Presidents’ Day Edition

New Architectural Design Marks Key Milestone

See details on page 3
These are very exciting times for the National Coast Guard Museum as we are ‘making way’ on several key fronts, many of which are detailed in this edition of our newsletter. We have achieved major milestones in the Museum’s exterior design, interior exhibitory, and are formally transitioning from the concept to the production phase for this significant undertaking.

The most visual example of progress was the public unveiling of our proposed architectural design, presented in December by museum architect Charles Klee of Payette during a public forum at the Garde Arts Center in downtown New London. The designs show a stunning building, which incorporates public waterfront space and provides a spectacular setting for a personal and interactive museum experience.

We were joined at the unveiling by U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and U.S. Representative Joe Courtney, as well as state, city, and Coast Guard representatives. In this complex initiative, it takes the support of everyone to bring this project to life, and we are so appreciative that many of our key stakeholders attended this public event.

The exhibit design of the Museum is also moving forward. Our Museum Exhibit Advisory Panel (MEAP), which is made up of representatives with a wide knowledge of all things Coast Guard, is working closely with Museum exhibit designer Gallagher and Associates to capture and present the Coast Guard story in a unique and interesting way.

On the fundraising front, awareness is intensifying and interest is growing. Commitments from corporations, foundations, and individuals add to our sense of excitement, as does the extraordinary success of our ‘plankowner’ program which now has more than 250 donors.

We are also extremely grateful to Chairman of the Mohegan Tribal Nation Kevin “Red Eagle” Brown and Stonington First Selectman and former U.S. Congressman Rob Simmons, who are co-chairing our New London County fundraising campaign. To read more about the regional campaign go to page 4.

Our final words of appreciation go to the U.S. Coast Guard under the leadership of Admiral Paul Zukunft. In January, the Service released an All Coast Guard Message sent to more than 80,000 active duty, reservists, civilians, and auxiliarists which highlighted the Museum’s progress.

I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter and we appreciate your continued support.

Semper Paratus,

CAPT Wes Pulver, USCG (Ret.)
Executive Director
“Today marks the most important progress to date since the idea for a National Coast Guard Museum was first conceived.”

With those words, Richard Grahn, President of the National Coast Guard Museum Association, captured the excitement over the Museum’s new architectural designs, which have been unveiled to the public to wide acclaim.

The proposed design concept of the Museum has been redefined to address opportunities and needs of building on the waterfront site. The National Coast Guard Museum Association and officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Coast Guard, the Connecticut State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been working diligently together to consider the design elements necessary to satisfy all applicable environmental regulations.

The final design will be determined through an extensive environmental review and public comment process, and NCGMA is delighted to provide a glimpse of a world class museum on the New London waterfront.

“"We believe we have found the perfect balance between the traditional and the new."”

Charles Klee, Payette

Artist rendering of the proposed National Coast Guard Museum. Courtesy Payette.
NCGMA Honors J.D. Power for Outstanding Service

Alexander Hamilton Award Bestowed Upon Prominent Business Leader and Coast Guard Veteran

The National Coast Guard Museum Association, Inc. takes great pleasure in presenting the 2016 Alexander Hamilton Award to Coast Guard veteran and founder of J.D. Power and Associates, Inc., J. David Power III, who served as an officer aboard the Coast Guard icebreaker EASTWIND during the mid-1950’s.

Power was honored in recognition of his years of outstanding service in support of the National Coast Guard Museum.

Power has spent almost 50 years as a pioneer in studying consumer opinions, with 40 years as founder of what has become one of the most prestigious marketing information companies in the world, J.D. Power and Associates.

In his four years as an officer aboard the Coast Guard’s historic icebreaker EASTWIND, Power helped lay the groundwork for a new understanding of the Polar regions through three trips to the Arctic and one to the Antarctic. Braving volatile weather and treacherous ice, Power and his shipmates supplied scientists with valuable geophysical data.

NCGMA Launches Regional Fundraising Campaign

$700,000 already raised of $2.5 million goal

Southeastern Connecticut is showing its strong commitment to the National Coast Guard Museum with the launch of a $2.5 million local fundraising campaign to raise 5% of the private funding needed to build the Museum. The campaign, which will focus on New London County businesses, organizations and individuals, is being led by Stonington First Selectman and former U.S. Congressman Rob Simmons, and Chairman of the Mohegan Tribal Nation Kevin “Red Eagle” Brown will co-chair the fundraising campaign.

The fundraising drive has already raised $700,000 towards its total goal.

“I was privileged to represent our region for three terms in the Congress, during which time I successfully fought for the authorization to build the Museum in New London,” said Simmons. “It was a fight then, and it is a fight now; everyone’s contribution is critical in funding the Museum and showing the nation New London County’s commitment to this project.”

“I am proud to have grown up and to have continued living in an area which so masterfully integrates the arts, history, tourism, the military, education and commerce,” said Brown. “The opportunity to bring the National Coast Guard Museum to New London will continue to enhance our vibrant community for generations to come. We deeply appreciate the response so far and are confident we will reach our fundraising goal.”
ALL COAST GUARD Message

1. On Monday December 19, 2016, the National Coast Guard Museum Association (NCGMA) revealed the initial exterior design plans for our forthcoming National Coast Guard Museum (NCGM) in New London, Connecticut. This is an extremely important milestone for all members of the Coast Guard Family, as our story and accomplishments will be shared with fellow citizens who are often unaware of the Service’s historic and current contributions to our maritime nation.

2. National Leaders including U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, U.S. Congressman Joseph Courtney, and former Commandant Admiral Bob Papp attended the unveiling, showing the prominence and significance of the museum to our Nation. The museum will be built on the Thames River waterfront, adjacent to the 1791 mooring of the Revenue Cutter ARGUS and planned future homeport of USCGC Barque EAGLE. This multi-modal location, including a dynamic ferry terminal, train station, and easy access to I-95, is the perfect home to celebrate the wide-ranging and illustrious past of the Coast Guard and its predecessor agencies.

3. The homeport of New London also offers Coast Guard men and women the opportunity to visit the museum, with the Leadership Development Center and Coast Guard Academy within walking distance. Additionally, the museum will highlight Coast Guard operations and research, incorporating units like the Research and Development Center, International Ice Patrol, the Marine Safety Lab, Sector Long Island Sound, and major cutters operating in the Northwest Atlantic.

4. To view the museum’s exterior architecture, please visit the National Coast Guard Museum’s webpage at www.coastguardmuseum.org. To remain involved and informed about the museum, you may register on the webpage and you will receive quarterly newsletters and information regarding associated events in your area.

5. The Coast Guard has been actively engaged in this project with the NCGMA, led by a Commandant’s Advisory Council and facilitated by CG-0923, the Office of External Outreach & Heritage.

6. Members who would like to share personal stories or highlight important milestones in our Service’s illustrious 226-year history are encouraged to send ideas via email to history@uscg.mil and visit the CG-Ideas at Work website: https://cg-ideasatwork.ideascale.com to participate in community discussions about the National Coast Guard Museum. Two previous crowdsourcing challenges and their results can be found there, along with future museum challenges. For information on donating artifact(s) or archival material(s), please visit the United States Coast Guard Historian’s Office website: http://www.uscg.mil/history/uscghist/archives/Donation_Index.asp or contact them by email: history@uscg.mil.

7. Semper Paratus.
RDML Anthony Vogt, Director, Governmental and Public Affairs, sends.

8. Internet release authorized.
The Long Blue Line: An African-American Hero Serving in a Segregated Service

By Dr. William H. Thiesen, Coast Guard Atlantic Area Historian

For many individuals it takes a lifetime to learn the skills of leadership, while others come to it naturally. African-American Charles Walter David, Jr., namesake of Fast Response Cutter David, knew instinctively how to lead others despite barriers imposed by the segregated society of mid-20th century America. David served in the United States Coast Guard early in World War II, when the military services barred African Americans from the officer ranks and limited them largely to non-senior enlisted ratings.

Mess Attendant 1/c David was a unique Coast Guardsman in every way. He reached the ripe age of 26 during his time aboard the cutter Comanche in the Coast Guard’s Greenland Patrol, making him one of the ship’s older enlisted crewmembers. He had a family at home in New York City when many of his shipmates had just learned how to shave. At well over six-feet-tall and 220 pounds, David’s stature intimidated others, but David counted many friends among the cutter’s crew of 60. He had a natural talent for music, playing the blues harmonica in jam sessions with shipmate, friend and saxophone player Storekeeper 1/c Richard “Dick” Swanson. The characteristic that set David apart was the loyalty he had for his cutter and shipmates. This fact seems surprising given the second-class status African Americans held in the Service at the beginning of the war.

The USCG’s Prominent Role in the Inauguration

WASHINGTON - Recruits from Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J., participated in the 58th Presidential Inauguration, Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, by marching in the inaugural parade.

Eighty-five members of recruit company Whiskey 193 along with members of the training staff and the Executive Officer of the training center marched the 1.67 mile route through Washington to represent the service.

“It was an honor to participate in such a historic event,” said Cmdr. Joe Meuse, executive officer of Coast Guard Training Center Cape May. “For our recruits, it will certainly be something they will never forget.”

Approximately 5,000 service members from all five branches participated in the parade.
Jackson served as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) from May 2001 to August 2003. As Deputy Secretary, Jackson was that Department’s chief operating officer, with responsibility for day-to-day operations of an organization that, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, grew to a $68 billion annual budget supporting over 179,000 employees.

His tenure was particularly focused on DOT’s response to the terrorist attacks, including standing up the new Transportation Security Administration and management of recovery efforts for the nation’s aviation industry. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of Amtrak and was chairman of its Audit Committee.

In 2004, Jackson was appointed to serve on the President’s Commission on Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy, which provided management recommendations to the President on NASA and its future mission management.

In addition to holding three positions during the tenure of George W. Bush, Jackson also held positions for two earlier Presidents. In the Administration of President George H. W. Bush, he served at the White House as Special Assistant to the President for Cabinet Liaison and later as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Transportation. He held several positions reporting to the Secretary of Education in the Administration of President Ronald Reagan.

“"The Museum Association has put together an impressive effort that will surely lead to success.""

The Honorable Michael P. Jackson
Former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, 2005-2007
Former Deputy Secretary of Transportation, 2001-2003
Secretaries’ Circle
Fundraising Spotlight: American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)

NCGMA is thrilled to announce a new partnership with AAPA which represents over 80 Port Authorities within the United States. NCGMA has already visited one-third of these Ports, and is extremely appreciative of the positive reception of the maritime community for the Coast Guard and the Museum initiative. At the request of AAPA, NCGMA Director Rear Admiral Rick Larrabee, USCG (ret) briefed the AAPA Board of Directors who expressed their support for the Museum. Thank you to AAPA and the Port Authorities for your tremendous support!

PLANKOWNER UPDATE:

What a difference a crew makes! Our Plankowner program grows every time we are able to promote it. Through the support of many of our longstanding organizations (CPOA, CGA Alumni, CG Auxiliary, Cutterman Assoc., etc) our call to ‘All Hands’ within their various publications and websites has directly enhanced the programs increased recognition.

To hold the esteemed title of “Plankowner,” an individual must first assist in bringing a ship or unit to life, from laying the keel or foundation, until the date of actually “commissioning” the new unit. We intend to honor that same spirit of what it means to be a member of the original crew, as we heave around together to build the first National Museum to recognize our service. To date, our Plankowner numbers have grown to more than 250 donors, but we know it will continue to grow exponentially – demonstrating the interest and pride members of the CG family feel for this Museum.

Until the next newsletter, stay safe and Semper Paratus!

MCPO Jeff Creighton, USCG (Ret)
Plankowner “Jack of the Dust”

"Thank you for creating a place that I will take my kids / grandkids one day and show off all the outstanding work we do…I am extremely proud!"

BOSN2 Eduardo Oropeza
Commanding Officer
Station Islamorada, FL