

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
CELEBRATES  
223<sup>RD</sup> BIRTHDAY**



The history of the Coast Guard is almost as old as that of the United States. On August 4, 1790, President George Washington signed a bill passed by Congress, authorizing the construction of ten boats; this was the beginning of the Coast Guard. First Named the Revenue Marine, and then changed to the Revenue Cutter Service, its mission was to guard the new country's coastline against smugglers.

On January 28, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson approved the act authorizing the merger of the Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Lifesaving Service. The "new" service was named the UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

The Coast Guard has a wide variety of missions:

**Search and Rescue**

**Port Safety and Security**

**Marine Environmental Protection**

**Ice Operations**

**Navigation Systems**

**Marine Safety- Commercial Vessel and Recreational  
Boating Safety Programs**

**Defense Readiness**

**Enforcement of laws and Treaties**

The Coast Guard is the oldest of the nation's seagoing armed forces. They perform dangerous assignments and duties on the sea and in the air. Coast Guard service men and women are among the most capable and daring of the armed services.