commander, Betty Zoellner, to present to her members at the February flotilla meeting. The breakdown of awards are as follows:



2 – No. 1 Awards

12 - No. 4 Awards

Betty Zoellner received the Administrative Specialist Award

Mark Zoellner received the Auxiliarist of the Year Award

Way to go Black Cat members. YOU earned these awards.

There are four prospective members completing their paperwork for enrollment. They will be a great addition to our flotilla family and have been attending meetings.

We have created an ABS class with a family touch for March 12th and 19th. These classes are geared to the family and the new Illinois boating regulations for children.

Cabela's has requested that we participate in their Spring Great Outdoors event and their Fishing Classic. I am told there will be more events they want us to attend as well.

We have started our spring and summer planning and have scheduled three events so far with Grafton Harbor. Events range from informational public affairs to vessel checks for National Safe Boating Week.



We are confirmed to participate in the Mallinckrodt Health Fair in October for the third consecutive year. As always, we will participate in the Florissant Veteran's Day Parade in November.

With all that we do in Public Affairs, Public Education, Vessel Examinations and Program Visits, we still prioritize our members training. We have two members working on becoming instructor qualified and one member working on their vessel examiner qualification. We also have two members who just became trained Sky Warn Spotters. Congratulations to Keeler and Mark Steensgaard. We now have 9 NOAA trained spotters.

Mark Zoellner was the Flotilla Commander for the past two years. He worked hard to get our members qualified with the mandatory training.

I am proud to have been elected to the position of Flotilla Commander for 2016. There will not be any slowing down this year either.

Happy New Year to all!

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Relevance of the Auxiliary

Gary Smith, SUMR ASC

How relevant is the Coast Guard Auxiliary to the needs of the Coast Guard in their daily or incident response and emergency operations? Have we asked ourselves if we are really helping the active duty Coast Guard over and above our Recreational Boating Safety (RBS)



mission? Can the Auxiliary continue to survive with the funding reductions we have experienced? The leadership of our Auxiliary has determined we have to operate differently and be more relevant to the needs of the Coast Guard Active Duty or “Gold Side”. If we can’t do this, our future may be limited. Budget requests cannot be defended.

The method to be used to determine what the Gold side needs from us is for the Silver side (Auxiliary) to do a GAP analysis. This means we are going to interview the Gold side units to determine where they have gaps in their workforce to execute their missions in a steady state, backfill, surge and targeted augmentation status. Once the shortfalls are determined, the Silver capabilities will be compared to see where we can help. If the Auxiliary does not have the capability to plug the hole, maybe we need to get some of our people trained to do that task.

The Skills Bank and other sources will be used to determine the Silver capability. An example: The Gold needs Radio Watch Standers in the Command Center to assist them during the busy holiday boating days, i.e. July 4. How many qualified watch standers does our local division have? If we do not have the number Gold needs, we need to get some trained.

If we have a major incident in our area, do we have people qualified to go into the Incident Management office to answer phones while the Gold folks are out at the scene of the incident? Probably not. What kind of administrative help can we provide?

This effort is going to be started with the Sectors in February to define the GAP’s. The DSO-IM, the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC) and the ADSO-IM will be meeting with and doing interviews of Sector Department Heads to identify the GAP’s. Wherever there are active duty Coast Guardsmen working, we will interview them to determine the GAP’s. However this has to be done “one bite at a time” Sector first, then MSD’s, then Boat units. The Sector is only the starting point. We anticipate there are many jobs we can fill from the Silver side. If we find we can’t fill the positions, we will have identified the training needs. The Gold side will then get us the training.

The Auxiliary National Commander and the Commandant of the Coast Guard are onboard and supporting this activity. This will be a new way of doing business for us and should help to establish an even closer working relationship with the Gold side.

FROM THE DISTRICT STORE

The district store for Eighth Western Rivers is having a clearance sale on all 75th anniversary items. The sale ranges from 10% to 40% off. The red fleece jackets are selling fast. Get one before they are gone.



Make use of the cold months by looking for places to have Public Affairs booths in your area. Spring is around the corner get those booths set up. Have boat classes so boaters are ready to get back on the water safely. When you do have an event, order your supplies early from the Auxiliary National Supply Center



DIVISION 3 AWARDS TOP AUXILIARISTS

BY Marilyn Aten

Congratulations to our top Auxiliarist of the Year, Mark Zoellner! Mark excelled in several categories and had the most overall numbers of anyone in Division 3 for the year 2015.

Coast Guard Auxiliarists are a hearty bunch that offer their time, talent and treasure to make sure the boating public stays safe. Through the Auxiliary's many programs including Public Education courses, Vessel Examines, Surface and Air Operations, Program Visitors and more, our members don't receive a lot of recognition.

So to thank our members, Division 3 gives out awards each year at their annual Change of Watch held in January. This year awards were presented to all members with over 50 hours of service. In special categories awards were presented to the top members in PE, OPS, VE, PA, Admin, MT and PV.

To recognize all members even those with just a few hours, we have a 2015 Safety Award that says:

**JUST A LITTLE POEM TO LET YOU KNOW YOUR GIFT
OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC GAVE US ALL A LIFT
YOU HELPED KEEP NEWBEE BOATERS
FROM BECOMING SORRY FLOATERS
YOU MENTORED MEMBERS OLD AND NEW
ABOUT THE PROPER THINGS TO DO
FOR THE HOURS AND THE MONEY THAT YOU GAVE TO US THIS YEAR
WE RAISE A TOAST TO PRAISE THE MOST VALUABLE VOLUNTEER**

Written by Debby Howard, Flotilla 34.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS TAKE PLEDGE

The Division 3 Change of Watch was held at Orlando's Banquet Center in January. It was a great party to start the year. We had 50 members attend the evening's festivities. They enjoyed a social hour followed by a wonderful buffet with a coffee and dessert bar to satisfy anyone's palette.

DCDR Diana Arisman welcomed several members from Sector Upper Mississippi River including Commander Ryan Rhodes, Deputy Commander; Lieutenant Commander Katherine Moretti, Chief of Planning and Readiness; and Lieutenant Matt Considine, Chief of Boat Forces. Commander Rhodes talked about Auxiliary activities and statistics as well as AuxAir gathering information for the Coast Guard during the horrendous flooding here in the Midwest.



District Captain – East Christopher Ware talked about Commodore David Starr's watch words for the District which are Proud, Proficient and Focused.



Steve Bernstein, an Auxiliarist from Flotilla 3-10, was the keynote speaker. Steve is the Regional Health and Safety Specialist for Archer Daniels Midland based here in St. Louis. ADM is the largest mover of food products in the world. Steve works directly with 28 line boats to foster good relations with safety for all aboard. The boats travel the entire

Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio and Tennessee Cumberland Rivers. Steve talked about how much more cargo barges can move compared with trains and trucks. He also talked about how many safety obstacles barge workers encounter everyday working on the towboats.

DCDR Arisman invited District Captain Ware to read the Prologue and Commander Rhodes to give the Pledge to all newly elected Flotilla Commanders. DCDR Arisman then passed out Certificates to the newly elected.

Then VCDR Gary Smith invited the Division 3 Staff Officers for 2016 to come forward and again the Prologue was read by District Captain Ware and the Pledge was given by Commander Rhodes. Then DCDR, VDCR, Commander Rhodes and District Captain Ware walked the line congratulating everyone on their appointments.

**FOR THOSE OF US
WHO ARE OVER 50**



Gift List for Safe Boating

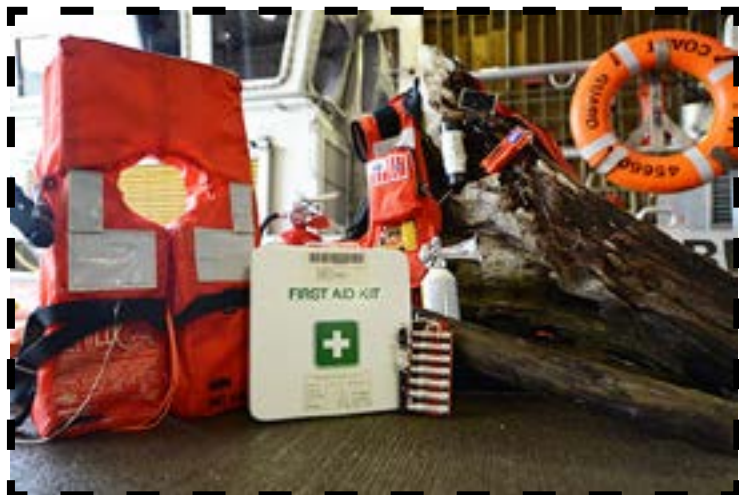
http://www.military.com/daily-news/2015/12/16/boating-safety-holiday-gift-ideas-from-the-coast-guard.html?ESRC=coastguard_151223.nl

U.S. Coast Guard | Dec 16, 2015
SEATTLE — The Coast Guard has compiled a list of boat safety themed items for the holiday season, putting the real holiday savings in saving the lives of those you love.

The Pacific Northwest is known for year round diverse weather conditions and cold water temperatures; the holidays make for a perfect opportunity to address safety on the water.

Coast Guard gift recommendations are:

1. The first item is a FREE gift from the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Mobile app (<http://www.uscg.mil/mobile/>). In addition to information and services found within the app, it includes the option to file a float plan and request emergency assistance.



Key pieces of boating safety equipment, including a lifejacket, a first aid kit, a fire extinguisher, and visual distress signals. The Coast Guard urges boaters to carry survival gear like this. (U.S. Coast Guard/Seaman Sarah Wilson)

2. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons and Personal Location Beacons alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency by transmitting a distress message to the nearest rescue coordination center.
3. Marine VHF radios are essential for emergency situations and are monitored 24 hours a day by the Coast Guard. All boats should be equipped with at least one radio, which can reach the Coast Guard on channel 16.
4. Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices and lifejackets will help keep your mariner afloat and, depending on design, helps the wearer remain in a position that permits proper breathing even if unconscious or injured.
5. Protective clothing is vital. The waters of the Pacific Northwest are cold year-round and proper protection from the elements is crucial. Wearing proper clothing increases the odds for survival in the event of water emersion.
6. Signaling devices such as whistles, air horns, mirrors, flares, strobe lights, distress flags, smoke signals, and chemical lights are essential in helping searchers finding someone in distress.
7. Throwable floatation devices come in all shapes and size, from life rings, to heaving lines, floating cushions and even water activated inflatable buoys. Being able to

provide some form of floatation is vital when there's someone in the water without a lifejacket.

8. Fire extinguishers are required by the Coast Guard on many different types of motor vessels. Today's fiberglass/composite boats burn very quickly and produce large volumes of toxic smoke. Proper and working fire extinguishers are a required essential tool for fighting a shipboard fire.
9. Bailing items such as handheld bailers, foot pumps, hand pumps, hydraulic or even installed systems, are essential for keeping the water out.
10. Carbon monoxide detectors help protect boaters and others around them. It's easy to forget about carbon monoxide while on the water in the open air, but the deadly invisible gas can accumulate in or around a running boat.

Bugle calls, part of Army tradition

January 12, 2016, By Anna Pedron

http://www.army.mil/article/160873/Bugle_calls_part_of_Army_tradition/

FORT BENNING, Ga., (Jan. 13 2016) -- Bugle calls have been an important tradition to the U.S. Army since its inception, dating back to pre-Revolutionary War times. Installations around the world use the bugle calls to pay tribute to the American flag, and as a reminder of the sacrifices Soldiers make every day.

In the weeks leading up to Dec. 1, the Fort Benning community was notified that traditional Army bugle calls would begin to be played throughout the installation on a regular basis in the New Year.

“The request for bugle calls to be played across Fort Benning began during the 2015 Army Family Action Plan Conference,” said Jane Bresko, AFAP program manager. “The delegates of that workgroup discussed at length how other installations conduct bugle calls postwide, and how ironic it was that here, where many Soldiers are inducted into the Army, they could only hear it if they were in front of garrison headquarters.

“They felt that by not hearing the bugle calls, Soldiers are not able to observe flag courtesies which instill pride, professionalism and discipline,” she said.

According to the ArmyLive website, when George Washington first assumed command of the Continental Army in 1775, drums and bugles were already a fixture of military



The Fort Benning community was notified that traditional Army bugle calls would begin to be played throughout the installation on a regular basis in 2016.

life and operations. And in a time before radios or texting, there was no other way for a commander to communicate his orders over the din of battle.

As the U.S. Army developed, it standardized the use of these bugle calls for a disciplined lifestyle. The calls united Soldiers and their Families, especially in small camps with garrisons of 100 Soldiers or less where households were often set by the calls.

Today, bugle calls help maintain the pride and foster a greater sense of community on U.S. Army installations around the world. They offer Soldiers and Family members the chance to unite several times a day, and honor the colors they are fighting to protect.

Once the decision to broadcast bugle calls across Fort Benning was made, choosing



which calls needed to be played and where they needed to be broadcast was the next step. The Fort Benning command team decided to use the Giant Voice emergency system, and went through a trial period where they asked for feedback from Family members in housing communities around the installation.

“The volume on the Giant Voice is set at one level, and for security reasons it cannot be altered,” said Terry Wydra, Fort Benning emergency manager. “And all the feedback we got said it was too loud for 6 a.m. when young children are still sleeping.

“Well, we don’t want to disrupt Family life. So, all the bugle calls will be made on Main Post and in training areas - McGinnis-Wickam Hall, Sand and Kelley hills, Harmony Church, etc. - but only “Retreat” and “To the Colors” will be broadcast to the housing areas.”

Fort Benning will sound the following bugle calls at the following times (included are the historical purposes for each call). The ones being played in the housing areas are underlined:

Weekdays: • 5:55 a.m., “First Call”: Sounded as a warning for Soldiers to begin assembling for a formation.

• 6 a.m., “Reveille”: Signals the Soldiers to stand-to for morning roll call and accompanies the raising of the national colors.



• 8 a.m., “Mess Call”: Signals breakfast, lunch or dinner.

• 5 p.m., “Retreat”: Signals the end of the official duty day.

“To the Colors”: This call is used to render honors to the nation when no band is available or in ceremonies requiring honors to the nation more than once. It requires the same courtesies as the national anthem. It is used to accompany lowering or casing the national colors.



• 8:45 p.m., “Tattoo”: Signals that all lights in squad rooms be extinguished and that all loud talking and other disturbances be discontinued within 15 minutes.

• 9 p.m., “Taps”: Signals that unauthorized lights are to be extinguished. This is the last call of the day.

Weekend: • 5 p.m., “Retreat” and “To The Colors.”

When it comes to the bugle calls, only three requires action from Soldiers, Family members and civilians: “Reveille,” “Retreat” and “To the Colors.”

Soldiers in uniform: “Reveille”: At the first note of music, face flag and render hand salute (if flag is not in view, face direction of music). End salute on last note of music.

“Retreat”: At the first note of music, face flag and stand at attention (if flag is not in view, face direction of music). Remain at attention until last note of “To The Colors” has been played.

“To the Colors”: At the first note of music, face flag and render hand salute (if flag is not in view, face direction of music). End salute on last note of music.

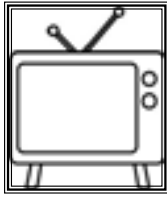
For Soldiers not in uniform, Family members and civilians:

“Reveille,” “Retreat” and “To the Colors”: At the first note of music, face flag, remove headgear (if wearing it) and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Hold this position until the last note of music has been played (if flag is not in view, face direction of music).

For those driving at the time of the calls, only cars in parking lots or on streets with speed limits of 25 miles per hour are required to stop.

A Journey Down Memory Lane

Author Unknown



Black and White TV
(Under age 45? You won't understand.)

You could hardly see for all the snow,
Spread the rabbit ears as far as they go.

'Good Night, David.
Good Night, Chet.

My Mom used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread mayo on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

My Mom used to defrost hamburger on the counter and I used to eat it raw sometimes, too. Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember getting e.coli.



Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), no beach closures then. The term cell phone would have conjured up a phone in a jail cell, and a pager was the school PA system.



We all took gym, not PE and risked permanent injury with a pair of high top Ked's (only worn in gym) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

Flunking gym was not an option, even for stupid kids! I guess PE must be much harder than gym.



Speaking of school, we all said prayers and sang the national anthem, and staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention.

We must have had horribly damaged psyches. What an archaic health system we had then. Remember school nurses? Ours wore a hat and everything.

I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself.

I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station, Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital TV cable stations.

Oh yeah... And where was the Benadryl and sterilization kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!



We played 'king of the hill' on piles of gravel left on vacant construction sites, and when we got hurt, Mom pulled out the 48-cent bottle of mercurochrome (kids liked it better because it didn't sting like iodine did) and then we got our butt spanked.



Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of a \$99 bottle of antibiotics, and then Mom calls the attorney to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

We didn't act up at the neighbor's house either; because if we did we got our butt spanked there and then we got our butt spanked again when we got home.

I recall Donny Reynolds from next door coming over and doing his tricks on the front stoop, just before he fell off.

Little did his Mom know that she could have owned our house.

Instead, she picked him up and swatted him for being such a goof. It was a neighborhood run a muck.



To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family.

How could we possibly have known that?

We needed to get into group therapy and anger management classes.

We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac!

How did we ever survive?

LOVE TO ALL OF US WHO SHARED THIS ERA; AND TO ALL WHO DIDN'T, SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MISSED. I WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR ANYTHING!



LET'S ALL GO TO THE MOVIES



THE FINEST HOURS

<https://www.amctheatres.com/movies/the-finest-hours>

THE FINEST HOURS is the remarkable true story of the greatest small boat rescue in Coast Guard history.

On February 18, 1952, a massive nor'easter struck New England, pummeling towns along the Eastern seaboard and wreaking havoc on the ships caught in its deadly path, including the SS Pendleton, a T-2 oil tanker bound for Boston, which was literally ripped in half, trapping more than 30 sailors inside its rapidly-sinking stern.

As the senior officer on board, first assistant engineer Ray Sybert (Casey Affleck) soon realizes it is up to him to take charge of the frightened crew and inspire the men to set aside their differences and work together to ride out one of the worst storms to ever hit the East Coast.

Meanwhile, as word of the disaster reaches the U.S. Coast Guard station in Chatham, Massachusetts, Warrant Officer Daniel Cluff (Eric Bana) orders a daring operation to rescue the stranded men. Despite overwhelming odds, four men, led by Coast Guard Captain Bernie Webber (Chris Pine), set out in a wooden lifeboat with an ill-equipped engine and little, if any, means of navigation, facing frigid temperatures, 60-foot high waves and hurricane-force winds.

From Walt Disney Pictures comes THE FINEST HOURS, the unforgettable story of the Coast Guard's courageous mission based on the acclaimed non-fiction book of the same name by Casey Sherman and Michael J. Tougas.

THE FINEST HOURS storms into U.S. theaters on January 29, 2016 in Digital 3D and IMAX 3D