



ontents



Feature Story 10

Off Guadalcanal, Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, USCG, provides covering fire for the evacuation of a detachment of Marines in a painting by Bernard D'Andrea. After volunteering to

lead the dangerous mission, Munro positioned his boats to allow the Marines' rear guard

to embark. Fatally wounded,

Munro's final words reportedly

were "Did they get off"? He

became the Coast Guard's sole

Medal of Honor recipient.

On the cover



The governing body of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc. is the Board of Directors, which has all powers of governing and directing.

The board is charged with overseeing the management of the business and its organizational affairs. The Association's governance principles are found in its formal policies as established in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP is the official publication of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc to provide articles of interest and informa-

9449 Watson Industrial Park St. Louis, MO, 63126 314-962-8828 info@cgauxa.org



A Message from **VNACO Alex Malewski**

The challenges we are facing.



A Salute to Their Service

has served

Chief Operating Officer 16





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What is your Purpose in Life?

NACO Larry King

Stay Engaged, Embrace **New Challenges**

Resources

A Message from AUXCEN

Vin Pica, President & CEO



Extreme Healthcare

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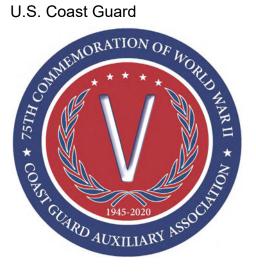












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tion to its members.



Honor someone who

Changing of the Watch

Welcome Jim Losi



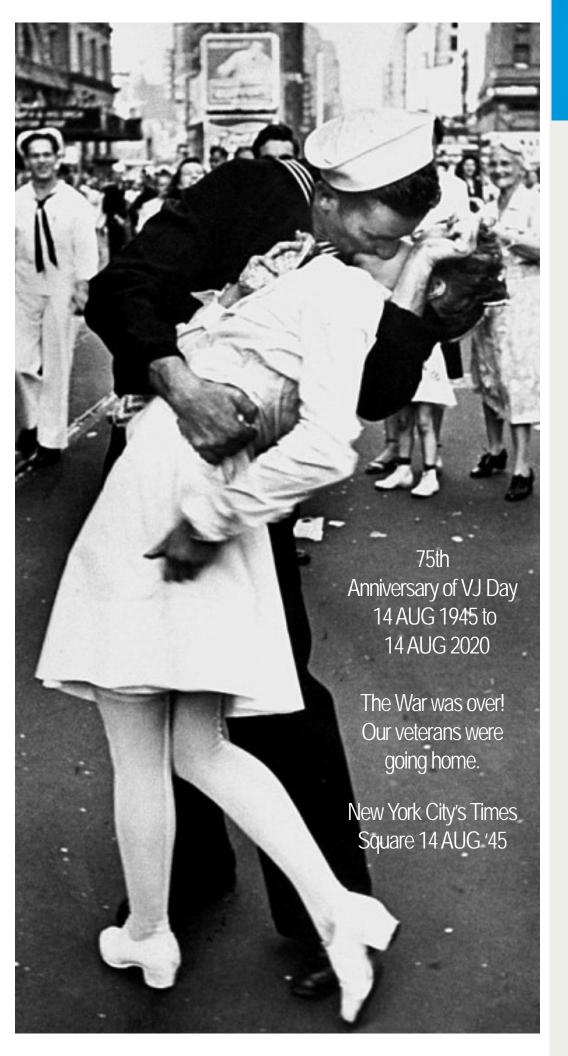


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What is your Purpose in Life?

That title sounds like this article is written for some Philosophy course. That's not what I intend it to be. During these days while we Auxiliarists are having to just "Swing on the Anchor" due to COVID concerns, it can become very easy to lose enthusiasm for what we do during normal times. So, what can we do as members to benefit ourselves and the boating public if we can't co-mingle?

Many of our staff groups and individual members have stayed engaged administratively. Examples: Our RB staff folks have acquired authorization from NASBLA and state organizations to teach online PE classes. They have set up a new testing regime. They have innovatively created a new virtual VSC program from scratch to help ensure we deliver some measure of safety and maintain some contact with boaters as they head to the water in droves. COMO Vin Pica recently received a CG Innovation award for resurrecting a dormant program called #Estaple. This program links CG Public Affairs news tweets (e.g., saving people in the water from a capsizing) to a training lesson (e.g., How to keep your boat from capsizing). In a very short period of time these tweets had been viewed over 85,000,000 times. To quote our Commandant, Admiral Karl Schultz: "We have outsourced most all RBS outreach missions to the Auxiliary and 'Estaple is a home run."

What can we do as individuals? One of the many benefits of membership is online access to training materials and reference documents. We can not only go back and do a little "Re-medial" training, which all of us can benefit from, we can enhance our importance to the boating public by acquiring new skills and qualifications using online training and online testing. This is all free to us as members and



We are **needed** because we remain very relevant, and ready, when called.

it certainly helps us as individuals in our knowledge base.

It is understood that we all want to get back to work as soon as possible but as we know, this must proceed with caution. Too many of our fellow citizens jumped the gun over the past few weeks with large gatherings, no masks, etc., and now the country is experiencing a resurgence in COVID cases. In order to be available to resume our greatly valued service to nation when the COVID virus finally gets under control, we must be "Semper Paratus", Always ready.

In Admiral Schultz's recent ALCOAST congratulating us on our 81st birthday, he wrote in part: "Our 23,000 uniformed volunteers are profound examples of selfless devotion to duty who have not only embraced and exemplified my watchwords of 'Ready, Relevant, and Responsive,' but have proudly added 'Resilient' to that list."

We can demonstrate just how resilient we are by being ready to resume our very necessary activities as before when we are called. To me, that is a magnificent benefit of being a member of such a superb organization. We are needed because we remain very relevant, and ready, when called.

Larry King, National Commodore, USCG Auxiliary



Stay Engaged, Embrace New Challenges

Click and go to keep informed.
Resourses mentioned in COMO King's message "What is your Purpose in Life?"







Online Public Education Class New virtual Vessel Safety Check

Resources for Virtual Classes



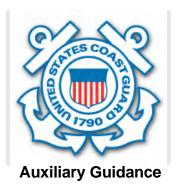
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Important Corona Virus Information







81ST ANNIVERSARY





If the events of the past several months have taught us anything, it is that life is fragile and that every opportunity to do good – for our nation, for our beloved USCG or for a fellow citizen of this great Nation – is a God-given opportunity, expected of each of us.

As you've seen from the Blue-and-White "deal-o-grams" on the new DHS and VE shirts, from the PDF "class on 'Who-Is-AuxA-And-What's-In-It-For-Me", and the news of the opportunity to honor your family service members with "Wreaths Across America" during the World War II 75th anniversary events, your AuxA is open for business. The business of AuxA is serving your needs in the RBS programs, in unit pride wear and OPs support. The eCommerce website (https://www.cgauxa.org/shop) is open, 24x7x365.

Please accept the current *Benefits of Membership* with the warmest wishes from the Board, volunteer staff and employees of AuxA for your health, safety and well-being, and that of your families, for they serve too. And it is your service that has earned you these "benefits of membership..."

Like you, AuxA remains Semper Paratus, Vin

.

Vincent Pica
President & CEO
Coast Guard Auxiliary Association



The Coast Guard Auxiliary Association provides the financial stability that the Coast Guard Auxiliary must have to ensure readiness to meet its mission.

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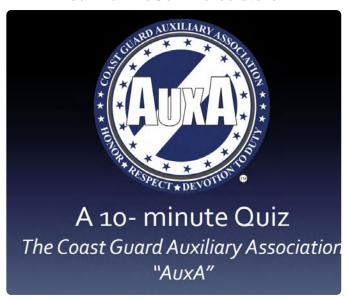


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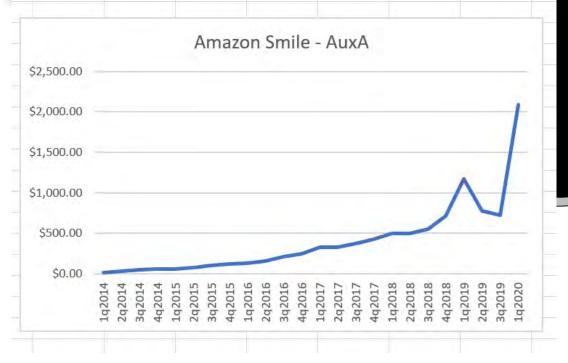
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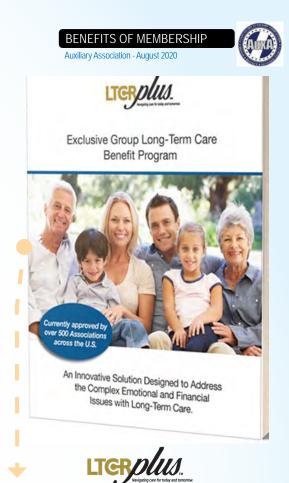


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"Standing on Tall Shoulders"

The 75th Commemoration of Victory in WWII: 1945-2020

By Louis J. DiGiusto, III CMO-AuxA

Photos - USCG Archives



Higgins landing craft from the Coast Guard



The cover illustration of this special edition of "Benefits of Membership" depicts an action that took place on Sunday, 27 SEPT 1942 at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal. A flotilla of ten Higgins landing craft from the Coast Guard manned USS Hunter-Liggett transport were assembled and lead by Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, USCG to extract over 500 of LtCol "Chesty" Puller's 7th Marines off the beach under enemy fire at Lunga Point. Puller had landed his Marines on the beach on 23 SEPT in these same landing craft. His mission was to push

the perimeter of Henderson Field, the strategic target for the Battle of Guadalcanal. The 7th Marines ran into a large enemy reinforcement, the 124th IJA Infantry with over 4,000 soldiers. On 27 SEPT at 16:30 under withering enemy fire, Puller called for his Marines to be extracted off the beach. The Navy Destroyer USS Monssen, off Lunga Point, relayed the rescue message by signal flags to Signalman Munro who proceeded to rescue the Marines under enemy machine gun fire. Munro and shipmate Ray Evans, his close friend since they both joined the Coast Guard, positioned their landing craft to fire back at the enemy during the rescue. The Marines made it. Munro did not.

As his landing craft continued to fire, Munro was hit by enemy fire. Ray Evans held Munro's head in his arms. Munro's last words; "did they get off." Evan's answer was yes they did. And yes those Marines would go on to win the Battle of Guadalcanal.



Signalman 1st Class Munro aboard USS Hunter-Liggett at Guadalcanal



Continued from page 10

President Roosevelt posthumously awarded Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, USCG with the Medal of Honor. Munro is the only recipient of the MOH in the history of the Coast Guard. His action embodies the core values all members of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary serve by, "Honor," "Respect," "Devotion to Duty."

During WWII, as the "Coast Guard Temporary Reserve" well over 50,000 Auxiliarists served in every mission of the Coast Guard. For example;

- The "Corsair Fleet" the Coastal Picket Force along the 50-fathom curve (75-100 Miles offshore) 48-hr patrols- anti-submarine and SAR (rescuing hundreds of Merchant sailors from enemy U-Boat attacks).
- Coastal beach patrols
- Port Security
- Ship Inspections
- SPARS (Women Auxiliarists)
- · Coast Guard Aviation observers & crews
- Supplement Coast Guard crews
- Transfer & crew 1000's of private boats to Coast Guard patrol facilities

As we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Victory in WWII, it's a good time to reflect on the members of each of our families that served and are serving today. In a way, we stand on their shoulders, their service to our country is timeless. Many of us serve in the Coast Guard Auxiliary

to thank them and continue in our own way their mission of service.

Personally, my dad and his two brothers are an example of that service 75 years ago. My father was a career Naval Aviator who lost his life in the line of duty in the 1960's. During WWII he was a young co-pilot flying Navy B-24's in the South Pacific. His older brother served in the 15th Air Force as a waist-gunner on a B-17. His younger brother was in the Merchant Marine serving on the crew of a tanker in Atlantic convoys. That's just what the "Greatest Generation" did. I share that personal story because I think it's probably typical of many of your families who now serve in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Service to your country is part of who your family was and is.

75th Anniversary Commemorations of Victory in WWII are being held throughout the world this year. 8 MAY- VE Day, 14 AUG- VJ Day, 2 SEPT-Peace Treaty Tokyo Bay, 7 DEC- Pearl Harbor Day, 19 DEC- Wreaths Across America Day.

This edition of AuxA "Benefits of Membership" salutes you and your family for your service to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The biggest "Benefit of Membership" is the opportunity to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

We thank the Coast Guard for that opportunity.



The Challenges We Are Facing

VNACO Alex Malewski



These columns discuss the numerous and varied benefits of belonging to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association. We can't forget that membership in the Auxiliary Association is itself a benefit of membership in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. You are automatically a member of the Association because you are a member of the USCG Auxiliary. In light of the challenging times we are now experiencing I think it best to talk of the challenges we are facing rather than the benefits we receive.

The COVID 19 pandemic has impacted the whole world and consequently the Auxiliary too. I hear comments ranging from morale is good and we are getting things done to morale is terrible and members are frustrated. Well I am frustrated too but that is not unusual. Auxiliarist are always frustrated, at least a little, because we always want to do more. If we weren't frustrated, at least a little, I don't think we would be much of an Auxiliarist. The fact of the matter is that what we are going through now is another in a long list of challenges that we will face

head on and overcome. Granted, it is probably the greatest challenge that we, our country and the world has faced in our life time but I have no doubt we will overcome it.

All of us have heard "We will get through this together" and the like and early on it was encouraging, now not so much. At this point we just want this to be over and get back to normal or the new normal whatever that is. Two years ago when I was elected to the position of Vice National Commodore I selected my Watch Words. Three words that sum up your position. vision, and outlook. Not an easy task, down right next to impossible for me. I chose Ready, Responsive, and Resilient. I chose "Resilient" because, over and over I have seen firsthand the Auxiliary meet challenges head on and overcome them. It is what we do, if being an Auxiliarist was easy anyone could do it. It is not easy, and it takes hard work, training, dedication and adherence to US Coast Guard core values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. The rewards are more than worth the effort. Not

only are we part of the best and largest volunteer organization in the world that serves a branch of the military and get to be part of Team Coast Guard, we are able to make a difference every day. The icing on the cake is membership in AuxA and be entitled to all the benefits of membership available to its members.

I have heard it said that this pandemic is going to be the end of the Auxiliary, that members won't come back. I disagree 100%; members are knocking down the door to get active again. Not only will we come back, we will come back stronger than ever. We have adapted to the shutdowns and are conducting everything from meetings to training and even PE Classes virtually. Once things open up we will use these skills to be more efficient and effective than ever before. The Auxiliary will continue to serve the Coast Guard and our country and once again we will show the world that the Auxiliary is Semper Paratus.



A SALUTE TO THEIR SERVICE



This year commemorates the 75th Anniversary of Victory in WWII.

If you would like to honor someone in your family, or a friend who has served or is serving in the armed forces, for a commemorative contribution of \$55 to AuxA, you will receive;

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A gift book from AuxA, "Guardian of Guadalcanal" the official biography of Signalman 1C Douglas Munro, USCG, the only recipient of the Medal of Honor in Coast Guard history.

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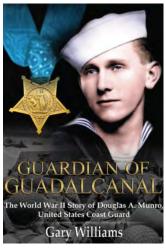
Your honoree's name

His/her branch of service and rank

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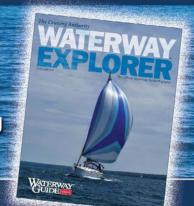
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Changing of the Watch

Welcome Jim Losi, Chief Operating Officer

This edition of the Benefits of Membership introduces Jim Losi, the incoming Chief Operating Officer of AuxA, relieving Tom Lane. Tom, who did a sensational job continuing the transition of AuxA from a business run like a charity to a charity run like a business, has the good fortune to have his businesses expand strongly. So much so, Tom asked for a reassignment, wanting to stay with AuxA but needing the additional capacity to take advantage of the business opportunities being afforded them. Tom is now my Senior Advisor and will be working with me on a number of initiatives, most notably on "AuxA Direct", a systematic approach to building donations to AuxA's RBS support via the internet.

Jim Losi comes to us with a very distinguished CGAux career in D11N, including being one of only a handful of members who has qualified as a Coast Guard Auxiliary Cutterman. When Jim and I first met, JFK was still in the Whitehouse. There's a lot of water under the keel since then...

If you know Jim or Tom, please take a moment to thank them for their devotion, not just to duty, but to members,

Like you, AuxA remains

Semper Paratus, Vin Pica, President & CEO





Welcome Aboard Military Java Group!

A new benefit to AuxA members. For every order, Military Java Group will contribute \$3.00 per order to AuxA. So, if you want to order multiple K-cup boxes or other coffee products, please purchase each item as a separate order to help AuxA. Remember all AuxA contributions support the mission of the **USCGAUX!**

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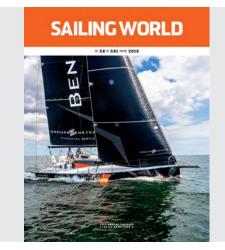
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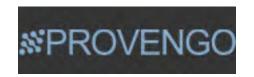
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Plus shipping/handling

Program now open to all Coast Guard Auxiliary Units from Districts to Flotillas.

To all our leaders, show your unit pride!

AuxA will handle getting BSX approval for this uniform item and billing and shipping with CGX.

Email a PDF of this form to: coo@cgauxa.org

Total # of AUX Approved Ball Caps _______ (24 minimum order)

\$25.00 ea. with \$5.00 each rebate to District. Member receives receipt with each cover noting \$10.00 charitable contribution to AuxA's RBS support and USCGAux District support.

Size and quantity ordered: Medium ____ Large ____ Extra Large ____

Unit Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Credit Card # AMEX: _____

Credit Card # Visa/MasterCard: ______

Expiration: Month _____ Year ____ CVCC: ______



We'll Split It With You!

Wondering what to do with that boat?



Never a better time to donate a boat! COVID19 has raised prices and volume as people buy boats instead of flying to a vacation! If you are thinking of tax deductions and doing good with the old clunker, now's the time!

Shipmates, you've seen our "ads" for donating boats to AuxA, which we turn into a tax-deduction for the donor (gross proceeds) and plowing the net sales revenue – (gross proceeds less transportation, storage, brokerage, and/and/and) into donations to our RBS programs - PE, VE and PV.

Here's an idea for you, patterned after a recently, successfully concluded process with a flotilla in D1SR. They had a vessel that had given them dutiful service for a number of years – but now presented more of a "challenge" than the flotilla was willing to continue to underwrite. AuxA was approached and a discussion was had about how to divide up the spoils as it were, if the boat was donated to the AuxA "Boats for Life" Program. We agreed that, whatever the net proceeds were, 2/3rd would go to AuxA for RBS uses and 1/3rd would go to the flotilla to help replenish their bank account. And we did!

Now the flotilla isn't a taxpayer so no one got the tax benefits – but cash isn't so bad!

But people are taxpayers – so here's the idea. You have a boat that you're tired of underwriting the costs of? Donate it to AuxA's "Boats for Life" Program. You'll get 100% of the tax benefits of the gross proceeds; two, AuxA will get 2/3rd of the net proceeds for RBS uses and your flotilla (or division or district - we're open minded!) will get 1/3rd of the net proceeds. And I imagine you get meaningful recognition at the next COW and/or unit meeting!

Here's an example:

1. Boat gets sold for: \$15,000 – you get a \$15,000 tax deduction

2. Expenses amount to: \$3,000 Commission: \$1,500 Storage: \$1,000

Transport: \$500 Immediate from your marina to CSI

3. Net proceeds of: \$12,000 AuxA/RBS gets: \$8,000 Your flotilla gets: \$4,000



4. You get a gold star in CGAux heaven! Email me at vincent.pica@cgauxnet.us



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