



# COAST GUARD MEN AND WOMEN LEADING THE WAY



Winter/Spring 2018 Newsletter  
National Coast Guard Museum Association, Inc.

## ISSUE FEATURES

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Alexander Hamilton Award Winner – Donald T. "Boysie" Bollinger

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



The men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard inspire us daily with the dedicated service they provide our Nation. That spirit is firmly founded in a tradition of selfless service that has been molded for more than 228 years. Over this time, mirroring our Nation, the Coast Guard has been affected by the winds of social change. In this quarterly newsletter we recognize the Coast Guard's tradition

of excellence in breaking down barriers to service and its long-standing commitment to inclusivity. The National Coast Guard Museum will highlight the leadership role the Coast Guard plays in creating a culture that embraces everyone willing to accept the perilous responsibilities a life in the Coast Guard entails.

As we continue our progress in the design of the Museum and the completion of the required environmental assessment, permitting and pre-constructions activities, we have begun to focus on the elements of the desired visitor experience at the Museum. In that regard, we continue to be grateful for the support of the Administration and Congressional leadership that provided the first federal funding for the Museum project. This, and future anticipated federal funding, now allows the Coast Guard to participate fully in the exhibit design process and to work closely with the Museum Association to develop the resources necessary for a coordinated approach to the development of the Museum. It also reflects the commitment of the federal government to the Museum project, as well as the City of New London, the State of Connecticut, and thousands of our private supporters across the country.

With the availability of federal funds, on March 1, 2018, the Coast Guard published its Request for Proposal for the Museum's Interpretative Plan to hire a contractor to design and construct the Museum exhibits and to identify appropriate subjects for display at the Museum. Designation of a Museum exhibit designer by the Coast Guard, together with the retention of expert consultants by the Museum Association, will facilitate coordinated program design for the Museum. The Museum Association has established partnerships with leading national and local educators and universities to advance the innovative, interactive, STEM-infused visitor experience the Museum will provide.

Since our last newsletter, we have revamped our website to accommodate the illustrations of images and designs for the Museum project and to demonstrate why a Museum in honor of the men and women of the Coast Guard is needed now more than ever. Take a peek at [coastguardmuseum.org](http://coastguardmuseum.org).

Semper Paratus,

Richard J. Grahn

# COAST GUARD MEN AND WOMEN LEADING THE WAY

Since its founding, the U.S. Coast Guard has led the way in breaking down barriers and ensuring inclusivity within its ranks. In honor of the service's pioneering history, the National Coast Guard Museum Association is proud to share excerpts from several articles written by U.S. Coast Guard historian William H. Thiesen, Ph.D. The Museum looks forward to honoring the USCG's legacy in effecting social change in its proposed exhibits and interactive experiences.

By William H. Thiesen, Ph.D.,  
USCG Atlantic Area Historian

Throughout its 228 years, the U.S. Coast Guard has had a history of ethnic diversity that rivals all other federal agencies. The Coast Guard Academy has commissioned minority officers for 75 years. Women began performing Coast Guard duties even before there was a Coast Guard, in turn helping to shape the service and advance the role of their gender in the federal government and the nation as a whole. Hispanic-Americans have served with distinction in the Coast Guard since the 1820s, and the history of African-American participation in the Coast Guard and its predecessor services dates back to the very founding of the service in 1790.

## African-Americans in Service

African-Americans were the first minority group to serve, first to fight and the first to sacrifice. In fact, the first known service death



Generations of the Berry family served with distinction from the 19th century on into the 20th. USCG PHOTO.





The earliest image of an integrated crew with African-American enlisted personnel. USCG PHOTO.

in the line of duty was a black cutterman lost off Revenue Cutter SOUTH CAROLINA in 1795.

Beginning in 1897, more than 20 members of North Carolina's Berry family served with approximately 400 years of total Coast Guard service and nearly 115 consecutive years served by one or more family members. In 1919, the Vicksburg-based Cutter YOCONA became the first integrated federal ship in U.S. history.

WWII accelerated the federal government's first official experiments in military desegregation. In 1943, the Coast Guard began sending African-American officer candidates through its Coast Guard Academy-based Reserve Officer Training Program and commissioned its first African-American officers. The experiment proved a success and set the standard for integration on other Coast Guard and Navy vessels.

By the end of the war, all enlisted rates were open to black recruits. However, that advance was just the beginning as African-Americans achieved greater access to all branches of the service in the 1950s. In the 1970s and 1980s, African-Americans recorded numerous Coast Guard "firsts." In 1976, African-Americans made up seven percent of the service's total active duty personnel and African-American officers served up to the rank of commander and the enlisted rank of master chief. African-American women first graduated from the Academy in 1983, and dozens of black women climbed the enlisted and officer ranks during the 1980s and 1990s. In 1998, Vincent "Vince" Patton became the first minority enlisted man advanced to MCPOCG. That same year, Erroll Brown became the service's first black flag officer.

The 21st century saw more color barriers fall, and today African-Americans comprise the largest and the longest serving minority group in the U.S. Coast Guard.

### Hispanic-Americans in Service

Hispanic-Americans have also served in the U.S. Coast Guard for nearly 200 years – most of the lifespan of the service. From 1824 to 1845, Juan Andreu served as the keeper of the St. Augustine Lighthouse, the first Hispanic-American to serve in a Coast Guard predecessor service and the first to oversee a federal installation. In 1843, Joseph Ximenez, of Key West,

assumed control of the Carysfort Reef Lightship, making him the first Hispanic-American to oversee a Coast Guard vessel.

During the remainder of the 19th century, Hispanic-American participation in Coast Guard predecessor services increased gradually, with the early 1900s seeing greater opportunities for Hispanic-American service members. By 1915, the Puerto Rico-based Revenue Cutter ALGONQUIN enjoyed the unusually high proportion of 25 percent Hispanic crewmembers.

The Second World War accelerated the advancement of minorities. The draft greatly increased minority proportions in enlisted rates, and Hispanic-Americans began to fill more officer billets. Additionally, the first Hispanic-American females to don a Coast Guard uniform began serving in 1942 as members of the SPARs, the Coast Guard's women's reserve corps.

Pioneering work by Hispanic-Americans in the 20th century also paved the way for officers in modern times. In 2006, RADM Ronald Rábago became the service's first Hispanic-American flag officer. In 2009, RADM Joseph "Pepe" Castillo assumed command of the 11th Coast Guard District, becoming the first Hispanic-American district commander. Castillo achieved greater seniority when he became deputy commander of the Coast Guard's Pacific Area. And in 2015, RADM James Rendon became the first Hispanic-American superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.



USCG CPT Dr. Maria-Paz Smith and USCG employee Marilyn Fajardo earned Latina Style Meritorious Service Award in recent years. USCG PHOTO.

### Women in Service

From serving as official lighthouse keepers back in the 1830s to being recruited by the Coast Guard for SPAR during World War II, women have also helped shape the U.S. Coast Guard into a better institution for all men and women.

In the early 1970s, the Coast Guard emerged as a policy leader for women in the military. In 1973, congressional legislation allowed women to serve alongside men on active duty in both the regular Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserves. Under the leadership of Coast Guard Commandant Chester Bender, the service became the first military agency to open its Officer Candidate School (OCS) to women. Under the 1973 legislation, the Coast Guard also began to integrate women

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF USCG

## HARKINS JOINS NCGMA



The National Coast Guard Museum Association is pleased to announce that Harkcon, Inc., co-founder and CDR Kevin

Harkins, Ph.D., USCG (Ret.), has joined its Board of Directors.

“I am thrilled and honored to be able to play a role in ensuring the stand-up of the Museum as a Board member,” Dr. Harkins said.

“The Coast Guard is a uniquely American national gem, quietly and fervently serving for almost 230 years. Its positive impact in terms of lives and property saved, and the protection of our shores, cannot be overstated. The men and women of the Coast Guard deserve this recognition, and the Museum is long overdue.”

A foremost expert in discerning the nature of work and creating an environment where people thrive, Dr. Harkins brings to the NCGMA Board more than 30 years of experience leading and consulting across a broad-spectrum of human performance improvement areas in the public and private sectors.

Dr. Harkins also co-founded Harkcon Academy, a high-end training and professional development center of excellence. Read more at [coastguardmuseum.org](http://coastguardmuseum.org).

## A PROUD PARTNERSHIP

In honor of this past President’s Day, the NCGMA appreciates the ongoing recognition of the USCG as a critical service by current and former Commanders-in-Chief, including the words recently shared by President Donald Trump.

“Since 1790, the United States Coast Guard has served on the frontlines of defense of our Nation, patrolled our waters, and provided search and rescue. Today, in the Gulf of Mexico, the Coast Guard intercepts dangerous drug cartels and human traffickers from entering our country illegally. In the Middle East, the Coast Guard participates in key operations to eliminate terrorist threats. And in the freezing Arctic, Coast Guard Cutters break through solid ice, enabling American ships to navigate safely through the harshest conditions.

“No matter the mission, the brave men and women of our Coast Guard proudly answer the call to serve, and they remain Semper Paratus – Always Ready. As our Nation celebrates this special occasion, we honor the incredible courage and dedication of all our Coast Guard men and women, and particularly those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We also thank our military families, whose steadfast resolve and patriotic devotion anchors our home front.

“God bless the men and women of the Armed Forces and the United States of America.”





# BOLLINGER TO RECEIVE ALEXANDER HAMILTON AWARD

Donald T. "Boysie" Bollinger, renowned philanthropist and retired President and CEO of Bollinger Shipyards, will receive the Alexander Hamilton Award during the 2018 National Maritime Awards Dinner, April 25, in Washington, D.C. Joining Bollinger in being honored at the event will be J.W. Marriott, Jr., Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board of Marriott International, Inc., and William C. Baker, president and CEO of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Established and presented by the NCGMA, the Alexander Hamilton Award recognizes an individual whose leadership, vision, volunteerism, and support has had the greatest positive impact on forwarding the goals of the National Coast Guard Museum initiative. The award is appropriately named in honor of Hamilton, who established the Revenue Cutter Service in 1790, a predecessor of the Coast Guard. Former

recipients include James J. "Jimmy" Coleman, Jr. (2015), current NCGMA Board Chair, and J.D. Power, III (2016), founder of J.D. Power & Associates and Honorary Chair of the National Coast Guard Museum.



The Hon. Thomas J. Ridge, Mr. Bollinger, ADM Robert J. Papp, Jr. and Otto B. Candies, Jr.

Bollinger learned of his selection for the distinction at an unveiling event for the proposed National Coast Guard Museum World War II Gallery, which is being made possible by his \$1 million

gift to the Museum. The November 2017 New Orleans event was jointly hosted by Secretary Tom Ridge, the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, 43rd Governor of Pennsylvania, and co-chair of the NCGMA Secretaries' Circle, and NCGMA Board Chair Coleman. Susan J. Curtin, Partner, Power Enterprises, and President of Kenrose Kitchen Table Foundation, were among those in attendance.

"All of us at the NCGMA are deeply indebted to Boysie Bollinger for his generosity, support, and unwavering commitment to building the first-ever National Coast Guard Museum," Curtin said. "He is most deserving of the Hamilton Award, and we are honored to be able to present it to him this spring." ■

To learn more about Mr. Bollinger, visit [coastguardmuseum.org/latest-news](http://coastguardmuseum.org/latest-news).

## SITUATION REPORT

Follow the Museum's design and progress at [coastguardmuseum.org](http://coastguardmuseum.org), where you can also sign up for our new e-communication, the SITREP.



# COAST GUARD MEN AND WOMEN LEADING THE WAY

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The Coast Guard's first female aviator Janna Lambine. USCG PHOTO.

into its enlisted ranks. In 1975, the service counted 420 enlisted women and 32 female officers among its active-duty personnel. That same year, then Commandant Owen Siler announced, "that women will join the Corps of Cadets at New London."

The late 1970s and 1980s saw women break countless gender barriers in the enlisted and officer ranks. Ens. Beverly Kelley, a 1976 OCS graduate, served as one of the female officers. In April 1979, Lt. j.g. Beverly Kelley took command of the 95-foot Cutter CAPE NEWAGEN, becoming the first woman to command a U.S. military ship.

In 1990, the service's "Women in the Coast Guard" study led to a systematic effort to support female recruiting and retention, including a new Women's Advisory Council. The 21st century then saw women reach the highest officer positions. OCS graduates led the way to Flag positions, including Vivien Crea who, in 2000, became the first woman to achieve Flag rank. Later, in 2006, Crea was promoted to vice commandant of the Coast Guard, becoming the first woman to hold the second highest position of any military service. ■

## CONNECTICUT SUN GAME

To celebrate the role of women in the USCG, the National Coast Guard Museum and the WNBA Connecticut Sun are excited to team up for family game day on June 9, 2018 when the Sun takes on the Minnesota Lynx. Educational exhibits will be on display during the game, as will opportunities to learn more about the Museum. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

## BECOME A PLANKOWNER

"We want to preserve the history of our service to the Nation, so our children can look back at the accomplishments of their parents. We believe becoming Plankowners of this great Museum would be the first step in bringing our children up to respect and honor the veterans of this country."



HS2 Elizabeth Ann Little, USCG Active Duty, U.S. Navy veteran, and ABH2 (AW/SW) Michael J. Little, U.S. Navy (IRR), USCG Auxiliary, above, have established Plankowner designations for themselves and their two children, William Frederick Little, aspiring Admiral, and Mary Isabell Little, who was born on March 9.

Join NCGMA Board member MCPOCG Vincent W. Patton, Ed.D., USCG (Ret.), who is leading our Plankowner effort, which has already inspired hundreds to answer the call and pledge their support.  
[CoastGuardMuseum.org/plankowner](http://CoastGuardMuseum.org/plankowner)

## DID YOU KNOW THAT GIFTS OF STOCK HAVE SIGNIFICANT TAX ADVANTAGES?

### Additional reasons to consider donating stock include:

You can utilize appreciated assets instead of cash on hand.

You can possibly give more than with a cash gift.

You can feel great knowing you are helping to honor the men, women and veterans of the USCG.

To make a gift, please contact Suzanne Simpson at 860-443-4200 for instructions on how to transfer stock or securities from your brokerage or investment account to the NCGMA. Also visit [coastguardmuseum.org](http://coastguardmuseum.org) to learn more ways to give.



# MUSEUM EDUCATION INITIATIVE COMPLETES PHASE ONE



Thanks to generous financial support from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, the NCGMA has been fully engaged in a six-month research and development project called the Museum Education Initiative (MEI), chartered to provide a blueprint for an enlightened museum visitor experience.

The effort is helping to define the exploration options, learning objectives, and experiential components that are to

be integrated into the detailed building and interpretive planning for the future National Coast Guard Museum.

Working with expert educators and creative museum designers, the Museum Education Committee recently hosted a series of workshops, expert panels, and community forums focused on identifying the interests of K-12 youth. It is estimated that 50,000 students under age 17 will visit the National Coast Guard Museum each year with a school group, a civic youth group, a family, or as an individual. Expanding beyond K-12 student education, three additional programs were identified for further investigation: a Visiting Speaker Program, Professional Development Program, and Early Learning Program. These will be examined during Phase II of the MEI.

## Further exploration of the following has also continued:

### Virtual Shipmate Program

In addition to meeting live docents and historic character interpreters, the

individual student visitor may choose a guided tour using the assistance of a Virtual Shipmate. While the target audience is students, the Virtual Shipmate program will also be available to adult visitors. A menu of heroic figures from the past and present will be available as Virtual Shipmates. Each Virtual Shipmate will engage and inform the visitor in his or her personal career and life experiences.

### Individual Qualification Program

The individual student visitor may choose to pursue a simulated Coast Guard Qualification. The primary audience for the qualification program is youth ages 8-16, visiting mostly likely as families with children. The qualification process will be constructed broadly around three levels of difficulty (mastery levels), and although targeted for students, the Committee believes adults will participate in the program as well. The three mastery levels will allow visitors to select and move across boundaries as appropriate for the individual student's own interest, knowledge and learning ability. This 2-3 hour qualification program is designed to introduce students to Coast Guard operational specialties, significant moments in history, STEM connections, and heroic figures (past and present).

### Group Education Program

Through the MEI, the NCGMA has established partnerships with regional educators and youth organizations to develop team scenarios, which are unique to the Coast Guard. Targeted at third grade through high school, these team challenges will provide interactive Coast Guard scenarios that require teams to apply creativity, academic knowledge, and leadership to complete. ■



Conceptual flow of the envisioned Visitor Experience, which will integrate compelling storylines, educational programs, and hands-on experiences

In March, the USCG announced a Request for Proposals for the Museum's Master Interpretative Plan to design and construct the exhibits. For more information on the visitor experience, visit [coastguardmuseum.org/MEI](http://coastguardmuseum.org/MEI).

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

National Coast Guard Museum  
Association, Inc.

## SECRETARIES' CIRCLE

Former Federal Cabinet and Deputy Secretaries responsible for oversight of the USCG are assisting in promoting and supporting the Museum project.

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## HONORARY CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

**John A. Amos | President George H.W. Bush | Charles "Charlie" Gibson | 'Arnold Palmer (1999-2016) | J.D. Power, III**



The National Coast Guard Museum Association, Inc., will educate the public about the evolution of the maritime and military history of the United States Coast Guard and its contributions to America by designing, constructing, and developing programming for a National Museum.