

# Division 7 Holds Change-of-Watch Ceremony at Sector St. Petersburg.

By Dorothy Riley

Division 7 held its annual change of watch ceremony Dec. 3 in the Windjammer Lounge at Sector St. Petersburg. COVID restrictions limited Auxiliary attendance to elected leaders and division staff officers, but for those who did attend, it was a wonderful opportunity to see old, familiar faces and to meet others for the first time.

Coast Guard guests of honor included CDR Navin Griffin, Director of Auxiliary; CAPT Michael Kahle, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg and Captain of Port Tampa Bay; CWO4 Gregg Pescuma, Auxiliary Liaison Officer, Sector St. Petersburg; and BM1 Thomas Reardon, Auxiliary Operations Coordinator, Station St. Petersburg.

Auxiliary honorable guests were COMO Patricia McMenamin, District Commodore 7; Martin Goodwin, Chief of Staff (elect); David Rockwell, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator, Station St. Petersburg; Daniel Helou, current Division Commander and District Captain-West (elect); Anthony Novellino, District Directorate Chief-Logistics; COMO Donald Lloyd, Past Assistant National Commodore- Diversity; Charles Lambeth, Auxiliary Unit Coordinator, Air Station Clearwater; Terry Hershman, Auxiliary Unit Coordinator, Sector St. Petersburg; Dean Hoskin, Division Commander (elect); and Anthony Hooper, Division Vice Commander (elect).

Helou prepared a presentation honoring the contributions of the Coast Guard and Auxiliary members and announced the recipients of the



*Behind the presentation's projected image, COMO Patricia McMenamin, DCO 7 and CAPT Michael Kahle Commander, Sector St. Petersburg and Captain of Port Tampa Bay, frock Dean Hoskin at the Change of Watch ceremony Dec. 3 at Sector St. Petersburg. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley*

2021 flotilla and individual merit awards. COMO Pat McMenamin and CAPT Kahle swore Dean Hoskin and Anthony Hooper into office and performed the frocking ritual. Elected leaders and division staff took the oath of office.

Flotilla 77 Polk County earned the Flotilla of the Year award. Amber Porter, who was unable to attend, was named Division 7 Auxiliarist of the Year, and COMO Donald Lloyd, who is retiring this year, was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award, especially for his contributions to diversity and inclusion policies. (See page 33)

We congratulate all of this year's winners. Hopefully, next year we will be able to resume change of watch banquets as we held in previous years.

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# Annual Historical Flotilla Awards

## **OALMANN AWARD** (Member Training) **Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg**

Donated by William Oalman, a past Division Staff Officer and member of Flotilla 78, this award is presented yearly to the flotilla that has achieved the most member training hours per qualified member.

## **MIKE AWARD** (Membership Improvement) **Flotilla 77, Polk County**

Donated by Mike Adams, a past member of Flotilla 77 and 79, this award recognizes a flotilla's efforts to retain members and enroll new members. Presented to the flotilla with the best gain in membership.

## **MCKENDREE AWARD** (Specialty Course Advancement) **Flotilla 78, St. Pete Beach**

Donated in memory of Lee McKendree by Guy Webert, Past Division Captain and member of Flotilla 72, this award is presented annually to the flotilla which achieves the highest growth in specialty course completions.

## **NETTLING AWARD** (Operations) **Flotilla 77, Polk County**

Mr. Nettling was a charter member of 7-16, Gulfport, very active in search and rescue, and instrumental in the construction of 7-16's, present building in Gulfport. The Nettling Trophy is given each year to the flotilla with the best record in total operational hours per qualified member. It honors Bill Nettling's service to the boating public.

## **NETTLING AWARD** (Operations-USCG Support) **Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg**

Mr. Nettling was a charter member of 7-16, very active in Search and Rescue, and instrumental in the construction of 7-16's present building in Gulfport. The Nettling Trophy is given each year to the flotilla with the best record in total operational hours per qualified member. It honors Bill Nettling's service to the boating public and the Coast Guard Auxiliary and includes hours in service to the Coast Guard.

## **PRESCOTT AWARD** (Vessel Examinations) **Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach**

Donated by Flotilla 7-16 members in honor of Mr. Prescott, an outstanding flotilla member and instructor, this award honors his memory by its annual presentation to the flotilla with the best ratio of Vessel Safety Checks per examiner.

## **SHINGLEDECKER AWARD** (Partner Visitations) **Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport**

Dwight Shingledecker, a Past Division Captain, and Past District Captain-West, was a founder and charter member of Flotilla 71. He donated this award that is presented annually to the flotilla with the best Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visitor performance of the year.

## **KROUGH AWARD** (Public Education) **Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport**

Ed Krough, Past Division Captain and a member of Flotilla 73, Madeira Beach, conceived and donated this award. This award is presented annually to the flotilla that has made the greatest contribution to our public education program.

## **RICHIE AWARD** (Public Affairs) **Flotilla 78, St. Pete Beach**

Donated by Charles Richie, this award is for Public Affairs. It recognizes Public Affairs, the "sales" function of the Auxiliary, as a special field that requires untold time and patience to accomplish.

## **CAPTAIN'S JUG** **Flotilla 77, Polk County**

Originating in 1959, the Captain's Jug is the oldest of the Division 7 awards. "Fathered" by Auxiliarist Harry Bomford, an active member of Flotilla 79, the jug represents excellence in Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, and Fellowship.

## ★ **FLOTILLA OF THE YEAR** ★ **Flotilla 77, Polk County**





## Bits 'n Pieces

### Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport

Members of Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport, and the Coast Guard set up booths every month at the Gulfport Tuesday market to recruit for the Auxiliary and for the Coast Guard. The market draws locals and tourists. Martin Richardson, Walter Melnyczenko, Bill Zinner, and Paul Walling, all members of the Gulfport flotilla, staff a booth on Nov. 8, 2022, to recruit and promote boating safety. Auxiliary photo submitted by Howard Bush.



Bill Zinner, Flotilla Commander 7-16, Gulfport, presents Gerard Gaudry, Flotilla Staff Officer-Materials, a certificate for completing the FEMA course "Introduction to Hazardous Materials". Gerard is an active sailor and recently qualified as Instructor. USCG Auxiliary photo submitted by Howard Bush





## Bits 'n Pieces

### Flotilla 75, St. Apollo Beach



Members and friends of Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach, had great weather on the morning of Sept. 17 and a very successful beach park cleanup of the Apollo Beach Preserve. Member Steve Browning thanked flotilla members Santiago Castrodad-Rodriguez, Judy Clapp, Pat Stone, George Wightman, and friends Kay Lori, Amira, and Lori V for picking up more than eight large garbage bags of litter and waste. They were happily assisted by an English bloke named Ryan, who, along with his 5-year-old son, joined them, as well as an English mum named Claire and her sons, who also wandered by and volunteered to help. There was also a wedding being prepared on the beach for a couple of octogenarians which they assisted in setting up. It is always an honor and pleasure to get involved with the community and become an active part of its beautification. Bravo Zulu. (Job well done) Photo from Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach social media page.

### Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg



Rachel Arndt, Communications Manager, and Molly Robison, Annual Giving Manager of **Tampa Bay Watch**, attended the Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg meeting on October 8 and offered the members an overview of their various programs, including the day programs available at their Discovery Center and eco-tours at St. Pete Pier. The president of **Tampa Bay Watch** promised to return in 2023 to offer additional program information. Auxiliary photo provided by Daniel Helou.





# Division 7 Members Assist Coast Guard With Training.

Submitted by Howard Bush



*Help arrives to assist the 'vessel in distress.'*

USCG Auxiliary facility "Duty Calls," with Dean Hoskin, coxswain; Gordon Hornby and Tony Hooper, crew (all members of Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg); and Howard Bush (Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport), Telecommunications Operator, were requested to assist Coast Guard Station St. Pete with crew training on Nov. 30, 2022. The USCG 45-foot response boat medium (RBM) responded to a mock distress call. The vessel in distress was 'taking on water.'

A second mock situation involved a medical emergency with Gordon Hornby 'suffering from chest pain.' In addition, the RBM practiced long and side-by-side towing evolutions as well as a man overboard drill. Since no one volunteered to be tossed in the water, they used a float. A Coast Guard 29-foot response boat-small (RBS) assisted with an extra rescue pump. This was teamwork at its best. Ω

Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Howard Bush



*The 29-foot RBS brings more help- a pump.*







*Mock medical emergency with actor, Gordon Hornby: "Help! My ticker is not tocking and it hurts!"*



*The station's 45-foot RBM takes "Duty Calls" in a long-tow. (Will they tow us home, ya' think?)*







# FIRE!

Fire aboard a ship has always been a dreaded and often fatal experience. For large ships, it is the second largest hazard for crew and passengers. For us small guys, it can be just as serious.

In this article, we are going to discuss steps we can take to prevent a fire.

## Fire Prevention

There are actions to take or to avoid that can manage the risk of an onboard fire. First, let's look at the boat's actual fuel. Since most of our boats burn gasoline, we will address that issue. (Diesel is also flammable but not as easily ignited. Once burning, though, it creates an intense blaze.)

The chance of a fuel fire is heightened when refueling. There are some precautions we can take to prevent a fire during this process, realizing that it is the fumes from the gasoline that is highly flammable. So, let's deal with fumes.

- If your boat has an enclosed cabin, close all of the windows and doors before refueling. That way no fumes can get into that part of your boat.
- Frequently check your fuel lines and connections for leaks and worn spots.
- Be sure all electrical devices are turned off, as well as your engine.
- When gasoline passes through the hose, it generates static electricity. If that 'sparks' with the fumes at the fuel tank fill point, an explosion can occur. To dissipate the static electricity, keep the metal nozzle of the hose in contact with the metal part of the refueling opening, hopefully grounding the system.
- Try not to spill any fuel during the process. Not only does this add to the danger of fire, but you are legally responsible for your fuel spills.
- Once fueling is complete, securely fasten the gas cap.
- Open up all windows and doors to ventilate.
- If you have an inboard or inboard/outboard engine, it is time to run the bilge blower. That is a fan located in the bottom of the bilge where gasoline fumes can accumulate, gas being heavier than air. Run the fan for four minutes. (It is also good advice to run this blower before ANY engine start since even a small leak can produce lots of fumes.)

*Illustration by Dorothy Riley using images from various free-to-use sources including DVIDS and USCG Office of Boating Safety*





- Obviously, no smoking anywhere near the boat is the rule when fueling.

Use your nose! Gasoline has a distinct odor and even a small amount can be smelled at some distance. If you smell gas, shut everything down and find the source.

Another fire hazard is cooking fires, either from propane tanks, stoves, or grills. Be sure all connections are tight. It makes sense to have one of your fire extinguishers close to the galley.

As to the proper number and size of the fire extinguishers on your boat, there are some laws on the subject. Boats less than 26' must have at least one B-1 extinguisher. Boats between 26' and less than 40' must have two B-1s or one B-2.

When buying your extinguishers buy the ones that have "ABC" printed on them. They will put out combustible material and liquids (such as gasoline or grease) and electrical fires.

The number indicates the capacity – II is larger than I. As to how many and what size to buy, more and larger is the way to go.

### **Fire Response: Putting out the Fire**

Fire on a boat of any size is more of a threat than the same fire on land. On land, we can simply walk away. On boat away from land, we enter another potentially threatening environment – the water. In either event, the captain must make a fast and clear decision.

Fight or flee? If the fire is a fuel fire (that is, some part of the gasoline system has been breached), recognize the situation as very dangerous. If the fire is small and does not threaten the main or auxiliary fuel tanks, trying to put out the fire with your fire extinguisher might be advisable. However, be careful; gasoline fires can go from small to huge in a matter of seconds!

At the same time you are fighting the fire, have someone put out the anchor and everyone put on their life jackets. Most fires are in the mid-section or rear of the boat, and the anchor will keep the bow into the wind with the smoke and flame going astern.

If there is a gasoline fire aboard, you may choose to "get out of there!" Don life jackets and abandon

the ship. It's now the insurance company's problem. You must make your own decision; if you can make it in advance, that's good, and then stick to it.

Propane fires are a close second. One might probably try to extinguish the fire IF they could shut off the propane tank without getting burned. Your call.

If the fire is gasoline or propane-fueled and you have abandoned the ship, be careful if the fire seems to have gone out of its own accord. Think twice before re-boarding. The fire may still be smoldering and could explode anew at any time.

If the fuel fire occurs when you are secured to the fuel dock, there are other things you can do if the fire starts from a spark where the filler hose is going into the gas tank. DO NOT pull the hose out of the tank! Stop the flow of gas and go for the fuel shutoff switch on land and the larger extinguisher on the dock. (Know ahead of time where these are located.)

Other fires, such as grease flare-ups on a grill or stove, present challenges but are usually more easily extinguished. First, turn off the flame. If you can smother the fire, that's good. Otherwise, use your fire extinguisher and don't stop until the extinguisher is empty. (That won't be long with a B-I size.) DO NOT TRY TO EXTINGUISH A GREASE FIRE WITH WATER!

To operate the extinguisher on any type of fire (Of course, you have already read the instructions on the extinguisher.), detach the extinguisher from its bracket, pull the safety pin and then squeeze the trigger. Spray the fire with a back-and-forth movement directed at the base of the fire.

If the fire is wood, paper, or other combustibles, your chances of putting it out are good. But watch out if the fire is close to fuel; it could spread and be uncontrollable real fast.

We are going to assume that you are already wearing your life jacket while boating and before the fire started. If not, just as soon as you can after initial suppression efforts are underway, put on your life preserver in preparation for the last resort – abandoning the ship! Ω

*Source: Recreational Boating Safety Directorate*



## FWC responds to red tide in Southwest Florida.

Oct. 21, 2022

<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/>

The FWC is closely monitoring Southwest Florida, since *Karenia brevis*, also known as red tide, was detected in multiple samples in Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee counties this week. Red tide is a naturally occurring microscopic alga that has been documented along Florida's Gulf Coast since the 1840s and occurs nearly every year.

As part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Center for Red Tide Research, USF-College of Marine Science and Mote Marine Laboratory have each deployed a glider equipped with sensors to better understand conditions offshore. The information collected will help direct future sampling and forecasting efforts. Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, increased funding has been provided to enhance monitoring capabilities in offshore areas for signs of red tide in real-time.

In the FY 2022-23 budget, \$4.8 million was invested for the Center for Red Tide Research at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). The center was created at the request of the Governor in 2019 to improve statewide red tide monitoring techniques and conduct research to better track, predict, and mitigate the effects of red tide on Florida communities. The Center for Red Tide Research brings together state and local governments, universities, private sector partners, and citizen scientists to enhance statewide red tide monitoring and conduct applied research on red tide.

The FY 2022-23 budget also includes a dedicated \$5 million for the Department of Environmental Protection's red tide emergency grant program which supports county governments in cleanup of biological debris to minimize the impacts of red tide.

The FWC recently created an animated video to help answer common red tide questions. This video is intended for residents and visitors and covers three main topics: what is red tide; is red tide dangerous to humans; and how do we track red tide. Available as a single video or as three shorter standalone videos focused on each topic, these easy-to-access resources can be readily shared to help provide important background leading up to and during red tide events.

Current Red Tide status, conditions, and maps:

<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>

For more information regarding red tide, visit: <https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/>



Image courtesy **NOAA**



# Water Quality Program: *Is Your Water Clean?*

Source: Tampa Bay Waterkeeper, Oct. 18, 2022

Tampa Bay Waterkeeper (TBWK) tests and reports the bacteria levels of your favorite waterways bi-weekly. On our free app called Swim Guide, we make it easy for you to access all reporting agencies, including TBWK testing results, the Department of Health's (DOH's) Healthy Beaches testing results, and the City of St. Petersburg Environmental Compliance Division's testing results.

Environmental Protection Agency has set the following standards for water considered safe for swimming, which is used by DOH and Tampa Bay Waterkeeper:

- 0-70 CFU/MPN per 100 mL enterococci per sample: Safe for swimming
- 70+ CFU/MPN per 100 mL enterococci per sample: Not safe for swimming

## How do I find the latest water quality results?

Check out Swim Guide! You can download the Swim Guide app [here](#) or visit the website, or just keep scrolling.

Swim Guide is a popular tool for water lovers. Swim Guide will help you to identify at a glance which beaches are safe for swimming (Green) and which have current water quality problems (Red). Some sites are also in "special status" if pollution or safety events mean that you shouldn't swim.

## Water quality legend:

Current Status: Water quality samples were collected within the last 7 days.

- Green = Beach met water quality standards
- Red Circle = Beach failed to meet water quality standards
- Red Triangle = Beach has a special closure status

Historic Status: When a beach's water quality data has not been updated within the past 7 days

it goes into historical status. This means that rather than displaying current data, it displays the beach's average water quality for that year.

- Green = Beach passed water quality standards 95% of the time
- Red Circle = Beach passed water quality standards 60-94% of the time
- Yellow = Beach failed water quality standards less than 40% of the time

## Heads up Tampa Bay! Post-hurricane Ian Sampling Results Are In!

Apologies for the gap in sampling, but we are back to our regularly scheduled program of monitoring Tampa Bay after Hurricane Ian.

Roughly 50% of our water sampling sites exceeded recreational fecal indicator bacteria limits.

According to the standards set by the EPA, we do not recommend getting in the water at the following locations based on these sampling results:

- William's Park
- Davis Island Boat Ramp
- Rivercrest Park
- St. Pete Marina
- USF Beach
- Water Works Park

It's important to check the Swim Guide app linked below before you go in the water!

<https://www.theswimguide.org/affil.../tampa-bay-waterkeeper/>

In addition, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is conducting red tide (*K. brevis*) sampling. Per their report, dated October 7th, 2022: "The red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed at background concentrations in one sample from Northwest Florida over the past week. Sampling in Southwest Florida was impacted by the passage of Hurricane Ian. Ω





# Strengthening our Flotillas by Developing our Members

A new year is before us. In 2023 we will have a new set of leaders- both elected and staff officers. All of us hope to strengthen our flotillas, recruit new members, and encourage more seasoned members to take on staff offices. That is a huge goal in and of itself without considering our other goals and responsibilities, like our Recreational Boating Safety, Operations, and other missions. Fortunately, the help we need to achieve our goals of developing new leaders and members is already available.

Our new leaders may benefit from coaching, while new members will better become assets to our flotillas through mentoring.

Mentoring and coaching are fundamentally different processes despite frequently being grouped together.

## MENTORING:

- Mentors offer advice grounded in expertise and experience.
- Mentors are sought by the mentee due to their expertise or experience in an area of interest to the mentee.
- Next sessions are scheduled according to the availability of both mentoring partners or may not be scheduled at all (leaving it to the mentee to contact their mentor when they have a challenge or need advice).
- Mentors help their mentees set goals for the overall experience, but these may shift over time.

- The start date of a mentoring relationship is clear, but the end may be open and fluid to accommodate the mentee's needs or mentor's schedule.

Find the Auxiliary Mentoring Guide at: [https://www.uscgaux.info/Uploads\\_wowII/AUX60/AUXILIARY\\_MENTORING\\_GUIDE\\_6\\_19.pdf](https://www.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/AUX60/AUXILIARY_MENTORING_GUIDE_6_19.pdf)

Additional Resources can be found on the District 7 website at: [https://www.uscga-district-7.org/hr\\_corner.php](https://www.uscga-district-7.org/hr_corner.php)



*Dean Hoskin, member of Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg and current Division Vice Commander, shows Steve Williams and Clark Pittman, both members of Flotilla 74, Brandon, how to plot a course on a nautical chart. The members are participants of the 2022 Division 7 Boat Crew Training program. USCG Auxiliary photo by George Papabeis, also from Flotilla 74.*

## COACHING:

- Coaches do not tell the Leader what to do nor dictate advice or suggestions. Coaches encourage Leaders to find their own answers through introspection and discussion.
- Coaches can be (and frequently are) peers to the Leader they are coaching.
- Next sessions are scheduled to occur as close as possible after the Leader has applied their skill.
- Coaches stay focused on the specific skills the Leader has selected to apply at work.
- The Coach has only four contacts with the Leader, each with a specific outcome and time-frame. The final contact is a defined endpoint in the process.

Find the Auxiliary Leadership Coaching Guide at: [https://www.uscgaux.info/Uploads\\_wowII/AUX60/AUXILIARY\\_COACHING\\_GUIDE\\_3\\_19.pdf](https://www.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/AUX60/AUXILIARY_COACHING_GUIDE_3_19.pdf)





# November is Manatee Awareness Month:

## *FWC reminds boaters to go slow; look out below.*

Source: FWC <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLFFWCC/bulletins/3357d24>



November is Manatee Awareness Month, an important time for boaters to go slow and look out below to watch for manatees as they travel to warmer water sites around the state. From April 1 through Nov. 15, seasonal manatee zones require boaters to slow down in certain areas to prevent manatees from being struck by motorboats or personal watercraft.

Manatees depend on water generally warmer than 68 degrees Fahrenheit to survive the winter, so in the fall, they travel to Florida springs, power plant discharges, and other warm-water sites.

While manatees are large, they can be difficult to see in the water. That is why it is important to: follow guidelines and follow all manatee protection zones; look out while boating; wear polarized glasses and always give them space. Manatee protection zones are marked by waterway signs, and maps of manatee protection zones are available online at [MyFWC.com/Manatee](https://myfwc.com/manatee) by clicking on "Data and Maps."

During the colder months, seasonal manatee zones require boaters to slow down in certain areas to prevent manatees from being injured or killed by motorboats or personal watercraft. Boat strikes continue to be a major threat to Florida manatees. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission (FWC) law enforcement officers are on patrol in state waters to inform boaters of the seasonal manatee speed zones and take appropriate enforcement actions. Boaters are reminded to abide by the regulatory signs they see on the water.

Remember, disturbing manatees at warm-water sites can cause them to swim out of protected areas and into potentially life-threatening cold water. Manatees are a protected species, and it is illegal to feed, harass, disturb or harm them.

Physically handling a distressed or stranded manatee can cause more harm. Instead, report injured, distressed, sick or dead manatees to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or by dialing #FWC or \*FWC on a cellphone so trained responders can assist.

The FWC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continue to investigate and respond to an elevated number of manatee deaths along the Atlantic coast of Florida. The FWC and USFWS take manatee conservation seriously by actively implementing science-based conservation measures that are making a difference for manatees and their habitats. Learn more about how officials are responding to this event by visiting [MyFWC.com/Manatee](https://myfwc.com/manatee) and clicking on "Learn More" in the banner at the top of the page.

Resources for boaters, educators, and other interested members of the public are available at [MyFWC.com/Manatee](https://myfwc.com/manatee). What should you do if you see a manatee? The Viewing Guidelines page provides helpful tips on respectfully viewing manatees, additional guidelines for boat and personal watercraft operators, and information on what you can do to help these amazing aquatic mammals. Ω





# USCGC Douglas Munro Commemoration Ceremony Honors Cutter and Veterans.

By Dottie Riley



The USCGC MUNRO Memorial at Little Springs Park in Crystal River, Florida, came about through the efforts of personnel at the USCG Station Yankeetown and Ken Harrington, who spear-headed the project. Mr. Harrington was a Crystal River resident and member of the Crystal River Fraternal Order of Eagles. Below: Members of Coast Guard Station Yankeetown and the Coast Guard Auxiliary salute the flag during the USCGC Munro commemoration ceremony on Nov. 7, in Crystal River. In the center is Joe Meek, Crystal River Mayor. To his front-row right is COMO John Holmes, District Chief of Staff and District Commodore-elect. USCGAUX photo by Robert Fabich, Sr.



Linda Jones, Division Commander 15, hosted a commemoration ceremony on Nov. 7, 2022, at Little Springs Park in Crystal River, Florida, to honor the USCG Douglas Munro. Division 7 members attending the ceremony included Daniel Helou, Division Commander 7; Tony Novellino, Immediate Past Division Commander 7; Dean Hoskin, Division Vice Commander 7; Kevin Wilcox; and many others. Also attending were members of USCG Station Yankeetown, USCG Auxiliary Division 15 members, COMO John Holmes, District Chief of Staff

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COMO John Holmes, District Chief of Staff and District Commodore-elect, is seated with Auxiliary members from Division 7 attending the Coast Guard Cutter MUNRO Commemoration Ceremony on Nov. 7 at Little Springs Park in Crystal River. From right are Tony Novellino, Immediate Past Division Commander; Dean Hoskin, Division Vice Commander 7; and Daniel Helou, Division Commander.

Top right COMO John Holmes, District Commodore-elect, delivers opening remarks at the MUNRO commemoration ceremony.

Below: The Inverness, Florida, Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard provided a rifle salute and played of Taps. United States Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Robert Fabich, Sr.



and District Commodore-elect District 7; Joseph Meek, Crystal River Mayor; Robert Holmes, Crystal River City Councilman; the Inverness VFW Honor Guard, and the Citrus County Cruisers, antique car club.

This year's event was dedicated to all the men and women who served in the United States

armed forces and who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 15 continued the efforts of Ken Harrington, creator of the local monument.

The presentation began with the Honor Guard presenting the flags and a moment of silence. Mayor Meek and COMO John Holmes delivered the opening remarks. The background of USCG Douglas Munro's heroic actions at the battle of Guadalcanal and the history behind the monument was presented by Linda R.

Jones, Division Commander, Division 15. Ray O'Connell, Immediate Past Division Commander 15, read the poem "Freedom Isn't Free." A Rifle salute and the playing of Taps were provided by the VFW Honor Guard to conclude the program, followed by a rendition of the Armed Forces Medley honoring each branch of service. Ω





# History of the USCGC Douglas Munro.

Abridged and reprinted from "Signal 72," April 1, 2021, the newsletter for Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg, Sharon Hartley, editor.



On March 31, 2021, after 49 years of faithful service to our Nation, USCGC DOUGLAS MUNRO transitioned to In-Commission Special status. This status began the decommissioning process.

Throughout the cutter's service, MUNRO crews embodied the cutter's motto – "Honoring the Past by Serving the Present."

MUNRO was named in honor of Coast Guard Signaller First Class Douglas Albert Munro, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for acts of extraordinary heroism in World War II. As the Officer-in-Charge of an eight-raft amphibious landing force during the Guadalcanal Campaign, Munro bravely used his landing craft and its 0.30 caliber machine gun to shield and protect several

hundred Marines who were under heavy enemy fire. He was mortally wounded during this effort, but his actions allowed the extraction of Marines by other landing craft.

Commissioned on Sept. 27, 1971, as the 10th cutter in the Hamilton Class MUNRO was initially homeported in Boston, Massachusetts, but quickly moved to its Seattle, Washington, homeport in 1973. MUNRO shifted homeport to Honolulu in 1981 and then to Alameda, California, in 1989. MUNRO made a final homeport shift to Kodiak, Alaska, in 2007.

Throughout the cutter's distinguished career, those who sailed aboard MUNRO served in a multitude of domestic and international theaters,





including the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, the Persian Gulf and the Horn of Africa, and Southeast Asia and the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

During the cutter's last year of service, MUNRO completed 159 days away from homeport patrolling over 23,000 nautical miles in the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, and the Pacific Ocean. The Munro enforced laws, treaties, and regulations critical to detecting and deterring illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing. This included an operation NORTH PACIFIC GUARD deployment and two Alaska patrols, concluding the cutter's long legacy of safeguarding mariners in some of the world's most perilous waters. Ω



Crew members from Coast Guard Cutter Munro fuel up the ship before getting underway in Kodiak, Alaska, June 10, 2015. The Munro is a 378-foot high endurance cutter homeported in Kodiak. Photo courtesy Coast Guard District 17 PADET

## Division 7 Auxiliarist of the Year



Captain Mike Kahle, Commanding Officer, Sector St Petersburg and Captain of the Port of Tampa, presents a well-deserved Auxiliary Achievement Medal to Amber Porter, Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg, for her dedication to the marine environmental response mission while working as an Auxiliary University Program student with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg Incident Management Division. In addition, Porter was named **Division 7 Auxiliarist of the Year** at the Change of Watch ceremony held Dec. 3 at Sector St. Petersburg. Bravo Zulu, ship-mate! United States Coast Guard photograph.

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Division 7 presented Commodore Donald Lloyd a **Lifetime Achievement Award** for superior performance of duty while serving as a volunteer member of the USCG Auxiliary for 22 years. He was appointed Assistant National Commodore Diversity Directorate and created the Diversity curriculum for both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. He is a member of Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg, where he is recognized as a mentor, counselor, educator, leader, and friend.

He will be missed by many after his retirement. Ω  
USCG Auxiliary photograph





*May Holiday Lights  
brighten the Season  
for you and yours...*

