

THE LIFE LINE

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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 5 SR - Division 23
Flotilla 23-07 Herring Bay, Maryland

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

FALL 2022



The first Tuesday night in August has been reserved as the National Night Out across the country since its inception over 28 years ago. First responders as well as law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, and neighborhood organizations set up tables in designated locations and meet and greet crowds of local residents in an open forum setting.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary traditionally attends this yearly event and August 2 was no different. Chris Jensen, representing Flotilla 23-07, made an appearance at the Lula G. Scott Community Center on Shady Side Road in Shady Side, Maryland event, one of three communities to sponsor this event in Anne Arundel County. Free food and refreshments were provided by local restaurants along with live musical entertainment.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 National Night Out
- 2 In Memoriam
- 3 Form 7017
- 4 Grounded Vessels
- 4 Passing Thought
- 4 Upcoming Events

Chris took this opportunity to hand out boating safety information and talk to the local residents about joining the U.S. Coast Guard and the Auxiliary.



C. Jensen, VFC and Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB

IN MEMORIAM

On July 14, fellow Auxiliarist Philip Wentz passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family. He had suffered with a variety of illnesses over the last few years and was still struggling with acute respiratory problems. Three days before his passing, he was still attending to Auxiliary duties and even participating in a virtual Flotilla meeting giving his operation officer's report to the membership. His love of the sea goes back to his boyhood days as a Sea Cadet and later as an enlisted member of the U.S. Navy.



To say that Phil was one of the best Auxiliarist's in our District would be a gross understatement. In his over 47 years supporting the organization he performed almost every job imaginable. He held a number of leadership positions in the Auxiliary as well as the critically important post of Qualifications Examiner, a job that is highly essential to the operations program in the qualifying of coxswains and crew for Operational Facilities in the District. Phil logged in well over 14,170 mission hours in his time.

Phil was always the "go to" guy whenever the 5th Southern District required coordinating Auxiliary support especially in running events like the Whitbread/Volvo Around the World sailboat races, various regattas and speedboat races on the Chesapeake Bay, as well as any special maritime activities that occurred such as the Blue Angels flyover for the U.S. Naval Academy graduation, to name just a few. He was the embodiment of honor, respect and devotion to duty as well as being the backbone of this Flotilla and an inspiration to all his shipmates, especially the younger members.

His many hours spent at the Search and Rescue Center at Sector Maryland - National Capitol Region at Curtis Bay, Maryland supporting those activities led to a number of successful lifesaving rescues here on the Chesapeake Bay over the years.

In 2019, he received the prestigious Auxiliary Lifetime Award at the National V-Train Award meeting.

Jack London, the eminent author, expressed it best when he wrote, "And if a man is a born sailor, and has gone to the school of the sea, never in all his life can he get away from the sea again. The salt of it is in his bones ... and the sea will call to him until he dies."

Phil was a valued fellow member, friend and mentor to us all and will be greatly missed.

Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB

FORM 7017 PILOT PROJECT TEAM AWARD

On June 1, 2022, the Commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation to twelve members of the Fifth Southern District. Our own Robin Ainsworth, who graciously volunteered for this task, was one of the recipients.

The Meritorious Team Commendation (MTC) is a unit award of the United States Coast Guard. Created on 22 December 1993, the Meritorious Team Commendation is awarded for performance of exceptional actions that would normally warrant a Commandant's Letter of Commendation if recognizing an individual. Recognized groups must also display cohesion and teamwork noticeable to upper echelon commanders. The MTC is awarded to groups or teams that are not identifiable by OPFAC as a United States Coast Guard unit. The MTC may be awarded to military personnel, Coast Guard Auxiliarists, and civilians.



The citation reads as follows:

“For exceptionally meritorious service from January 2022 to April 2022 while serving as a member of the Fifth District Southern Region Form 7017 Pilot Project Team. Charged with utilizing and critically evaluating the prototype Form 7017, Unit Meetings, the Team exercised outstanding organizational expertise and tactful critique skills along with a significant commitment to serving as a member of the Team. The prototype was developed to improve the content and consistency of approved unit minutes and to ease the preparation and submission process. As part of the project, Team members utilized the prototype form in lieu of the traditional Form 7017 and provided valuable suggested improvement feedback to the Auxiliary’s National Working Group which was tasked with developing a new Form 7017 for use throughout the Auxiliary. As a result of the Team’s thorough evaluations and suggested improvements, the prototype Form 7017 has been adopted for use throughout the Fifth District Southern Region’s Flotillas and Divisions and by the District. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by the Fifth District Southern Region Form 7017 Pilot Project Team are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.”

Robin is also the Flotilla Staff Officer for Secretary of Records and just this past year took on the additional job of Flotilla Staff Officer for Communication Services and maintaining our web site.

Bravo Zulu to Robin and the other members of the team!

Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB



GROUNDING VESSELS

Rescue: An operation with the primary purpose of retrieving persons in distress and delivering them to a place of safety. This may include providing for certain medical care or other critical needs. Rescue operations may also be performed for the purpose of preventing or mitigating property loss or damage. However, missions shall not normally be performed for the purpose of salvage or recovery of property when those actions are not essential to the saving of life. Beneficial secondary consequences of a rescue operation may be to prevent environmental damage or remove hazards to navigation, but these are not considered part of the rescue operation's objective.

4.3.1 General

When commercial salvors are on scene performing salvage, Coast Guard units may assist them within the unit's capabilities, if the salvor requests. When no commercial salvage facilities are on scene, Coast Guard units should only engage in salvage other than towing when limited salvage operations (e.g., ungrounding, pumping, damage control measures, etc.) can prevent a worsening situation or complete loss of the vessel. **Any salvage operations shall be performed at the discretion of the unit CO/OINC.**

NOTE: Coast Guard units and personnel shall not be unduly hazarded in performing salvage

4.3.2 Small Craft

4.3.2.1 This policy applies to small craft that need salvage other than towing. However, when no commercial salvage companies are available within a reasonable time or distance, the District commander may modify the policy to provide for refloating a grounded boat which is not in peril of further damage or loss if:

- (a) the Coast Guard units are capable of rendering the assistance,
- (b) the owner requests the assistance and agrees to the specific effort to be made, and
- (c) Coast Guard units and personnel are not unduly hazarded by the operation.

4.3.2.2 Prudent actions include:

- (a) Allowing the next tide to refloat the vessel,
- (b) Helping the mariner set anchors,

THE LIFE LINE

- (c) Evacuating the passengers,
- (d) Helping the mariner determine the vessel's seaworthiness.

4.3.3 Operator Insistence

Occasionally an operator will insist that the Coast Guard take action, such as pulling a vessel from a reef, which Coast Guard personnel on scene consider unwise. The Coast Guard is under no obligation to agree to any such request or demand. If a decision to comply with such a request is made, it should be made clear that the operator is assuming the risk of the operation. The fact that the action is undertaken at operator's request, and is against Coast Guard advice, should be logged.

COMDTINST M16130.2F

PASSING THOUGHT

Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it.

Albert Schweitzer

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8 & 22 - Boating Safety Class, Edgewater Library, Edgewater, Maryland

October 10 - Flotilla meeting, Cedarhurst Community Center, Shady Side, Maryland, 1900

October 15 – Harbor Cove Marina, Deale, Maryland, Suddenly in Command, 0930

November 14 - Flotilla meeting/elections, Cedarhurst Community Center, Shady Side, Maryland, 1900

Visit us at:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=054-23-07>

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