



The Cutter

The Newsletter of the Foundation for Coast Guard History — Newsletter 8 Summer 2002

% Coast Guard Museum/NW
1519 Alaska Way South, Seattle, WA 98134

5006-236th Avenue N.E.
Redmond, WA 98053-8412

FOUNDATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Members of your Foundation recently participated in meetings in Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C. concerning the condition of the Coast Guard's History Program. We, along with others with similar interests have raised the awareness of the top leadership. They now recognize the inadequacy of the existing program and have responded with enthusiasm and strong support for a vastly improved program that will record and document the activities of our many daily heroes. A pilot program is being started in one District and future budgets will propose additional billets for historians. Senior staff has requested members of your Foundation to continue consulting with them as the process continues. Your support makes this possible.

AWARDS 2002

Each year The Foundation presents awards to people and organizations that have preserved and presented the heritage of the Coast Guard in an exemplary manner. Again this year the competition has been intense. This year the **Heritage Award**, given to those who have contributed significantly to the preservation of our heritage, was presented to:

Paul H. Johnson instrumental in establishing the Museum at the Academy while serving as the Librarian.

Captain David H. Webb, USCG, Retired, was the first volunteer curator in the volunteer-run Coast Guard Museum/Northwest in Seattle.

Captain Webb spent over 25 years volunteering as much as 5 days each week.

William D. Wilkinson, Director of the Mariners Museum in Newport News Virginia, created exhibits viewed by thousands, depicting the unique humanitarian role the Service performs.

The award for the **Best Book on the History of the Coast Guard** was awarded to Lieutenant Commander Eric S. Ensign USCG for Intelligence in the Rum War at Sea 1920-1933.

LCDR Ensign is the first active duty recipient of this award. Two additional books earned special recognition : Dennis L. Noble for Lifeboat Sailors, Rescues, and the Perilous Future of the Coast Guard's Small Boat Stations and Paul C. Scotti for Coast Guard Action in Viet Nam; Stories of Those Who Served.

The award for the **Best Book on Lighthouses and Aids to Navigation** went to T. Lindsay Baker for Lighthouses of Texas. Two additional books earned special appreciation: Mary Louise Clifford and J. Candace Clifford for Women Who Kept the Lights: An Illustrated History of Female Lighthouse Keepers and Steven Karges for Keepers of the Lights: Lighthouse Keepers and Their Families, Door County, Wisconsin-1837-1939.

For the second year, Coast Guard units had their own competition and it was again a tough decision. The **Unit History Award** for a large unit went to the Coast Guard Yard, Baltimore Maryland, recognized for their continuing program that includes two published books, calendars, pictorial history displays and brochures.

The small **Unit Award** went to The International Ice Patrol, Groton Connecticut, for its work in recording history as it unfolds in their daily operations of tracking all the icebergs in the North Atlantic and for their recently initiated ceremony honoring those who served in the Greenland Patrol during WWII.

COLUMBIA RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

This very fine museum on the banks of the Columbia River in Astoria, Oregon has just created a Coast Guard display that can only be described as AWESOME! It consists of a restored 44 foot motor life boat in a heavy seaway. The boat is perched at a steep angle and has rolled to one side as it is hit by a wave. The crew is engaged in rescuing someone in the water, the sea is roaring and the floor vibrates. The visitor gets all the sensation of being the next to be rescued, except for getting wet. This is the primary exhibit of the museum and can be seen by every vehicle passing on the nearby arterial. A "must see" exhibit.

A Special Recognition Award was given to members of the Coast Guard Station at Tillamook Bay, Oregon and Instructors at the National Motor Lifeboat School, Ilwaco, Washington for contributing significantly to the restoration of the Motor Life Boat and for insuring the display was accurate in every detail.

NONPROFIT STATUS

Since its creation, The Foundation for Coast Guard History has been operating under the umbrella of The Coast Guard Museum/Northwest, a nonprofit 501.c.3 organization. Now that The Foundation has proven itself a viable organization, we have been granted 501.c.3 nonprofit status of our own. Nothing has really changed. Any contributions or membership fees you made in the past were tax-deductible. Any contributions or membership fees you make in the future will be tax deductible. Our new tax number is:

26-0024207 and will remain so for many years.

COAST GUARD BOOK

In our last issue we reported that a publisher asked us to prepare a major large format book with over 600 pictures. We are happy to report that the work is well under way. The project is a task involving many. Sixteen writers are presently under contract creating essays portraying the decisive roles played by Coast Guardsman in this nation's development and today's safety. Already working are Walter Cronkite, ADM Paul Yost, Dr. Dennis Noble, PhD, and Dr Ralph Eshelman, PhD.

Three editors are also under contract with the publisher Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, Inc., creators of the outstanding series of remarkable coffee-table books on the U.S. Military Services. The editor-in-chief is LCDR Tom Beard, USCG Ret, author of Wonderful Flying Machines and many articles. The managing editor is Larry Hanson, an editorial consultant with a broad international background. The photo editor is CWO-4 Paul Scotti (see AWARDS above). The editorial staff is receiving the highest cooperation and is overwhelmed by genuine enthusiasm from all levels in the Coast Guard. This is a two year project with publication scheduled for September, 2004.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Several years ago, The Foundation jump-started the dormant oral history program by funding an interview with Retired Commandant ADM Owen B. Siler. This led to 6 more Commandants being interviewed. We are well aware that in the Coast Guard the real heroes can be at any position in the organization. We have just finished interviewing RADM Pete Colmar who at 95 seems ready to come back on active duty. He participated in Prohibition, as a Cadet he performed the land survey for the present site of the USCG Academy (the CG didn't have any money then either), he was instrumental in the development of electronics for helicopters, helped develop the Loran C- system, and remembers so much more. His life spans several quantum changes in the way we do business. His stories on video tape were taken over several days. They will be edited and will be available for meetings and reunions.

E-MAIL

The most recent issue of The Cutter was available on e-mail. It was our first attempt, and had many problems. In spite of that, we received only positive suggestions. Everyone who replied indicated that they would prefer an e-mail edition. We hope this edition will solve some of the problems and make it more readable and more accessible. Equally important, e-mail saves paper (and trees), and reduces our costs. If you receive this by e-mail, I have your e-mail address. If you received this through the US Postal Service and would prefer an e-mail edition, please send me your access address. Just a quick note to **fredherzberg@isomedia.com** saying "e-mail please" will do the job. Additional comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Beach Patrol

Beach Patrol volunteers serve as regional points of contact for communications and coordination of Foundation activities.

- LCDR Mike Walling near Boston (978-562-9873)
- CDR Ralph Eustis at the west end of Cape Cod (508-758-6427)
- TTC Ray Herzberg in Connecticut (860-691-1502)
- CPO John Stamford in the New York metropolitan area (516-223-1467)
- VADM Howard Thorsen in Washington, D.C. (703-799-1998)
- CAPT Carl Swickley on the Florida panhandle(850-492-9698)
- VADM Tom Sargent in California (760-744-3311). .
- CAPT Fred Herzberg (425-868-7587) and
- Dr. Dennis Noble (360-683-7188) in the Puget Sound area.

Please contact any Beach Patrol member for information about the Foundation, brochures for distribution at reunions or other meetings or just because you want to be involved. If you wish to become a member of the Beach Patrol or coordinate the work of the Beach Patrol please write to us. Volunteers are needed in many areas of interest. The pay is none, the satisfaction is enormous, the work is simple. Merely tell your friends about the work of the Foundation and give them brochures. Please join us.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ Mr. Mrs. Ms. Rank _____
Last, First, Middle

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Country _____ e-mail _____

Dues Levels: (US Dollars)

Student, Junior Enlisted (E-1 to E-6) _____ \$10 (Midgett)

Individual _____ \$50 (Stone)

Life _____ \$500 (Waesche)

Life (Installment Plan) _____ \$100 per year for 5 years

Corporate _____ \$1000 (Bertholf)

Benefactor _____ \$10,000 (Hamilton)

Payment Method: Check/Money order Amount sent _____