

FLOT Lines

Flotilla 74, Brandon

District 7

USCG Auxiliary

Issue 5 2023





Newsletter Flotilla 74, Brandon **Dorothy Riley, Flotilla Commander**

Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

3006 South Kings Ave., Brandon, Florida

Flotilla Staff Officers

August Miller **Navigation Systems** Materials

> **Dottie Riley Publications Public Affairs**

William Sage **Human Resources**

Matt Stephen **RBS-Partner Visitation** Vessel Examinations

Tanner Piliego Information Systems Communication Services

> **Christopher Hunt** Communications Diversity

Kelly McMahon Finance

Cover photo: Ship's wheel. Joseph Barientos on Unsplash

Background photo: Steve Williams, Dean Bell, coxswain, and August Miller aboard "Ms, Daisy," Flotilla 74, Brandon Auxiliary facility. USCG Auxiliary photo by George Papabeis

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www.cgaux74.org



https://www.facebook.com/groups/Flotilla74/

Background photo: Flotilla 74, Brandon member, Steve Williams is appointed Flotilla Staff Officer-Operations by Dorothy Riley, Flotilla Commanthe flotilla meeting on Sept.12, 2023. USCG Auxiliary photo by Tanner Piliego

FLOT Lines

Flotilla 74, Brandon

District 7 USCG Auxiliary

Issue 5 2023

From the Helm

Dorothy Riley Flotilla Commander

November Elections: Steering Forward Into the New Year

Let us imagine that our flotilla is a vessel. A ship needs a captain (Flotilla Commander), first mate (Flotilla Vice Commander), chief officer (Materials), purser (Finance), chief engineer (Member Training), ship's communications officer (Telecommunications Operator, Communication Systems, Information Services), and many other roles and functions.

Keeping with the ship analogy, if the captain and first mate are at the helm to steer the ship, then our staff

officers and members chart our ship's course. They do this by setting goals for our flotilla, and also by being deckhands responsible for carrying out the goals set by deck/staff officers. This includes maintaining the deck and rigging and handling cargo for our ship - which may look like assisting at Public Affairs events, conducting Vessel Examinations and Partner Visits, and helping with the maintenance of our building.

Our staff officers set goals by considering our mission. vision and values. What do we want our flotilla to achieve? What kind of impact do we want to have? Once we have a clear understanding of our agency's purpose, we can start to set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) goals.

Specific: Our goals should

be clear and well-defined. Avoid vague statements like "increase

our number of Vessel Examinations" or "teach more boating education classes." Instead, set goals like "increase number of Vessel Examinations conducted by 10 percent in the next quarter" or "increase number of Program Visits by 10 percent in the next six months."

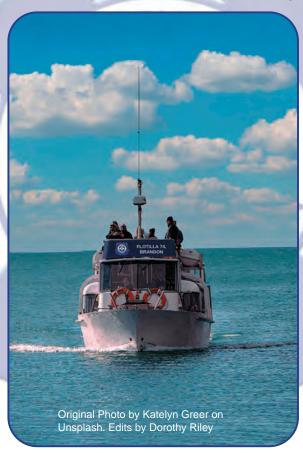
Measurable: Our goals should be quantifiable so

that we can track our progress and measure our success. For example, instead of setting a goal to "attract more people to our social media site," set a goal to "increase website traffic by 20 percent" or "increase social media engagement by 15 percent."

Achievable: Our goals should be ambitious but realistic. Don't set goals that are impossible to achieve, or we'll only set ourselves up for failure. On the other hand, don't set goals that are so easy that we're not challenged.

Relevant: Our goals should be aligned with our agency's mission, vision, and values. Make sure that our goals are relevant to our target audience and that they will help us achieve our overall objectives.

Time-bound: Our goals should have a deadline. This will help us stay focused and motivated, and it will also give us a way to measure our progress.



Join the good Flotilla 74, Brandon on our 2023 voyage.



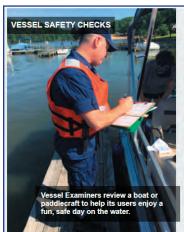
Evaluate: We should also create a point to evaluate our progress to determine if our goals are meeting our objectives, and correct our course if necessary.

Our primary mission is to promote and improve recreational boating safety. Our goals should reflect this mission. We need EVERY member to participate to achieve these goals. We need Vessel Examiners,

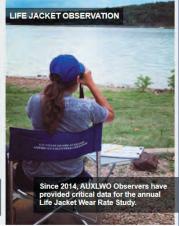
Partner Visitors and Public Education Instructors.

WE NEED YOU!

Please attend our staff meeting on November 7 to help set our goals and be sure to attend our meeting on November 14 to elect next year's elected leaders. Ω







Vessel Examinations Recreational Boating Safety-Partner Visits

For information about how to become a Vessel Examiner or Recreational Boating Safety-Partner Visitor, go to:

https://wow.uscgaux.info/ content.php?unit=v-dept

Recreational Boating Safety Public Education Programs Right: A boating education class conducted by Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach. Our flotilla needs qualified Instructors! To learn more about Auxiliary boating safety Public Education programs or to become an instructor, go to:

https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=e-dept





Flotilla 74 Members extend a special "thank you" to Bill Sage, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Staff Officer-Human Resources at the staff officer meeting on Oct. 3. There is no question that Bill's efforts keep our flotilla up and running and motivate our members.

Thank you, Bill, for all that you do! USCG Auxiliary photo by Matt Stevens.



FLOT Lines

Flotilla 74, Brandon

District 7 USCG Auxiliary

District 7 Annual Training Conference

By Dorothy Riley



Great Food

Fun and Fellowship



COMO John Holmes, District 7, and COMO Allen Fredd, National Deputy Commodore, present Dorothy Riley, Staff Officer-Publications, Division 7, the national Public Affairs award for the best division newsletter at the District 7 annual business meeting on Sept. 22, 2023, in Orlando. Riley also earned Third Place in the District 7 Publications/ flotilla newsletter category for FLOT Lines. (USCG Auxiliary photo by R. Michael Stringer)

District 7 held its annual District Training Conference Sept. 21-24 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. The annual event offers more than training opportunities.

The District Training Conference represents a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and to put faces to the names we frequently see in emails, recipients or originators of forms, and Auxiliary program updates. It is an opportunity to learn that our District 7 leaders are ordinary people like our newest members- but considerably further along in their Auxiliary careers. District Training Conference is an occasion to celebrate, take pride in our accomplishments, and revel in each other's company.

And now, for a bit of 'housekeeping.' We must list our speakers and guests of honor. Commodore John Holmes, Seventh District Auxiliary, functioned as chairperson for this meeting and introduced the guests present.

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(Continued from page 6)

Coast Guard guests included District 7 Commander RADM Douglas Schofield; District 7 Director of Auxiliary LCDR Benjamin Tuxhorn; MCPO Travis Park, Chief, Auxiliary Operations Management Branch at Coast Guard Headquarters; and District 7 Chief of Prevention Captain Nicolette Vaughan. Other Coast Guard guests included LT John Kelly, Admiral's Aide; ENS Nicole Gardiner, Auxiliary Liaison from Sector Miami; LTJG Sophia Rubino, Auxiliary Liaison from Air Station Savannah; CWO3 Chris Sheppard, AUXLO from Sector Key West, and District 7 Operations Training Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Brook Blount.

Ranking Auxiliary members present included National Deputy Commodore, Atlantic East and Mission Support, COMO Allen Fredd; Immediate Past District Commodore, Pat McMenamin; Past District 7 Commodore, COMO John Tyson; Past District 7 Commodore and Statistical Aide, COMO Robert Weskerna; Martin Goodwin, District 7 Chief of Staff; Douglas Armstrong, District Captain East; Jim Parker, District Captain North; Daniel Helou, District Captain West.

All three District Captains were re-elected at the business meeting. The District Commodore and District Chief of Staff serve terms of two years, and elections for these offices will not occur until 2024. Division 7 members received several noteworthy awards.

Every division within District 7 earned the NACO Three-Star Diversity Award. This includes Flotilla 74, Brandon, which received the NACO Three-Star Diversity Award for the first time. We must thank Caro Filgueiras, District Staff Officer-Diversity, who made it a point to prod and guide our flotilla and division commanders to secure this 100 percent participation.

Dorothy Riley, editor of *Intercom*, took home first place in the Public Affairs-Publications contest in the division newsletter category at national and district levels. Flotilla 74, Brandon newsletter *FLOT Lines* earned third place in the district's newsletter competition.

Riley was also an instructor and along with Michael Stringer, taught two classes on how to create and publish newsletters. The District Training Conference offers many courses and training opportunities for members.

If you did not attend District Training Conference this year, be sure to attend next year. $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$

Note: A version of this article directed at division accomplishments was published in Intercom, issue 3, 2023.

Conference photos: page 6, top - Color guard; bottom: Daniel Helou, District Captain-West, his wife, Kim, John Robbins, and his wife, Peggy dressed for the 70's theme Fun Night. This page, top: Daniel Helou teaching a class. Photos by Dorothy Riley. Bottom right: Dorothy Riley and Ramses Rodriguez, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator - Sector San Juan. Photo by R. Michael Stringer







October is for the Bir

By Dorothy Riley

Thanks to myths and legends, bats are misunderstood. They are not Dracula-transforming creatures and do not drink human blood.

Bats are fascinating and important creatures that play a vital role in the ecological balance. They are the only mammals that can fly, and they are found all over the world. There are over 1,400 species of bats, and they come in all shapes and sizes.

One of the most important contributions that bats make to the ecosystem is insect control. Bats eat millions of insects every night, including mosquitoes, moths, and beetles. This helps to keep insect populations in check and protects crops and other plants from damage.

Bats also play a role in pollination and seed dispersal. Some bats feed on nectar from flowers, and they help to pollinate plants as they move from flower to flower. Other bats eat fruit, and they help to disperse seeds by dropping them in new areas as they fly.

But because of white-nose syndrome, habitat loss, and multiple other threats, nearly 200 species are classified as Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Vulnerable.

In Florida, there are 13 native bat species. These bats play an important in controlling insect populations, pollinating plants, and dispersing seeds. Some of the common bat species in Florida include the big brown bat, the evening bat, and the Brazilian free-tailed bat.

While bats are the leading source of rabies in the U.S., bats are generally shy creatures and do not attack humans or pets unless they are provoked. However, there are a few things that can increase the risk of a bat attack, such as trying to handle a bat.

Bats can become aggressive if they are handled, so it is best to leave them alone. Do not disturb the bat's roosting site. Bats can become defensive if their roosting site is disturbed, so it is best to avoid areas where bats are known to roost.

Coming into contact with a sick or injured bat can increase the likelihood of exposure. Sick or injured bats may be more likely to bite or scratch, so it is best to avoid them. If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, it is important to seek medical attention immediately. Bats can carry diseases, such as rabies, which can be fatal if not treated. Ω

Brown bat. Photo by Ameya Khandekar on Unsplash



Community and Auxiliary Marine Safety Outreach Programs Yes, there are opportunities to protect our marine environment in Tampa Bay! By Dorothy Riley

Various agencies in Tampa Bay support numerous marine conservation efforts. Some of these efforts include:

Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP): TBEP is a partnership of government agencies, businesses, and citizens working together to restore and protect Tampa Bay. TBEP's work includes restor-

ing seagrass beds, protecting and restoring mangroves, and improving water quality.

Florida Aquarium: The Florida
 Aquarium is a non-profit organization
 that is dedicated to conservation,
 education, and research. The Aquarium has a number of conservation
 programs, including programs to
 protect sea turtles, coral reefs, and
 manatees.

• Tampa Bay Watch: Tampa Bay Watch is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to protecting and restoring Tampa Bay. Tampa Bay Watch's work includes monitoring water quality, restoring seagrass beds, and educating the public about the importance of Tampa Bay.

 Mote Marine Laboratory: Mote Marine Laboratory is a non-profit research institu-

tion that is dedicated to understanding and protecting marine ecosystems. Mote Marine Laboratory's work includes research on sea turtles, coral reefs, and fish populations.

The "Good Mate" course is an important building block of most Marine Safety qualifications. Find it at: https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2014-good-mate-brochure-1-1.pdf

University of South Florida:

The University of South Florida has a number of marine research and conservation programs. USF's work includes research on sea turtles, coral reefs, and mangrove ecosystems.

In Tampa Bay, the Coast Guard Auxiliary assists with marine conservation efforts in a number of ways. Some of these include:

- Monitoring sea turtle nesting beaches
- Educating the public about marine conservation
- Assisting with oil spill response
- Restoring seagrass beds

Protecting and restoring mangroves

Monitoring water quality

The Coast Guard Auxiliary also provides support to other marine conservation organizations in the Tampa Bay area. For example, the Auxiliary provides vessels and personnel to help with beach clean-

ups, manatee counts, and sea turtle monitoring.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a valuable asset to the marine conservation community in Tampa Bay. The Auxiliary's volunteers play a vital role in protecting and restoring the marine environment for future generations. Additionally, the Auxiliary offers several qualifications to protect marine life and keep our waters clean.

To learn about the Auxiliary Marine Safety outreach programs, visit: https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=p-dept

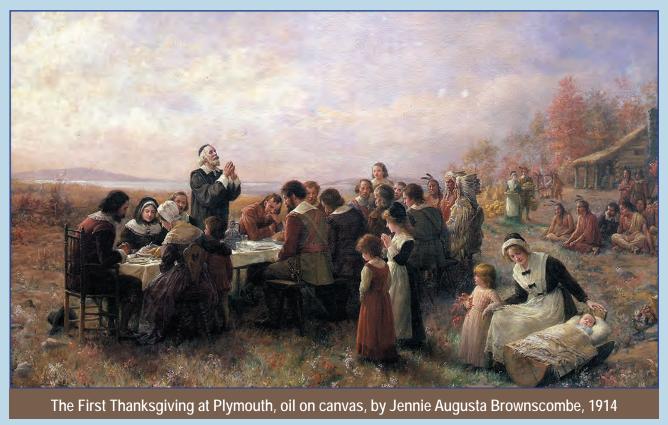
Start your Marine Safety learning adventure: https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=P-DEPT&-category=custom-1 Ω



Thanksgiving Historically and in the Coast Guard Today.

Celebrating friends and family far from home.

By Dorothy Riley



The history of Thanksgiving Day can be traced back to the early days of European colonization in North America. In 1621, the Pilgrims, a group of English Separatists who had fled religious persecution in England, held a harvest feast with the Wampanoag Native Americans. This feast is often considered to be the first Thanksgiving celebration in the United States.

The Pilgrims had arrived in Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1620, but their first year in the New World was very difficult. Many of the Pilgrims died from disease and starvation. However, the Wampanoag helped the Pilgrims to survive by teaching them how to grow crops and fish in the area.

In 1621, the Pilgrims had a successful harvest. To celebrate, they invited their Wampanoag allies to a feast that lasted for three days. The feast included turkey, venison, fish, vegetables, and fruits. The Pilgrims and Wampanoag also played games and danced together. Thanksgiving Day was not celebrated regularly in the United States until the late 18th century. In 1789, President George Washington issued a proclamation calling for a national day of thanksgiving. However, it was not until 1863, during the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation making Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday.

Thanksgiving Day is now a major holiday in the United States. It is a time for families and friends to come together to celebrate the harvest and to give thanks for their blessings. Traditional Thanksgiving foods include turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

Thanksgiving Today in the Coast Guard

Thanksgiving Day is a special day for all Americans, but it is especially meaningful for members of the

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Coast Guard. Many Coast Guard members are away from their families and friends on Thanksgiving, so it is a time to come together as a community and celebrate the holiday.

On Thanksgiving Day, many Coast Guard stations and bases around the world host large meals for Coast Guard members and their families.

In addition to the traditional Thanksgiving meal, many stations and bases also host other activities on Thanksgiving Day, such as football games, Turkey Trots, and holiday concerts. These activities help to create a sense of community and camaraderie among Coast Guard members and their families.

For Coast Guard members who are deployed overseas, Thanksgiving can be a particularly difficult time. They are often far away from their loved ones and may not have access to traditional Thanksgiving foods. However, many Coast Guard bases overseas also host Thanksgiving meals for service members. These meals are often prepared by local volunteers and feature traditional Thanksgiving dishes.

In addition to the traditional Thanksgiving meal and activities, many Coast Guard stations and bases also offer other support to Coast Guard members and their families on Thanksgiving Day. For example, some stations and bases offer childcare services so that parents can enjoy the meal without having to worry about their children. Other stations and bases offer counseling services to Coast Guard members who are struggling with the challenges of being away from home on Thanksgiving.

The US Coast Guard goes to great lengths to make sure that Coast Guard members and their families

have a meaningful Thanksgiving experience. It is a testament to the commitment of the Coast Guard to its people. Examples of these efforts include:

At Air Station Clearwater in Florida, Coast Guard members and their families gather for a Thanksgiving potluck dinner. The event is organized by the Coast Guard Foundation and typically features over 1,000 attendees.

At Station Port Canaveral in Florida, Coast Guard members and their families enjoy a Thanksgiving meal prepared by local volunteers. The event is sponsored by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and typically features over 500 attendees.

At Sector and Base Miami Beach in Florida, Coast Guard members and their families gather for a Thanksgiving dinner and dance. The event is organized by the Coast Guard Foundation and typically features over 500 attendees.

At the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, cadets and their families enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal prepared by the Academy's culinary staff. The event is typically attended by over 2,000 people.

Coast Guard members deployed overseas typically celebrate Thanksgiving with a meal prepared by local volunteers. The meals often feature traditional Thanksgiving dishes, but may also include local cuisine.

The Coast Guard takes great pride in its Thanksgiving traditions. It is a time for Coast Guard members and their families to come together and celebrate the holiday, even when they are away from home. Ω



U.S Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater held its annual family-friendly Thanksgiving Turkey Trot on November 23, 2022. (Photo from Air Station Clearwater's social media page.)



Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tampa resevation, flanked by leaders of the Brighton Seminole reservation. Front row: The daughters of Ruby Tiger Osceola, tribal matriarch: Susie Osceola Doctor, Maggie Osceola Garcia, Annie Osceola Henry and spouse, Bobby Henry; Linda Osceola O'Henry, Peggy Osceola Cubis, and Nancy Osceola Frank. Note: Bobby Henry is regarded as the most famous Indian medicine man in the world, known not only by Native Americans but also in Europe and Asia. (Photo courtesy Seminole Hard Rock Casino, Tampa.)

Diversity and Inclusion District 7 Program

*The Insider*November 2023

Beginning in 1976, Congress designated a week in October, "Native American Awareness Week," to recognize the importance of the contributions made to our society by Native Americans. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush moved the observance to November and designated the entire month as National Native American Heritage Month. Currently, the federal government recognizes 574 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages in the United States. National Native American Heritage Month serves as a reminder of the positive impacts that this vibrant community has on the cultural development and growth of the U.S.

Historically, American Indians have the highest record of military service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups. The reasons are deeply rooted in traditional cultural values that drive them to serve their country.

These include a proud warrior tradition, best exemplified by the following qualities said to be inherent to most, if not all, Native American societies: strength, honor, pride, devotion, and wisdom. These qualities closely correlate with military tradition.

This month, we honor Seminole tribal member Betty Mae Tiger Jumper.

Betty Mae Tiger Jumper has numerous honorifics: the first female chief of the Seminole Tribe of Flori-

Right: Betty Mae Tiger Jumper 1923-2011 (Photo Courtesy Seminole Tribe of Florida)

da, founder of one of the most prominent groups that advocates for indigenous peoples (USET), member of the 1970 National Congress on Indian Opportunity, nurse, author, storyteller, and more. She is a member



of the Florida Women's Hall of Fame and received an honorary doctorate from Florida State University.

Betty Mae Tiger Jumper was elected to chair the Seminole Tribe of Florida in 1967, but this was only one of many firsts in her life. She was the first Seminole to graduate high school and the first to earn a higher education when she received her nursing degree. She helped organize the constitutional committee and create the constitution of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She would then create the first Seminole newspaper that would eventually become the Seminole Tribune, which still publishes today.

After her death in 2011, Mitchell Cypress, then chairman of the Seminole Tribe, commented: "Not only will our tribe feel the loss of Betty Mae, but so will all of humanity." Ω

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District 7 USCG Auxiliary

TORA! TORA! TORA!

December 7 attack on Pearl Harbor draws the US into WWII.

By Dorothy Riley

Photo: The USS Arizona (BB-39) burning after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. (Public domain image)

World War II, or the Second World War, sometimes abbreviated as WWII or WW2, was a global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945. The vast majority of the world's countries, including all the great powers, fought as part of two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis.

There was significant opposition in Congress to the US entering World War II. A number of members of Congress were isolationists who believed that the US should avoid foreign entanglements. They argued that the US had no vital interests at stake in the war and that it should stay out of it.

Other members of Congress were concerned about the potential costs of war. They worried that the US would be drawn into a long and costly conflict that would damage the economy and harm American lives.

Despite this opposition, the United States entered World War II a day after the Japanese attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. Germany and Italy, Japan's allies, declared war on the US a few days later.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was a complete surprise to the United States. The Japanese had kept their plans secret and had not even informed their own allies, Germany and Italy.

The Japanese launched their attack in two waves. The first wave consisted of 183 planes and attacked the US Pacific Fleet at anchor in Pearl Harbor. The second wave consisted of 167 planes and attacked airfields and other targets on Oahu. The attack lasted for about

two hours and resulted in the deaths of 2,403 Americans and the destruction of 19 ships and 188 aircraft.

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The Japanese lost 29 aircraft and five midget submarines in the attack. One Japanese soldier was taken prisoner, and 129 Japanese soldiers were killed.

The USS Arizona was the most heavily damaged ship in the attack. It sank with over 1,100 sailors on board. The USS Arizona Memorial now stands over the sunken ship and is a popular tourist destination.

The Japanese originally planned to attack Pearl Harbor on December 1, 1941, but bad weather forced them to postpone the attack. The Japanese commander of the attack, Mitsuo Fuchida, signaled the start of the attack with the code phrase "Tora! Tora! Tora!", which means "Tiger! Tiger! Tiger!" in Japanese.

The USS Nevada was the only battleship that was able to get underway during the attack. It was heavily damaged but was eventually repaired and returned to service. The USS Utah, which was serving as a training ship at the time of the attack, capsized and sank. Over 500 sailors were trapped inside the ship and died.

The attack on Pearl Harbor had a profound impact on American society. It led to a wave of patriotism and a renewed commitment to winning the war. It was a tragic event that changed the course of American history. The attack on Pearl Harbor was a major turning point in World War II. It led to the United States entering the war and ultimately to the defeat of Japan. Ω



FLOT Lines



MIAMI -- Miami-area Coast Guardsmen march in the Veterans Day Parade in Miami Beach, Fla., Nov. 11, 2009. The Coast Guard formation included personnel from Sector Miami, Station Miami Beach, and Station Fort Lauderdale. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Nick Ameen.



Flotilla 74, Brandon Annual Holiday Gathering

Join us for our annual holiday gathering!

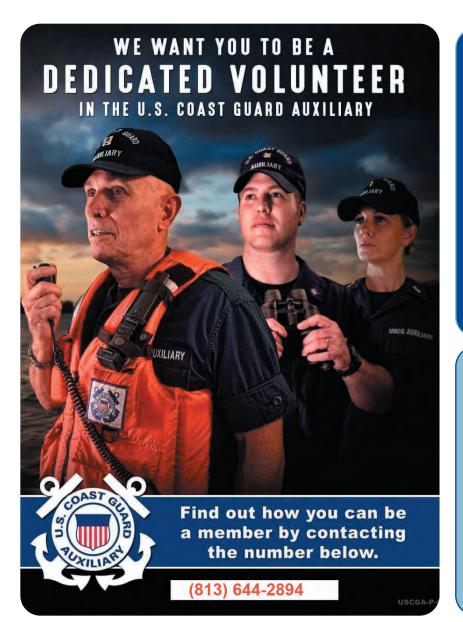
Monday, December 11, 2023, 7 p.m. O'Brien's Irish Pub and Grill 701 W. Lumsden Rd. Brandon, Flotilla 33511

- Family and friends are welcome!
- No seating charge. Select from the menu and pay for your order.
- We will conduct a "Dirty Santa," so bring a wrapped gift (under \$10) suitable for either a man or a woman.
- Have not participated in a while? This is a great opportunity for fellowship that requires no commitment to Auxiliary activities. Come and see old friends, meet new faces, and have fun!.
 - Members of other flotillas are most welcome!

RSVP by December 7 for our headcount.



FLOT Lines Flotilla 74, Brandon Issue 5 2023



FLOT is a military acronym meaning "forward line of own troops." FLOT line or "forward edge of battle area" (FEBA) are technical terms used by all branches of the U.S. armed services to designate the forward most friendly maritime or land forces on the battlefield at a given point in time during an armed conflict.

We are not a military force engaged in armed conflict. We are, however, the front-line of the struggle to save the lives of recreational boaters, and we face this great endeavor armed with Vessel Safety Checks, Public Education classes and all the other Recreational Boating Safety programs in our arsenal. Our newsletter banner serves as a reminder of this mission.

FLOT Lines is a publication of Flotilla 74, Brandon, District 7 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, located at 3006 S. Kings Ave., Brandon. The Auxiliary an organization of dues-paying unpaid, civilian volunteers whose mission is to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in promoting boating safety. Articles may be reprinted with the express consent of the author or photographer with proper credit given to same. For permissions or for more information, please contact the editor, Dorothy Riley, SO-PB, Email address: dottieriley@gmail.com

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Be sure to attend flotilla meetings

When: 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Where: Flotilla 74, Brandon

3006 S. KINGS AVE, Brandon, FL

Why: Membership is more rewarding

when you participate
and bring a friend!