

Waypoints

DIVISION 15, 8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION
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2021 Division Leaders Elected

Elections for the Division Commander and Vice Division Commander were conducted at the fall Division meeting, which was conducted electronically. Rick Barnes, who had been serving as Vice Division Commander was elected Division Commander. James Harrison, the Central Arkansas Flotilla Commander was elected to the Vice Division Commander position. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no in-person Change of Watch party will be held, and instead it will be conducted electronically on January 16th. Details will be distributed soon.

Division 15's flotillas faced the same obstacle and no flotilla Change of Watch parties were held this fall. However, new leaders were elected.

The Memphis Flotilla reelected Morris Butcher as Flotilla Commander and Aaron Mohundro as Vice Flotilla Commander.

In Fort Smith, Ken Pevehouse was reelected to be Flotilla Commander and Doug Kenney was elected Vice Flotilla Commander.

The Hot Springs Flotilla elected David Keyser to be Flotilla Commander and Wanda Thorp as Vice Flotilla Commander.

The Central Arkansas Flotilla elected Zach Taylor to serve as Flotilla Commander.

Rogers' "Coast Guard Lady"

[This article was extracted from an April 17, 2017 press release from the office of Senator John Boozman]

"I like to write letters," Bouton said.

After reading a story about a Coast Guard rescue on Lake Michigan, Bouton became interested in leaving her teaching job to join the military. "I did write and ask the Coast Guard if they took women. This was before they did. Somebody wrote back and said no," Bouton recalled.

In November 1942, the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Coast Guard, known as the SPARs, was established. Due to the school calendar, 23-year-old Bouton had to wait until the following year to enlist.

SPAR comes from the first four letters of the Coast Guard motto "Semper Paratus- Always Ready." Throughout WWII more than 10,000 women volunteered to serve in SPARs.

The Biltmore Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida served as a training center for many of the women. Bouton was stationed there for boot camp. "We lived in the Biltmore Hotel, but it wasn't much better than a barracks," Bouton said.

After serving as an instructor at the completion of boot camp, she was anxious to do something different. She was transferred to San Francisco where women were just starting to get assignments. As a member of the maintenance team, Bouton was able to explore the city during the daytime, but she wanted to contribute more to the Coast Guard so she enrolled in radio school in Atlantic City.

It was while she was writing a letter on the boardwalk there in 1944 that she met her future husband Bill who was serving in the Army.

"I was sitting there writing letters. He came and sat down and waited until I finished my letters before we started talking. The first thing we did was go out and mail my letters. I was writing to people who were overseas," Bouton recalled. She spent more than two years in the Coast Guard, and her passion for the men and women who serve continued in the decades that followed.

During the Vietnam War she visited patients at Naval Hospital Great Lakes. She incorporated letter-writing into her lesson plans for her first-grade students and wanted to meet the patients who wrote back. Bouton made weekly visits to the hospital for the next six years. That's where she received the moniker "Coast Guard Lady." "There were only about half a dozen Coast Guard people there among the eight or 900 patients so they knew they were special when I hunted them out. That's where it started," Bouton remembered.

In the early 1970s the Boutons retired to Arkansas. That's when her outreach to Coasties took off. She started writing to Coast Guard units in Alaska and soon she had the directory with addresses of units across the country.

"I had been sending Coast Guard Day letters and Christmas card too all of them that were in my address file which was about 600 each time. Then anybody who would write to me in between times I would answer their letters, so it was over 1,000," Bouton says about her annual letter writing.

While far from the coast, her Rogers home is a museum of Coast Guard memorabilia. Her collection includes the Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award, the second highest civilian award issued by the Coast Guard. In 2013 she was named an honorary Chief Petty Officer.

Return the Favor

Sector Lower has initiated a campaign to return the favor to the "Coast Guard Lady". Please consider sending a post card or letter to her to thank Ms. Bouton for her selfless service to the Coast Guard over the years

Mrs. Lois Bouton
"The Coast Guard Lady"
Innisfree Senior Living
300 S Innisfree Cir, Apt A21
Rogers, AR 72758

Member Focus: Zach Taylor

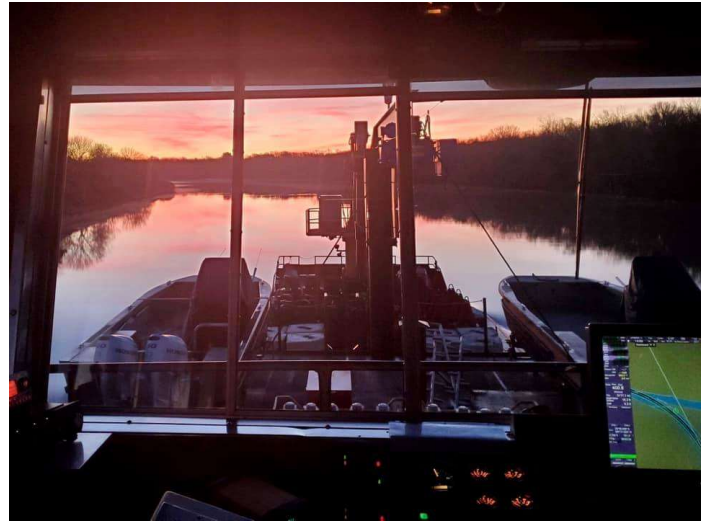


Zachary Taylor has been a member of the Central Arkansas Flotilla since May, 2014. He holds the Boatcrew certification and enjoys spending summer weekends patrolling the Arkansas river to ensure safe waterways for the boating public. Having joined the Auxiliary to not only serve his country but for fellowship he is

currently working towards his AUXFS certification. During the week, he is an Agricultural Economist with the Arkansas office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Taylor is an Eagle Scout and is the recruitment chairman of the Pinnacle District of the Quapaw Council of the BSA. He holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Christian Brothers University at Memphis and a M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He currently resides in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Aboard the Muskingum

Recently, Aux PA1 Todd Wilkinson, of Division 5, embarked on the USCGC Muskingum as it conducted an Aids to Navigation patrol on the Arkansas River. Below are some of the photos he took during this journey.



Division Facebook Page

For those members that use Facebook, please consider “liking” the Division’s Facebook page and sharing articles from it with your friends. It can be found at https://www.facebook.com/US-Coast-Guard-Auxiliary-Division-15-8th-Western-Rivers-110539307146029/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Division Schedule 2021

January 16: Division Change of Watch. To be conducted electronically.
April 17 Location TBD
July 17 Location TBD
October 16 Location TBD

Waypoints is the official quarterly newsletter of Division 15, 8th Western Rivers Region of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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