

Shorelines

TWIN CITIES METRO
DIVISION 11
8TH WESTERN RIVERS
DISTRICT

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Jon Knutson
Division Commander

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Hello Shipmates:

As a child, my Dad had a 1939 Packard that had been built just before World War II. By 1955, it had seen better days and required constant maintenance. I remember my father fuming, "It's just one thing after the other—can't a guy getta break?"

Sound familiar? It's a phrase that we can all relate to over the last couple of months. Few of us could have envisioned the events of the last couple of months and/or even the last couple of weeks.

A raging pandemic, unemployment at record levels, "lock-downs" and stay-at-home orders, "social distancing", masks, gloves, sanitizers and shut-downs of social, cultural, sports events, and church-worship.

And last, but certainly not least, are the challenges resulting from the deaths of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery.

But (and not an "easy but"), sometimes, looking at the past and seeking lessons from history, can actually be an encouraging exercise.

I think of the British who, during World War I and immediately afterwards, experienced the loss of so many of it's citizens through the war and then, the great Spanish Flu pandemic. They learned to "keep a stiff upper-lip" and "keep calm and carry on". They didn't have the ubiquitous access to often disturbing "24-7-365" news, Facebook and other social media outlets that stoke anxiety and fear. They had to choose to do what was right in front of them and hope for the best.

For them, the possibility of death was likewise very real. But one way of facing death is to embrace life. Death comes for us all, but life is what we have *now* and it is precious. Times like these give us a chance to see that reality. The philosopher Soren Kierkegaard noted, (the) "*thought of death is a good dancing partner; it keeps us on our toes and focused on beautiful, worthy things.*"

As Auxiliarists, we are fortunate. We still have a path to follow and the chances to study, learn and pursue meaningful activities, service, and fellowship. We still have a chance to show the world its badly needed **Honor, Devotion to Duty and Respect**. Let's do it! Semper Paratus!

Letter from the U.S.C.G. Commandant**Stronger Together**

To the Women and Men of the United States Coast Guard,

In my Commander's Intent of May 18th, I articulated that our nation expected the Coast Guard to remain "Always Ready" as we approach hurricane season and a historically busy time of year for our Service. In the two weeks leading up to that letter, four active duty shipmates tragically took their own lives. Shaped by these losses, I stated that the strength of our workforce and successful mission performance are grounded in working and training as a team. The attributes of esprit de corps and camaraderie define us, noting that "we are physically and mentally stronger together."

Today, still amidst the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, our workforce, and our society writ large are confronted by societal unrest, and the associated realities and emotions tied to the unresolved and underlying issues fueling that unrest. Recent events resulting in the tragic deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd have fueled frustration, anger, and protest. In the knowledge that the ongoing national social unrest affects our valued shipmates from the African American community in very personal ways, it affects us all as a service.

To be "stronger together," we must recognize that we have shipmates that are angry, scared, and weary; shipmates who may feel as a nation we haven't fully availed the American Dream of equal opportunity and the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to all amongst us. We must be vigilant to these shortcomings within our own Coast Guard. Inclusive leadership and being a good shipmate begins with mutual respect. It can start with the simple question of "how are you doing," and be complemented by the artful act of respectful and empathetic listening.

In the truly simple yet keenly insightful words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "the time is always right to do what is right." Looking within our lifelines at this

critical inflection point, we have an opportunity and an obligation to do what is right and pull together; rally around our most deeply impacted shipmates and our Core Values of Honor – Respect – Devotion to Duty; and forge a deeper understanding and appreciation for others' viewpoints and life experiences. Such actions can foster a deeper sense of belonging for all members of our team and strengthen inclusiveness across our Service. I challenge all of us to be "stronger together" as a Coast Guard and as a nation!

Admiral Karl L. Schultz
Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard

Important!
Commodore and DIRAUX Commander
Messages

Commodore De Laughter, 8th Eastern and Western Rivers Auxiliary Commodore, asked that each Division communicate the Commandant's letter and he was similarly joined by 8th Western Rivers District DIRAUX Commander, S. Hemann. Commander Hemann noted the following:

"Our Core Values demand action when injustice is in our midst; we will not tolerate inappropriate behavior or actions in our Coast Guard. And they demand compassion and understanding when our shipmates are hurting and troubled; we will treat each other with respect and dignity".

CDR Hemann
Director of Auxiliary
8th Eastern and Western Rivers Regions



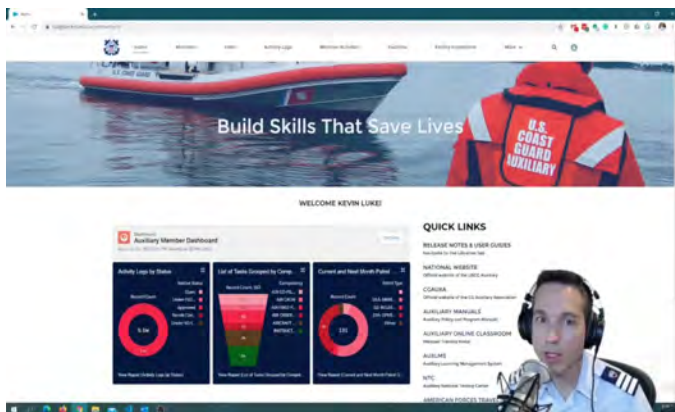
Division Notes

Aux Data II has Been Activated

AuxData II has officially started. With that said, things are still in the early stages of a major change from what we have known before. Given that fact, and the fact that our ability to meet, train and otherwise interact with each other has been severely curtailed, it will require some patience. In that light, do not expect to be experts at your first exposure and/or expect others to be experts. Our IS officers are also facing some of the same limitations with however, much higher expectations than members. The end result for all parties is the potential for confusion, frustration and then possibly, rejection of either the new system and/or the IS officers. Both actions would be misdirected. New things (even “better” things) sometime take patience and practice to get them working right. Think of the microwave ovens when they were first introduced. I know I exploded enough food for an army because of not knowing how to run these new inventions. Let’s give AuxData II a chance.

Training and information is online at our Auxiliary website: (<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=IT-GROUP&category=authenticator>) and further training and information will be forthcoming for the entire Division. Stay tuned to your Flotilla IS officers, your Flotilla Commanders and Division IS Officers for further information. **In the meantime, all member accounts should be activated.**

Sample Screen for Aux Data II; Courtesy of 11th District, CG Auxiliary



Account Activation:

When your account is ready to be activated, an email will be sent to your primary email address in AUXDATA II from “**USCG Auxiliary Members Community** auxdataii_accounts@cgauxnet.us” with the subject, “**Your new USCG Auxiliary Members Community password**”. Click on the link in the message and follow the instructions for activating your account in the new system. Additional information is available in the “Account Activation” overview on the National website AUXDATA II page.

If, by the end of the planned week for rollout of your account, you have not yet received an email, and you have checked your spam or junk folder, contact Auxdata@acumensolutions.com.

At this time, please submit 7000 forms to your FSO-IS officer for entry. When we can do face-to-face meetings we will conduct training to allow all members to enter their own 7000 forms. For now however, please submit forms to the FSO-IS the old fashion way

Flotilla Commanders it is your responsibility to ensure that all your members have logged on and are familiarizing themselves with the system.

Communications

TCO Class

Division Commander, Jon Knutson, is leading a TCO class for four members. Classes are “virtual” and take about 1.5 hours per session. Members review classroom materials and at some point, will engage in hands-on activities. Several members have significant experience and others little to none. By the end of class, it is hoped that members will be able to pass the exam that will enable them to gain one step closer to their Aux Op certification.

This certification provides the Auxiliary and Coast Guard with information and assurance that said

member will be able to perform basic radio communications. Our Division has had a history of



helping active duty members with radio services in a call up with the Red River floods in 2009. Bravo Zulu to those who responded and best wishes to those taking the TCO training.

Finance

Two positions are unique in that they report only and directly to the Division Commander. These are, respectively, Finance and Secretary of Records. Mr. Frank Kapsch has had the helm on our finances and his latest reports indicate that the Division is in excellent financial health. Members who have any questions should feel free to contact Mr. Kapsch. Additionally, Mr. Knutson, Division 11 Commander, has (check your emails dated June 13, 2020) submitted a proposed budget for the year 2020. This budget will be voted on in at July's Division meeting.

Additionally, a three-member audit committee has been reviewing expenditures and operations and it will similarly make its report at the next division meeting.

Human Resources

The National Director of the HR Directorate has extended his challenge to all new members. Any new members that join and complete Core Training

and BQCII within 30 days of receiving their member number (as posted in Auxdata) are eligible to receive a Challenge Coin and a message from him. All requests have to come through the DSO-HR.

Maintain Social Distance

Materials

The Division's materials officer, Ms. Cindy Snowberg has records for all Division purchases and is the "go-to" person for division supplies. Contact her if you have any needs or concerns.

Radios

The Division has recently inventoried radios that were purchased in the last decade. As very expensive items and of extreme value to the Division, these radios were inventoried during the past year and into this year. 14 radios were purchased in 2009. To date, 13 radios have been accounted for. Action is underway that will appropriately deal with the one unaccounted for radio.

Marine Safety



Minneapolis, MN, 2019. L-R: George Gallagher, Don Garvey, Janet Heinz and Jeff Carlson of Flotilla 08 engage in Marine Safety River Clean up. Photo Courtesy of Janet Heinz, U.S.C.G. AUX.

For the past several years, Flotilla 08 has conducted an annual environmental exercise called the "River-Gorge Cleanup". Along with other community members, Auxiliarists from the Division

have been assisting in cleanup of a section of the Mississippi River bank within the Division's area of operations. Led and organized by Mr. Don Garvey, SO-IS and Ms. Janet Heinz, IPDC, the project has been a great success. Normally the event would coincide with the annual, national celebration of "Earth Day". Now, with Covid-19 and new requirements, it has been delayed from it's usual time frame to 18 July. Mr. Garvey is still pursuing this activity but within the new guidelines.

These guidelines allow only a limited (10) number of persons to participate and, of course, must follow Covid-19 recommendations, i.e., maintain social distance requirements.

Mr. Matt Stokes is our SO-MS for 2020 has led a series of virtual meetings with Mr. Trent Jensen, SO-MT and Dr. Bruce Nauth, VDCDR. These members have been discussing ways to assist local area police and fire personnel with their interests in boating safety and environmental cleanup of river/creeks that flow to the Mississippi. These efforts are still in the planning phase and will likely not be in place until further clarification of what is needed and what is allowable under Covid-19 restrictions. Members should contact Mr. Stokes or Mr. Jensen if interested in any of these plans.

Member Training

Mr. Trent Jensen has recently been appointed as Member Training Officer for the Division. Mr. Jensen, is a former, Flotilla 02 Commander and one of the few Auxiliarists in the District to also wear the Trident qualification.

Training has been a challenge given the restrictions placed on membership due to Covid-19. Division Commander Knutson, Commodore Robert Heinz, MT-FSO, Commodore Robert Smetka, DSO-OP, SO-OP and Flotilla Commander (F-08) Jerry Stockham have sought to keep the ball rolling on behalf of the division relative to its training efforts. Together, these folks have set up Boat Crew, Coxswain, TCT training and TCO training. District is allowing some on-the-water operations with new guidelines and these individuals will lead those

efforts. With some continuing Covid-19 guidelines, we expect that we will be able to engage in many of our training and operations activities. Members should check with these individuals, if they have issues or concerns.

And also, new members, did you know you can receive a Challenge Coin for completing the 6 core and 7 BCQII courses within 30 days of your entry date? Check with your Flotilla Training Officer if you feel you are eligible for this award.

Navigation Systems

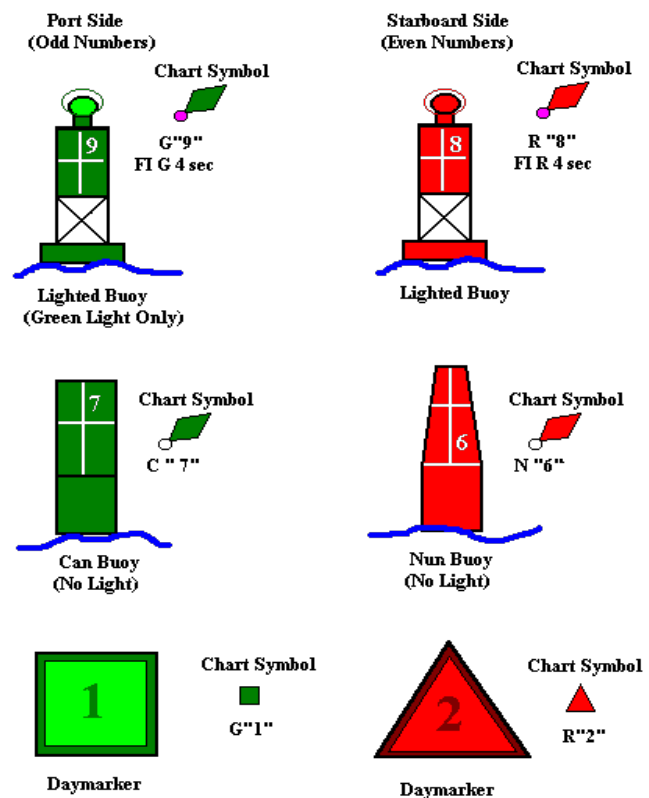


Chart Courtesy of Boat Safe.com

The Navigation Systems (NS) mission is multi-faceted. First and most importantly, it is designed to have trained members who can alert the Coast Guard to federal aids to navigation (ATON) and private aids to navigation (PATON) discrepancies. Secondly, the program is designed to assist the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with discrepancies to its charts and publications. Thirdly, the program is geared to use trained

members to examine bridges for discrepancies to their lighting and fender systems. And finally, the program is designed to include basic and advanced training for members to become qualified to do each of the above parts of the program. The safety of many individuals requires a mature and well-experienced individual in this position.

The Division 11, SO-NS is Mr. Denny Sando. Please contact Mr. Sando if you have a desire to serve in this position. Like many of our “on-the-water” activities, this one will need to conform to new Covid-19 restrictions, as it seeks to begin operations this year.

Operations- OP

Operations are at the heart of the Coast Guard Auxiliary mission. Our division SO-OP is led by Commodore Robert Smetka. With years of experience at the flotilla, division, and district level, Commodore Smetka is eminently capable of providing effective and competent leadership for the operations field. TCT training has taken place for the Division through virtual means and teleconferencing. Orders for additional activities are being sought from District.

Commodore Smetka has advised members that due to Covid-19, regular inspection of PPE was delayed. He also has provided additional instructions on how to store PPE to help minimize possible spread of the virus. See: <http://www.lifejacketassociation.org/life-jackets/covid-19-virus-cleaning-storing-your-pfd/>

Also, he has noted that several members are in REYR for either lack of U/W hours, QE check ride or PPE maintenance. Commodore Smetka has noted that the Division will be able to start getting operations in the near future and that a six-week operational plan was sent to all FSO-OPs. This plan that will need to be filled out by the Coxswains and sent up the chain for approval prior to orders being requested

Program Visitor

The division has seen a resurgence in PV activities.



Literature racks and a wide range of brochures helps Program Visitors get the messages of boating safety to the public and interested businesses.

Flotillas 1, 2 and 8 and 2 have had members receive new PV qualifications. With some Covid-19 restrictions relaxed, this area will see a new level of activity in the next quarter. Many businesses, groups and organizations want our literature and help as they work with their members to provide boating safety information. We hope to work closely with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Boy Scouts/Sea Scouts to assist them and related groups with information and boating safety literature. Ultimately we'd like a wider presence with corporations and companies that have multi-store outlets and have sports-related activities.

Public Affairs

Public Affairs (PA), one of our key staff officer positions, has been led by Mr. Ron Fleetwood for the past two years of Flotilla 02,. Public Affairs with its emphasis on person-to-person contact with others has basically been put on hold. PA often takes place at fairs, outdoor events, and in venues

where there would be large concentrations of people in one area, i.e., boat shows, sports events, fairs and other venues with lots of people. Obviously, Covid-19 restrictions apply most strongly for these types of activities and hence, PA has been on hold.

Public Education

For 2020, at the division level, we have the privilege of having a seasoned-hand at the helm of Public Education in Ms. Janet Heinz, IPDCDR. But again, like PA above, because most PE activities involve groups of people in close proximity to one another, Covid-19 restrictions have limited public contact to electronic or virtual PE offerings. Finding appropriate materials for electronic distribution has been a challenge and the Division just recently obtained the necessary items. A small team of experienced boating safety instructors led by Ms. Heinz will attempt to schedule and provide coursework for the public. Although the boating season is well-underway, the cool spring weather and Covid-19 restrictions for most states have kept many members of the public from getting out on the water.

Division instructors needing hours to maintain currency should contact Ms. Heinz to discuss opportunities. As a core element of our mission, providing the public with information and **instruction on safe boating is essential** for our ongoing connection to the regular Coast Guard.

Publications

The primary function of this area is to ensure that any newsletters from among our flotillas have a review prior to publication among its members. It's a technical job and requires some judgment as to what is appropriate and ensures that publications adhere to Coast Guard standards and guidelines. Dr. Bruce Nauth has been FSO-PB officer at the flotilla level for four years and will now be the same for the division. **The Shorelines** is our primary publication, which is issued four times year, i.e., March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.

Secretary of Records

The division is in experienced hands in terms of the SO-SR. Mr. Craig Campbell has assumed the position again, as in previous years. Mr. Campbell is well acquainted with the requirements of keeping a clear record of all of the division's activities, i. e., meetings, agendas, minutes etc. Thank you, siir, for this painstaking, often overlooked but critical activity for the Division.

Vessel Examinations

Mr. Erich Hodurski is our SO-VE this year and is the former Flotilla Commander for Flotilla 01. He has been doing VE for a number of years in Flotilla 01's AOR and will provide direction and assistance to other flotillas and their VE efforts. Again, new guidelines for Covid-19 will mean new approaches to how we do our vessel exams for both our members and the general public. This function however, is one of the most important and one in which we again are able to directly impact the safety of the boating public.

Flotilla Notables

Flotilla 01- Afton

Division Commander Jon Knutson is leading a TCO class with two Afton members (Neil Krasnoff and Erich Hodurski attending while also and preparing for operational activities with Boat Crew and Coxswain trainees.

Mr. Knutson as member of Flotilla 01 continues to represent his Flotilla and the Division in activities and communications with the District leadership team.

Flotilla 01, located at the St. Paul Yacht club is preparing to do patrols and vessel examinations as the Covid-19 guidelines allow.

Mr. Sando, as Flotilla 01 Flotilla Commander, is leading the Flotilla back to normal-meeting status as they are convening the monthly meetings on-site (with appropriate social distancing and Covid-19

protective gear).

Flotilla 02-Metro South Flotilla

Under the leadership of Mr. Jon Cartwright and Mr. Robert Burck, Flotilla 02 has again received that National Award for Diversity for 2019. This is the second award for Diversity for the Flotilla. Bravo Zulu gentlemen!

Under leadership of Mr. Jon Cartwright, Flotilla 02 continues to meet virtually with its members. Mr. Cartwright is also the Division's new liaison officer to the Sea Scouts and has years of experience as a Sea Scout leader along with his Auxiliary members, Jonathan and Winston. Mr. Cartwright will also be the Division's new training leader for all Red Cross certifications for CPR qualifications.

Commodore Heinz, of this flotilla, has led numerous training exercises for the division including Boat Crew/Coxswain training, TCT, and helping the Division get ready for changes in Auxiliary Covid-19 procedures.

Flotilla 04-Hudson

Flotilla 04 has recently had Mr. Reed appointed as FSO-IS and as such is ready to resume a variety of Auxiliary activities and get credit for them. Under the leadership of Mr. Thomas Leonzal, Flotilla 04 is poised to regain a robust membership and presence in the St. Croix Marina and St. Croix river area. Well done to Mr. Reed and Mr. Leonzal. Also, a special thanks to Mr. Don Garvey who provided outreach and training activities to help in the transition.

Flotilla 08-North Metro Flotilla

Flotilla 08 continues to lead the Division with a number of activities and achievements during this difficult time.

Public Affairs Award

Notably, it's Commander, Mr. Jerry Stockham has recently been awarded the Public Affairs Level 3 designation. This is the advanced position that is

also the same as regular Coast Guard members receive. Mr. Stockham attended an on-site course in Florida for an intensive course of classes and practical applications to provide him with a wide range of skills from writing, speaking and photography. What could normally take a member months to complete, is packed into a few days and then all the work is followed by completion of various exams. A final oral exam is required and members must pass this as the final hurdle before certification. Bravo Zulu Mr. Stockham.

Recruiting

Flotilla 08 has continued to seek out new members and to enroll them into the Auxiliary. They have one new applicant submitted to DIRAUX and are awaiting certification. This has been quite an achievement in light of the social distancing and other Covid restrictions. The extra effort will pay off once the individual has been certified in AP status.

Operations

Flotilla 08 has a facility and individual members are pursuing Coxswain and Boat Crew certifications. Due to Covid, initial on-the-water request for orders was delayed but are now being allowed with some new guidelines. Flotilla 08 is among those requesting orders for operations.

The Meaning Behind the 13 Folds of Old Glory

Marine Corps News | By Laurie Pearson

<https://www.military.com/flag-day/meaning-behind-13-flag-folds.html>

Most Americans have seen the traditional folding of the American flag, at specific events, such as funerals. Have you ever wondered why Old Glory is folded that specific way? Much more than just pomp and circumstance, each of the 13 folds holds special meaning.

The Flag Itself

The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing states our veterans served in uniform. The field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted only when draped as a funeral cloth over the casket of a veteran who has served our country honorably in uniform. In the U.S. Armed Forces, at the ceremony of retreat, the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at a ceremony of reveille, flown high as a symbol of belief in the resurrection of the body.



Above: Properly folded flags. Photo: Courtesy of U.S. Army

Meaning Behind the 13 Folds

The flag-folding ceremony represents the same religious principles on which our great country was originally founded.

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
2. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.
4. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature; as American citizens trusting in God, it is Him we turn to in times of peace, as well as in times of war, for His divine guidance.
5. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country. In the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our [armed forces](#), for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
9. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood. It has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that has molded the character of the men and women who have made this country great.
10. The 10th fold is a tribute to father, who has also given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.
11. The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
12. The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.
13. The 13th and last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

After the Folding Ceremony

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it has the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under Gen. George Washington and the sailors and Marines who served under Capt. John Paul Jones and were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the U.S. Armed Forces, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

The source and the date of origin of this Flag Folding Procedure is unknown. However, some sources attribute it to the Gold Star Mothers of America while others to an Air Force chaplain

stationed at the United States Air Force Academy. Some sources also indicate that the 13 folds are a nod to the original first 13 colonies. The flag folding ceremony is provided as a patriotic service.

VA Policy on Flag-Folding Recitation of "13-Fold" Ceremony

To ensure burial services at the 143 national cemeteries operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs reflect the wishes of veterans and their families, VA officials have clarified the department's policy about recitations made while the U.S. flag is folded at the grave site of a veteran. "Honoring the burial wishes of veterans is one of the highest commitments for the men and women of VA," said William F. Tuerk, VA's undersecretary for Memorial Affairs. "A family may request the recitation of words to accompany the meaningful presentation of the American flag as we honor the dedication and sacrifice of their loved ones."

Traditional grave site military funeral honors include the silent folding and presentation of a U.S. flag, three rifle volleys and the playing of "Taps."



David W. Cox, Coast Guard Auxiliary salutes as the funeral procession for a veteran winds its way inside the National Cemetery in Chattanooga on April 27. Cox, the Tennessee state director for Bugles Across America, sounded taps for a veteran's funeral. *by Todd South Chattanooga Free Press*

The Meaning of Normandy

From The American Legion | By Keith Nightengale

As time proceeds, memories diminish, and the significance ebbs into oblivion. Occasional bursts of remembrance may capture a moment in time and permit some symbolic gesture of recognition for an event that occurred 70 years ago: the Normandy invasion. Presidents, prime ministers, royalty and a

panoply of civilization will assemble on the week of June 6 to commemorate that profoundly historic event and pledge fealty to its spirit and sacrifice.

The beaches will be serenaded by bands, banners, pomp and circumstance. Speeches will be made by elected and appointed leaders of nations, recounting the events and their meanings. Then, as quickly as they assembled, the crowds will disappear and the events they came commemorate will drift with the tide. But the real meaning of Normandy and what happened there on June 6, 1944, will live on in the rural towns and villages of the Cotentin Peninsula, where the invasion is more than an annual date to circle on the calendar. Such a place is Hemevez.

American troops wading from landing craft toward Omaha Beach, under fire of German artillery. Credit...Robert F. Sargent/U.S. Coast Guard/The LIFE Picture Collection, via Getty Images

Hemevez is a small, obscure farm town near the more populated city of Picauville. One would need an acute desire to visit and a great sense of navigation, or be hopelessly lost, to encounter it. Yet on the slight high ground of the village center resides what inhabitants believe Normandy and the invasion was all about.

The hill is dominated by a small church and a copse of trees. The church is encircled by a graveyard several hundred years old and monuments to the various wars that the men of Hemevez have fought. The monuments are near an open farm field and gathered together, much like the gravestones of the past. On one edge, in an open, sunny place, is a particularly unique marker of polished black granite with gold letters. Unlike the others, it is not an obelisk but a rectangle. There are words and names incised on it and lettered in gold. A small gravel walkway leads from the church to the front of this monument. It truly stands alone among the others. It is treated as such.

Across the top are simple words in French: "In Remembrance of the Fallen Soldiers 6 June 1944." Under that are seven names, all members of the

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. On the night of June 6, 1944, 14 soldiers of Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 507th PIR were misdropped over the small village of Hemevez at around 0240, and seven were captured by the local

German unit. On the back of the monument is another message, also in French:

In memory of the 7 American Parachutists of the 82nd Airborne Division who were executed in the vicinity of this community 6 June 1944

The seven captured men were lined up and shot in a field near the church. The villagers buried them within the grounds and later, as the Allies cleared the area, repatriated the bodies. The villagers, however, did not forget the seven or what they signified.

Below: (R) A German Paratrooper and (L) an American Paratrooper lay a wreath at memorial to American Paratroopers executed by the Nazis on D-Day. Photo: Courtesy of Richmond Observer, Jon Ring Photographer.



They built the monument in their memory, and each year, during the anniversary period, the entire village gathers in the churchyard and remembers those teenagers of long ago and what they meant for their grandparents, for them, and for succeeding generations.

This is not a contrived event. Hemevez is as obscure as a distant rural French village can be. No one remarkable, French or American, appears there except on the rarest of occasions, and then it's often by chance. This is not important to the village. The residents know why they assemble and why it matters.

The sun peaks over the roof of the church. Next to the monument, the mayor takes his place. A farmer by trade, he is wearing his best and only suit and tie, with a stained shirt and shoes still muddy with the residue of his livelihood.

The prefect of the church has an old CD player. Next to them, in line, are the local historical representatives of the French Resistance, Army units and Foreign Legion, with their flags. They are humbly dressed, like the mayor.

Any attendees not from the village are brought forward to a place of honor. The mayor begins by playing the U.S. national anthem from a CD, a somewhat broken and stuttering reproduction. He then plays "La Marseillaise." Every citizen, as is the French custom – including the flag bearers – sings lustily and with emphasis. At the conclusion, donkeys in the adjacent field begin to bray, lending a concluding chorus to the affair.

The mayor signals for the CD to be stopped and, ignoring the braying, quietly recounts the events of that night so long ago. The villagers stand mute, thinking about the words that describe what happened. The mayor pauses and begins again.

He quietly reads each name graven in gold: Pfc Elsworth M. HECK Pvt Anthony J. HITZTALER Pvt Andrew W. KLING Pvt Delmar C. McELHANEY Pfc Daniel B. TILLMAN Pvt Robert G. WATSON Pvt Robert E. WERNER

At the conclusion of each name's reading, villagers firmly voice in unison, "Mort por la France." After the seventh name is read, the mayor turns to the

village priest, who prays. Most of the residents cross themselves, turn quietly and depart. Some linger and drop flowers by the monument. The cattle peer through the wire as the ceremony closes. The donkeys feed in the tall grass, and the sun settles behind the church.

Every year, the village repeats this ceremony. Every year, they repeat the names and remember what they mean, in a part of Normandy unseen by the thousands who come each year and never happen upon Hemevez. Being seen is not important to the village. They know why they come together and why they always will.

Retired U.S. Army Col. Keith Nightingale is a military history writer and frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

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June 23rd is the official Coast Guard Auxiliary birthday. Most are familiar with the Coast Guard, and while the Coast Guard Reserve isn't quite as well known, it's the Coast Guard Auxiliary that remains one of the more obscure (but important) groups that has traditionally been associated with the United States Military.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday will be Tuesday, June 23, 2020.

The U.S. Armed Forces are made up of Active Duty components supplemented by Reserve forces such as the Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, etc., but a non-military and unpaid civilian auxiliary exists for two branches: the Air Force and Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard is considered military service but is not part of the Defense Department, which is an important distinction from its' Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps counterparts.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is, as mentioned above, an unpaid force of volunteers who perform duties similar to or in support of the regular Coast Guard. Legislation passed in the mid-1990s authorized the Auxiliary to support any Coast Guard missions not involving law enforcement or real-world military operations.

Further legislation realigned the Coast Guard, Reserve, and Auxiliary under the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to that, it was considered part of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary mission involves many activities that promote and support maritime safety, recreational boating safety, fighting pollution, even rescues.

A Brief History Of The Coast Guard Auxiliary

On June 23, 1939, Congress authorized the creation of a Reserve component for the Coast Guard. At the time, the Coast Guard Reserve was made up of civilian volunteers, but later Congress acted to make the Reserve a bona fide branch of the Armed Forces just like the Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, etc.

That act, known as the Auxiliary And Reserve Act of 1941, established the Coast Guard Auxiliary alongside the Reserve.



Above: An Auxiliarist observes as a Coast Guard helicopter drops a rescue swimmer in a simulated rescue exercise. Photo: Courtesy of CG Auxiliary.

The newly created Coast Guard Auxiliary would basically be tasked to perform in the same way the original Coast Guard Reserve had, utilizing a non-military and all-volunteer force to serve in America's waterways, the high seas, and other "navigable waters."

Those who served in the earlier Reserve and later with the Auxiliary often owned their own vessels,

but today's service requirements for Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers does not necessarily include boat ownership.

Because of the way the Auxiliary began, the official birthday may seem a bit confusing. The Coast Guard Reserve official birthday is designated as February 19, the day the Guard became an actual part of the military.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary birthday is designated as June 23, since it was created "in spirit" then, even if it wasn't known by its' current name at the time.

The easiest way to keep these two important birthdays straight is to remember that June 23 is the birthday of the organization that required an unpaid volunteer force, while February 19 is the birthday of the Coast Guard organization that became formally known as its' own branch of service.

How To Celebrate The Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

The Auxiliary has a variety of missions, but among them, the word "safety" comes up again and again. One good way to celebrate the Coast Guard Auxiliary birthday is to participate in the Auxiliary's mission to make boating, seafaring, and waterway use as safe as possible.



The Auxiliary performs free "Vessel Safety Checks", holds all-ages recreational boat safety classes, and performs routine waterway patrols. You can find these public boating courses and more via the Auxiliary's official website.

Participating in the classes and safety checks is one way to observe the birthday; giving way to Auxiliary vessels performing missions in local waterways is another. And of course, some may feel motivated to consider volunteering their time serving in the Auxiliary itself.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary official site says membership is open to U.S. citizens ages 17 and older, and especially to current or former members of the military. Owning a boat, aircraft, or radio gear is not a requirement but is definitely considered a plus when joining. You can learn how to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary at their official site.

Some Auxiliary training is close, if not identical to, regular Coast Guard procedures; coursework includes navigation, search and rescue, marine engines, and meteorology.
<https://militarybenefits.info/coast-guard-auxiliary-birthday/> - ixzz6QJBpsfA8

U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District Paddle Sports Safety Program [PSSP]

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=RB-GROUP>

The following article is an overview of this new program.

Over recent years, canoeing, kayaking, and other paddle craft sports have become popular with the public. Families can become involved with much less cost than boating. However, there is a great increase in the number of fatalities in these smaller craft.

From 2005 to 2009, there were 106 fatalities each year. From 2013 to 2017 fatalities increased to 142 per year: an increase of 34%.

85% of fatal canoeing accidents, and 48% percent of kayaking fatalities, involved those not wearing life jackets.

Paddle sports incidents are consuming an ever-increasing amount of USCGA operational time. The Eighth District Admiral recently met with our three Auxiliary Districts to develop and implement a safety program.