

USCG Auxiliary 8<sup>th</sup> CR

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

# Diversity Newsletter

June 2023

6<sup>th</sup> Edition



*"Moving Beyond Simple Tolerance"*  
Promoting an inclusive atmosphere of acceptance and respect and creating an environment, which fosters an appreciation of the values, skills, and abilities of each individual member.

## In this Issue:

1. Pride Month in the Coast Guard: Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion
2. Juneteenth Holiday: Honoring Freedom and History
3. Asian American Heritage: Recognizing Contributions and Culture
4. A Trailblazer in the Coast Guard: The First African American Admiral



### 1. Pride Month in the Coast Guard: Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion

As we celebrate Pride Month, it is important to recognize the significance of diversity and inclusion within the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is committed to fostering an inclusive environment that values all members, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Throughout June, various events and activities are taking place to celebrate Pride Month in the Coast Guard. These initiatives aim to raise awareness, provide education, and promote inclusivity within the organization. From panel discussions to training sessions, Pride Month activities encourage dialogue, understanding, and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

The Coast Guard will host honored speaker Lt. Gen. Leah Ladderback, U.S. Air Force, on June 22, as she discusses the Coast Guard's Pride theme: "Voices for Change: Advocating for Inclusivity." Ladderback is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Cyber Effects Operations and cofounder of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ) Initiative Team (LIT). LIT, formed in 2021, is a barrier analysis working group that identifies and addresses issues that disproportionately impede the success of LGBTQ Airmen and Guardians.

We encourage all members to participate in these events and show their support for diversity and inclusion. Together, we can create a Coast Guard that truly embraces the principles of equality and respect for all.



Alex Haley Author of "Roots"

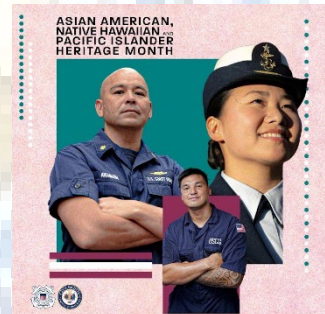


## 2. Juneteenth Holiday: Honoring Freedom and History

Juneteenth is America’s newest federal holiday. It is observed on June 19 to mark the official end of slavery in the United States. The day has long been celebrated by Black Americans as a symbol of their emancipation — but the story behind the holiday and how Juneteenth got its meaning starts more than 150 years ago in Galveston, Texas. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, as the nation entered the Civil War’s third year. The proclamation declared that most of the more than three million slaves living in the Confederate states were free. For those who were largely isolated from Union armies, life continued as if the Emancipation Proclamation did not exist. This was the case in Texas, where thousands of slaves were unaware of their declared freedom. On June 19, 1865 — over 2 years after President Lincoln declared enslaved persons free — Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger and Union Army troops marched to Galveston to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. They freed over 250,000 Black Americans, the last enslaved people in Texas.

Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the struggles faced by African Americans throughout history and celebrates their resilience and achievements. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on the importance of freedom, equality, and justice.

In recognition of Juneteenth, the Coast Guard Auxiliary encourages all members to learn about the historical significance of this holiday and its continued relevance in our society. Let us use this occasion to foster understanding, unity, and a commitment to fighting against racism and discrimination.



## 3. Asian American Heritage: Recognizing Contributions and Culture

Asian American Heritage Month provides us with an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the rich contributions and vibrant culture of Asian Americans in our society and within the Coast Guard. Asian Americans have served in the United States Coast Guard for over 170 years and were the first minorities to graduate from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Pacific Islander Americans are the third-longest-serving minority group in the Coast Guard.

In 1945, Chinese American Jack Ngum Jones, from California entered the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. In 1949, Jones became the Academy’s first Asian-American graduate of the first academy and the first to receive a Coast Guard commission.

Asian Americans have made invaluable contributions to the Coast Guard’s mission, bringing diverse perspectives and expertise to our operations.

## 8<sup>th</sup> CR Diversity Newsletter

We encourage all members to take part in events and activities organized to celebrate Asian American Heritage Month. By learning about the history, culture, and achievements of Asian Americans, we foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity within our ranks.



### **4. Rear Admiral Erroll Brown, A Trailblazer in the Coast Guard: The First African American Admiral**

It is with great pride that we acknowledge the historic achievement of Rear Admiral Brown, the first African-American promoted to flag rank in the U.S. Coast Guard, graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1972. He made significant contributions throughout his career, serving as an inspiration and role model for all Coast Guard members.

He majored in Marine Engineering and has a masters degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, with a second masters in Industrial and Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan. He was awarded a Masters of Business Administration degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1986 and graduated the Naval War College with a masters degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in 1994. He also completed Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Governmental Programs for Senior Executives in National and International Security.

Rear Admiral Brown's leadership, professionalism, and dedication have been recognized and respected within the Coast Guard and the broader community. He has paved the way for future generations, demonstrating the importance of diversity and inclusion in our organization.

Let us celebrate Rear Admiral Brown's accomplishments and use his example to inspire us to reach new heights in our own careers. His legacy serves as a reminder that diversity strengthens our capabilities and brings us closer to achieving our mission.

---

We hope you found this edition of the Diversity Newsletter informative and inspiring. Remember, diversity and inclusion are core values that strengthen our organization and help us fulfill our duties as members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

If you have any suggestions, contributions, or stories to share for future newsletters, please contact our Diversity Officer Michael Smith at [USCGAUX.8thcr.dso.dv@gmail.com](mailto:USCGAUX.8thcr.dso.dv@gmail.com)