

PRESS RELEASE



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CPOA URGES CONGRESS TO PAY COAST GUARD MEMBERS DURING SHUTDOWNS

Springfield, Virginia – The United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA), the voice of active duty and retired U.S. Coast Guard members, today urged Congress to reintroduce [Senate Bill 545, The Pay Our Coast Guard Act](#). Introduced by Senator John Thune in the 114th Congress, this bill makes continuous appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event of a government shutdown. This legislation would bring parity with the Department of Defense military and civilian personnel and we urge Congress to pass it now.

Our Coast Guard personnel carry out an expansive multi-mission responsibility as it relates to both national and homeland security. This current shutdown brings a severe hardship on our active duty members who work in the same capacity as their military counterparts of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.

“Today we have tens of thousands of men and women serving in the Coast Guard; active, reserve and civilian protecting the citizens of this great country,” said Jon Ostrowski, CPOA National President, “we have a responsibility to them as we do to all branches of the military service. “Currently Coast Guard members are searching for a 20-year-old British cruise ship entertainer who went overboard from a Royal Caribbean cruise ship on Christmas Day with the added stress of not receiving any pay beyond tomorrow. These men and women always put their country first and serve honorably. Congress and the Administration need to fix this now and prevent this from happening during any future political disagreements.”

The CPOA joins with the Sea Service Family Foundation and several others in calling for the swift and immediate passage of The Pay Our Coast Guard Act. Other military branches are not affected by the government shutdown since the National Defense Authorization Act of 2018 has been passed and signed by the President.

“What Congress may not realize is that service members will pay the price for this with their time to fill out paperwork to take out personal loans and grants to cover their bills, not to mention the time it takes to pay back any loans received after the government shutdown is resolved,” continued CPOA president Ostrowski, “our USCG members deserve better than this.”

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About the CPOA:

The Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) was chartered on April 7, 1969 and formed to advance the interests of the United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Corps, encouraging integrity and fidelity to the Service, and fellowship within our ranks. A non-partisan, not-for-profit organization, the CPOA serve as advocates on a variety of Military and Veterans issues. Representing our members on Capitol Hill as a partner of [The Military Coalition](#) which promotes legislation to enhance the lives of past, present and future members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. To learn more about the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Association, please visit <https://www.uscgcpoa.org/>.

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