MEMORIAL DAY

In Memory of Many

IN HONOR OF ALL
Message from the Executive Director

Captain Wes Pulver, USCG (Ret.)

They’re Ready, We’re Ready...

Are You Ready?

I recently attended the Coast Guard Cutter ESCANABA Change of Command in Boston. I have witnessed many such ceremonies, and often consider what makes each crew different from others. In the case of the ESCANABA, it was incredibly easy to spot – it is the connection to their history.

As a Famous Class Cutter, ESCANABA’s namesake was built in the 1930s as a light icebreaker, but she found herself in the Greenland Patrol during WWII. In the summer of 1942, the crew rescued 20 from the SS Cherokee, and in the winter of 1943 the crew rescued more than 130 from the SS Dorchester.

Unfortunately the crew of the ESCANABA was lost, with the exception of two souls, on June 10 1943. In memory of her namesake, the plankowner crew in 1987 chose “The Spirit Lives On” as her motto.

As I listened at the Change of Command, I heard how that cutter’s motto shapes the crew, 74 years after the original ESCANABA was lost. The presiding official and commanding officer spoke about the meaning of this motto, the tradition of mustering the crew on 10 June every year, and even the tradition of the Commanding Officer calling the final surviving crewmember until his death just a few years ago. The entire crew was connected by its namesake’s legacy; a good reminder of what is important as we observe Memorial Day weekend.

In addition to the thoughts and prayers for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation, Memorial Day is taking on a new meaning for the team of volunteers and NCGMA crew who are working so hard to deliver the first National Coast Guard Museum. We have to get this done – to tell stories like that of the ESCANABA to preserve an important aspect of our history and to inspire a next generation of great Americans.

As you read this Memorial Day edition, and the attached Year in Review, I ask you to look at the exceptional progress being made toward building this important and lasting tribute to the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard.

You can help. Share this newsletter with your friends, and ask them to get involved by registering for information, becoming a plankowner or by making some other kind of donation.

Together we will achieve our goal, and I am grateful for the many people who have supported us. They’re ready. We’re ready. Are you ready?

Semper Paratus

Captain Wes Pulver, USCG (Ret.)
Executive Director
National Coast Guard Museum Association, Inc.

NCGMA is ready and energized as we move from planning to construction. Click here to view the National Coast Guard Museum Association, Inc. 2016 Year in Review.

www.CoastGuardMuseum.org | info@coastguardmuseum.org | @USCGMuseum | @USCGMuseum | @USCGMuseum
NCGMA Celebrates First $5 Million in Federal Funds

With the President’s signing of the 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act in May 2017, the first $5 million of Federal Funds has made its way to the Museum effort. Through the exceptional initiative and leadership of the Connecticut Delegation, with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, the Coast Guard has received funds to support the National Coast Guard Museum effort.

“We are grateful to the Congress and President Trump for the $5 million included in this year’s budget,” says President, Richard J. Grahn. “The bipartisan support represents a critical new component in establishing a private-public partnership necessary to move the project forward.”

The National Coast Guard Museum anticipates that up to $30 million in federal funding will be necessary to preserve and protect historic Coast Guard artifacts, including the design, fabrication, and installation of exhibits or displays.

“We will be moving forward with the design and approval process to create a lasting tribute to the heroic men and women of the United States Coast Guard.”

Richard J. Grahn, President & CEO
National Coast Guard Museum Association, Inc.

Exhibit Design & Artifact Preservation

NCGMA President Dick Grahn recently met with Coast Guard Officials to kick-off the expenditure of the recent $5 million Federal Appropriation.

With the appropriation targeted at exhibit design and artifacts, the team is determining which specific artifacts will be prepared for the museum, as well as preparing a proposal to hire an outside firm to expand on previous interior design concepts. This will result in a detailed design of the interior of the Museum, as well as the necessary construction documents. The detailed design is expected to take over a year to complete.

The exhibit design will organize stories around the service’s missions in three major galleries; Security, Safety and Stewardship. Thematic wings in the galleries merge the exhibits along the following storylines:

• Defenders of our Nation
• Enforces on the Seas
• Lifesavers around the Globe
• Protectors of the Environment
• Champions of Commerce

The Museum will also include an introductory wing, an education and technology center, and waterfront and rooftop exhibits.
Coast Guard Coin Bill moves forward in Congress

Following the approval of the first $5 million in federal funding for the National Coast Guard Museum, several of Connecticut’s congressional delegates are reviving a bill to create a commemorative coin that would help to raise money for the museum.


The proceeds from the sale of the commemorative coins would be used to support the development and operation of the museum. Around $2 million to $3 million is generally raised from such coins.

NEPA Update

Work is underway to complete the Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the National Coast Guard Museum. The project is being evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under the NEPA process, environmental and related social and economic effects of the Museum construction and future operation will be evaluated, and measures will be evaluated to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts.

The Museum Association, working with the consulting firm of Milone & MacBroom, Inc. of Cheshire, Connecticut, will undertake a formal scoping process, whereby the public is invited to provide thoughts and ideas, express areas of interest, and/or relay any concerns relative to the project.

In addition to a 30-day public comment period, wherein written comments will be accepted, a public scoping meeting will be held to present an overview of the project and the NEPA process as well as to solicit public comments on the proposed project.

The meeting is anticipated to be scheduled in early to mid-June. A public notice will be published prior to the meeting.

Design Featured in Architect Magazine

By PAYETTE

The National Coast Guard Museum is a maritime facility that engages the waterfront. Visitors of all ages will learn of the Coast Guard’s history and also its ongoing missions and activities. Leveraging its position along the Thames River, interactive exhibits will incorporate real-time monitoring of river traffic and in-water demonstrations. With this in mind, the building is designed to be open and transparent toward the river.
The U.S. Coast Guard Barque EAGLE will be a visible and spectacular component of the National Coast Guard Museum. The ship will be homeported at City Pier in New London, just steps away from the museum, and will serve as a living exhibit as part of the museum’s immersive visitor experience.

EAGLE, also known as “America’s Tall Ship,” provides an unparalleled at-sea leadership and professional development experience for future officers of the U.S Coast Guard. It is the largest tall ship flying the Stars and Stripes and the only square-rigger in U.S. government service.

EAGLE visited its future home at City Pier in May, offering public tours and welcoming in the next training class from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. When she returns to New London on a permanent basis, EAGLE will provide visitors with a unique and up-close perspective on Coast Guard service.

When EAGLE is not in its homeport, City Pier will be available to other Coast Guard and Navy vessels, as well as Tall Ships from around the world to dock and participate in a wide variety of museum programs.
Secretaries’ Circle Meets in Washington

The Secretaries’ Circle of the National Coast Guard Association gathered in Washington, DC to express appreciation to the Congress and the President for approving the first $5 million in the federal budget for the museum project. Secretary Elizabeth Dole and Secretary Norm Mineta welcomed the news that Secretary Jeh Johnson is joining their elite organization which is made up of all living former cabinet members who oversaw the Coast Guard in the departments of Transportation and Homeland Security.

ADM James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.), former Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard and Former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, applauded the efforts of the Connecticut congressional delegation for securing the federal funds. The large gathering also included Secretaries’ Circle members Michael Jackson and Mort Downey who also served as Deputy Secretaries. Connecticut Congressman Joe Courtney and Senators Christopher Murphy and Richard Blumenthal spoke about their ongoing efforts to support the museum project with other members of Congress, and key committee staffers.

ADM Paul Zukunft, Commandant of the Coast Guard, took to the podium to offer enthusiastic comments on the progress of the museum project and added his appreciation for the first $5 million in federal funding to be used for artifact restoration and exhibit design. ADM Robert J. Papp, Jr., USCG (Ret.), former Commandant of the Coast Guard, and member of the Museum Association’s Board of Directors, wrapped up the day by underscoring the progress and asking everyone present, “The men and women of the Coast Guard are ready. The museum association is ready. Are you ready?”

The Long Blue Line: 50th anniversary of the Coast Guard racing stripe

Written by William H. Thiesen, Coast Guard Atlantic Area Historian

In the modern history of the United States Coast Guard, there has been a rapid shift from mistaken identity to a brand identity. One case provides a perfect example of this identity problem. In October 1956, Coast Guard Cutter Pontchartrain came to the aid of a downed trans-oceanic passenger aircraft. On October 19, the Pan American clipper Sovereign of the Skies lost two of its engines en route from Hawaii to California. After the aircraft radioed the cutter and ditched in the ocean, the cutter sent out its smallboats and gathered up all 31 passengers and crew. One survivor no sooner gained the safety of the cutter’s deck, when he gratefully exclaimed, “Thank goodness for the Navy!” Unfortunately for the Coast Guard, this case was one of many in which the service seemed unrecognizable to the public it served.

To see the inspirational video unveiled this event, click here.
“I am excited for the future of the Coast Guard because I see the character and talent of the young men and women who are entering the Coast Guard, continuing to build on the character, dedication and strength of the Coast Guard past and present.”

Jeh Johnson was the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security from December 23, 2013 to January 20, 2017. In his three years leading the Department of Homeland Security, he was responsible for counterterrorism; cybersecurity; border, port, aviation and maritime security; enforcement and administration of U.S. immigration laws; response to national disasters; detection and prevention of nuclear, chemical and biological threats; and the protection of critical infrastructure and the nation’s leadership.

Secretary Johnson was credited with building a more effective, cohesive department and raising morale. Managing the federal government’s third-largest department, he oversaw 22 components and agencies with 229,000 employees, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Transportation Security Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Secret Service.

Secretary Johnson has received numerous awards and acknowledgments, including three Department of Defense medals for distinguished public service and nine honorary degrees. He received a J.D. from Columbia Law School and a B.A. from Morehouse College.

Following his most recent public service, Johnson returned to his longtime professional home at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. He is married with two children and is proud to call himself a Coast Guard dad, as his son recently entered US Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in New London.

“I am deeply honored to be a part of this exceptional group of men and women.”

The Honorable Jeh Charles Johnson
Former Secretary of Homeland Security, 2013-2017
Secretaries’ Circle

The former service Secretaries for the United States Coast Guard have joined together to form the Secretaries’ Circle to build

The National Coast Guard Museum

The Honorable Norman Mineta, Co-Chair
Former Secretary of Transportation, 2001-2006
The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge, Co-Chair
Former Secretary of Homeland Security, 2003-2005
The Honorable John W. Barnum
Former Deputy Secretary of Transportation, 1973-1977
The Honorable Alan S. Boyd
Former Secretary of Transportation, 1967-1969
The Honorable James H. Burnley IV
Former Secretary of Transportation, 1987-1989
The Honorable Andrew H. Card
Former Secretary of Transportation, 1992-1993
The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Former Secretary of Homeland Security, 2005-2009
The Honorable Mimi Weyforth Dawson
Former Deputy Secretary of Transportation, 1992-1993
The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
Former Secretary of Transportation, 1983-1987
The Honorable Mortimer L. Downey III
Former Deputy Secretary of Transportation, 1993-2001
The Honorable Michael P. Jackson
Former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, 2005-2007
Former Deputy Secretary of Transportation, 2001-2003
The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson
Former Secretary of Homeland Security, 2013-2017
The Honorable James M. Loy
Former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, 2003-2005
The Honorable Janet A. Napolitano
Former Secretary of Homeland Security, 2009-2013
The Honorable Federico Peña
Former Secretary of Transportation, 1993-1997
Former Secretary of Energy, 1997-1998
The Honorable Paul A. Schneider
Former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, 2008-2009
The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
Former Secretary of Transportation, 1989-1991
The Honorable Rodney E. Slater
Former Secretary of Transportation, 1997-2001
We Appreciate Our Partners

As with most victorious TEAMs, you typically find an effective group of dedicated supporters and contributors working within all levels to achieve a desired goal. In the case of the National Coast Guard Museum Association, we clearly are the beneficiaries of an extensive roster of highly supportive, and accommodating crewmembers of non-profit organizations that have consistently been nothing short of Semper Paratus – Always Ready.

For example, within our Museum Exhibit Advisory Panel (MEAP) group, we have representatives of virtually every non-profit organization associated with the United States Coast Guard participating in the challenging task of developing the museum experience. Over the past two years, members of the MEAP have met with NCGMA staff members, and representatives from Gallagher & Associates world renowned museum interior designers, on a bi-annual basis to aide in the development of how we will tell our stories. With their invaluable input, and Gallagher’s guidance, we have developed a blueprint of our services historical past, and concentrate the overwhelming quantity of compelling stories and artifacts to be presented in the museum.

However, our non-profit partner’s assistance did not end there. In the same shipmate response, several of these organizations have made extra strides to advance our goals by sharing our Annual Reports and quarterly newsletters with their members, and posting the same on their individual organizations website and social media pages.

One exceptional act that truly demonstrates how this project is becoming more widely recognized around the nation, and within the maritime world, was an unsolicited donation of over 4000 copies of Captain Gordon McGowan, USCG (Ret.) enduring novel The Skipper & the EAGLE from the members of the National Maritime Historical Society. Through their generosity, we have been able to utilize the books in our fundraising efforts to recognize donors for their financial support.

These are just a few of our MANY unheralded enthusiasts who are giving of their organizations time, experience and invaluable access to their many members and a broad network of interested admirers of our United States Coast Guard.