



United States Coast Guard
Retiree Council North West
PACIFIC CURRENTS NEWSLETTER



“They Also Serve”

VOLUME XII ISSUE 4

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

Date: **Saturday March 9, 2013.**
Time: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
Where: CG Base Seattle Gymnasium
1519 Alaskan Way South
Seattle, WA 98134-1102

Keynote speaker: RADM Keith Taylor
Expected Turnout: Approx. 300 retirees.



Right now I have the following invitations

Veterans Administration (VA)
Department of Labor – VETS
TriCare
TriCare Retiree Dental Program
PacMed (Seattle based alternative to
TriCare)
USAA
MOAA
American Legion
McChord AFB MAC flight service



The reason we are bringing retirees together is to update them what is currently going on in the Coast Guard and giving them the opportunity to meet with representatives from the various agencies and vendors to find information that may be available to them. This also gives them an opportunity to network with shipmates from the past.

We are posting a link to the www.cgretirenw.org page and asking retirees to subscribe to the newsletter and automatically forward received messages to our staff tasked with compiling the list.

Visit our Web site at www.cgretirenw.org

RESTORING THE U.S COAST GUARD MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

VADM Currier, Vice Commandant

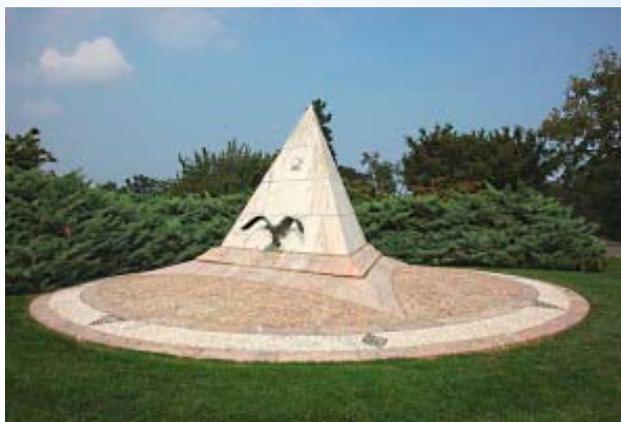
I am proud to announce a project is currently underway to restore the U.S. Coast Guard Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. During the 2011 Veterans Day wreath laying ceremony at the Coast Guard Memorial, the Commandant announced the "Lest We Forget" campaign to preserve the eighty-four year old monument to our fallen shipmates.

Initially dedicated on 23 May 1928, the memorial commemorates our shipmates who lost their lives in WWI resulting from the sinking of the Cutter TAMPA on 26 Sep 1918 and the action involving the Cutter SENECA and the British collier WELLINGTON on 16-17 Sep 1918. Over the last ten months, the Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) has worked diligently to develop a project, start a fund raising campaign, and identify a contractor suited to restoring and preserving this important piece of our history so that we might honor our heroes for generations to come.

Setting proudly atop a hill in Arlington National Cemetery, warmly referred to as Coast Guard Hill, the memorial is a pyramid, constructed wholly of marble twelve feet high and set on a base of Pink Stony Creek granite. Designed by architect George Howe, the memorial is surrounded by a thirty-four foot mosaic circle symbolizing a compass rose. A bronze seagull with a five foot wingspan, made by the famed sculptor Gaston Lachaise, has been set at the base of the pyramid exemplifying the zeal and persistence of the Coast Guard in its duties.

Most importantly, the pyramid faces are indelibly engraved with the names of our heroic shipmates lost at sea during the First World War.

The dedication of the memorial was a proud day for the Coast Guard. Cutters TAMPA, SENECA, MANNING, and APACHE were anchored in the Potomac River. Cutter TAMPA sounded the twenty-one gun salute for the ceremony. The Coast Guard Academy Corps of Cadets arrived aboard Cutters TAMPA and SENECA to form the honor guard. Several distinguished speakers were on hand, including: Secretary of the Treasury, the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon,



Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Curtis D. Wilbur, and Rear Admiral F. C. Billard, Commandant of the Coast Guard. Frank L. Toon captured the significance of the memorial when he wrote, "It is to the Coast Guard, of the Coast Guard, by the Coast Guard, a Memorial by our own to our own."

The eighty-four year old memorial has suffered extensive damage over the years due to environmental conditions. A large fist size portion of marble has broken off near the apex of the pyramid, and the lettering and the Coast Guard emblem are severely worn. Fortunately, the CPOA has a clear vision to restore the memorial, thus ensuring it will continue to honor the service and sacrifice of our shipmates.

The funding needed for this project, approximately 95,000 dollars, must be raised through private donations. Coast Guard funds cannot be used in this undertaking. The Washington, DC Chapter of the Chief Petty Officers Association has stepped forward

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COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL NORTHWEST
USCG Integrated Support Command
Worklife (Retiree Council)
1519 Alaskan Way South, Bldg. 1
Seattle, Washington 98134

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to lead the CPOA efforts to restore the Coast Guard memorial and is committed to making the project a success. Through the sale of commemorative coins, fundraisers, and individual and corporate sponsorship, they are gaining ground on the required funding. I encourage everyone to learn more about the project and follow its evolution at the CPOA Washington, DC Chapter website: <http://wdccpoa.org>.



HOLIDAY STOCKINGS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

Rear Adm. Keith Taylor, commander of the 13th Coast Guard District, stands with volunteers at the 2012 Coast Guard Family and Friends Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children event at Coast Guard Base Seattle. U.S. Coast Guard photo courtesy of Leigh Ann Stump.

In its 17th year, volunteers filled stockings at Coast Guard Base Seattle during the annual "Coast Guard Family and Friends Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children" event, December 8th.

HSHC is an annual Coast Guard family and community organization that provides and delivers handmade holiday stockings, filled with new and educational gifts and toys, to homeless children living in shelters throughout the Puget Sound area. They have filled more than 32,000 stockings, to children ages birth to 17-years, in 102 shelters from Everett to Tacoma.

HSHC is run by an all-volunteer board of 15 directors, primarily made up of the wives of retired and active duty Coast Guard personnel and friends. With the help of over 600 volunteers and the dedication of the year-round board of directors, they are able to raise funds, collect new gifts, sew stockings, and purchase toys and gifts to fill stockings for children during the holiday season.

The organization depends upon the ongoing financial support of its donors to continue to bring the holiday cheer to homeless child during the holiday season. For most of these children, one stocking is all they will receive for the holidays and their goal is to make it the very best gift possible.

For more information please go to the Holiday Stocking for Homeless Children website, <http://www.holidaystockings.org/index.html>.

COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL NW MEMBERS - JANUARY 2013

LCDR John Allen

(CG Base Seattle Liaison Officer)

MKCS Tracy Black

ATCM Charlie Craig

CWO Tony Espejo

LCDR Michael J. (Mike) Foley

Mrs. Myrna Hackney

LCDR Phil Johnson (Co-Chairman)

RADM Bert Kinghorn (Co-Chairman)

ETCM Tim Lackey

CAPT Paul Luppert

Mrs. Evelyn Oliver

SKCS Gregory A. (Greg) Pankau

LCDR Ralph H. Preston

MCPO-CG Phil Smith

CAPT Dana Starkweather (emeritus)

YNCM Patricia Stolle (Secretary)

BMCS David J. Sweeney

YNCS Bob Wallace

CWO (F&S) Patrick L. Wills

RETIREE COUNCIL NW NOW ON FACEBOOK!

For those who may not know, the Coast Guard Retiree Council Northwest is now on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/CgRetireeNw>



If you use Facebook, you're encouraged to use this site. It's a great way to

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post short messages of interest to USCG retirees and keep in touch with friends and shipmates.

If you're interested in signing up for Facebook, I recommend that for security, you use an alternate e-mail address – not the one you use to converse with family and friends – and that you specify all maximum privacy settings.

Facebook is an addition to Council communication efforts, not a substitute. We continue to maintain the Website: <http://www.cgretirenw.org>.

MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AND STILL GOING STRONG

Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jordan Akiyama

There are many attributes that make the Coast Guard the organization that it is today. From its diligent enlisted and officer workforce, to the civilian employees and volunteers, to its veterans, they all work in tandem to create a well-oiled machine.

However, every once in a while, someone stands apart from the rest due to their selflessness and dedication to not only the Coast Guard, but the community around them.

On the northern end of Base Seattle sits the Pacific Northwest Museum. Established in 1976, the museum is curated by retired Coast Guard officer Gene Davis, or more commonly



“Captain” Gene Davis, head curator of the Coast Guard Museum Pacific Northwest, holds up a pillow case that shows the crew of the USRC Tahoma, which sank in 1914 after striking a reef off the Aleutian Islands, Nov. 16, 2012. This pillow case dates back to around 1910. The museum remains a time capsule of Coast Guard history, but for Davis it remains a playground of knowledge and excitement. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jordan Akiyama.

referred to as “The Captain”.

“Museum opened Aug. 4, 1976,” said Davis. “I was planning officer in the district at that time so I helped get it started. Then I retired in ’78 and came to work here... well, it’s not work. I don’t use the word job or work. You wouldn’t keep coming back if you didn’t enjoy it right? It’s fun.”



“Captain” Gene Davis, head curator of the Coast Guard Museum Pacific Northwest, and Larry Dubia, a volunteer at the museum, relax between museum tours, Nov. 16, 2012. Davis and Dubia have been volunteers at the museum for more than 30 years, though they refer to their service as “fun” and never as a job. U.S. Coast Guard photo by PO3 Jordan Akiyama.

“It’s fun” is the general consensus that comes from Davis and the other volunteers when describing their duties at the museum. And given the history that Davis has with the museum, one would have to believe him. For the past 34 years, he’s served as the museum’s main curator, given tours to countless numbers of people, volunteered over 40,000 hours, is the volunteer president of the organization operating the museum as a non-profit organization, and has been key to the museum’s organization and success.

A Kansas/Colorado native, Davis was a former enlisted electrician’s technician and officer candidate school applicant. Davis retired as a captain in the Thirteenth District and was instrumental in setting up Base Seattle when the Coast Guard took it over from the army.

“I was an electronics officer in the district and then for two years I was planning officer,” said Davis. “My job was to work with the army when we took over Base Seattle and write all the specs we had to send to (Coast Guard) headquarters on what we were going to do with the new base.”

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Davis helped put together the museum during its early stages. Coordinating with Adm. Chester Richmond, the Thirteenth District's commander, much of the museum's foundation was laid by Davis.

"I wrote a letter to all the units in the district and all the retired people, saying we're going to open up a museum, we want articles for it, and we won't ask where you got them," said Davis. "So we got a lot of things returned."

On the floor of the museum are display cases of antiques, pictures and artifacts that date back to the colonel days of the Coast Guard's youth. However, below it lies a labyrinth of treasures that would overwhelm the most devout collector. The basement is littered with blueprints of old ships and trinkets dating back to World War 2, to name only a few, and Davis knows the story behind every single one.

To add to his omnipotence, Davis is somewhat of a detective when it comes to seeking out information on Coast Guard history. Often called upon for guidance or reference by outside sources, Davis and the museum have been cited in many books acknowledgements.

"Mostly what I do is research for writers," said Davis. "I got the name of the museum in over 30 books, in the acknowledgements. I've got my name in 27 books now, just for doing the research. And it's fun. It's like a detective thing. You know you've got the answer someplace, we have over 2,000 books, so you look and you do find the answer eventually."

Davis has also helped out many of shipmates throughout his time at museum too.

"One day a chief came in and says he wants the names of the cooks on the Constitution, because he needed to pass his initiation," said Larry Dubia, a 30-year volunteer at the museum. "Captain Davis says, 'I got it.' We got the whole history of the war with France. That's where the Constitution was. Captain Davis found out the names of the two cooks for the

chief."

On December 7, 2012, Davis was awarded the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award for all his time and dedication to the Coast Guard. It is the highest public recognition that the Commandant of the Coast Guard can give. This award represents extraordinary heroism in advancing the Coast Guard's mission, exceptional coordination and cooperation in matters pertaining to the Coast Guard's responsibilities, and personal and direct contribution to the Coast Guard that had a direct bearing on the accomplishment of the Coast Guard's responsibilities to its citizens.

While this is an honor that Davis has earned for everything he has contributed to the Coast Guard, Davis is a man who eats, sleeps and breaths Coast Guard blue and red. From all that he's accomplished while in service to everything he has contributed in his 34 years of retirement, Davis remains not only the backbone of the Pacific Northwest Museum, but an invaluable member to the Coast Guard family.



Capt. Gene Davis (ret.), curator of the Coast Guard Base Seattle Pacific Northwest Museum, receives the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award from Rear Adm. Keith Taylor, commander of the 13th Coast Guard District, at the 2012 District Commander's Holiday Open House, held at the Museum, Dec. 7, 2012. This award represents extraordinary heroism in advancing the Coast Guard's mission, exceptional coordination and cooperation in matters pertaining to the Coast Guard's responsibilities, and personal and direct contribution to the Coast Guard that had a direct bearing on the accomplishment of the Coast Guard's responsibilities to its citizens.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class George Degener.



TRICARE PRIME FEES CHANGING

For most retirees enrolled in TRICARE Prime, the annual enrollment fee is rising.

*Brian P. Smith
TriWest Healthcare Alliance*

It's that time of year again. TRICARE Prime billing statements have gone out in the West Region. This year, enrollees will be seeing some new numbers in their statements. The individual and family annual enrollment fee rates are increasing.

Are my fees changing?

Yes, the fees are changing for most retiree TRICARE Prime enrollees. Fee-paying enrollees* were paying either (depending on the date of enrollment):

- \$230 or \$260 for individual coverage or
- \$460 or \$520 for a family coverage.

These enrollees will see their 2013 fiscal year enrollment rate change to \$269.28 for individual or \$538.56 for family beginning Oct. 1, 2012.

Going forward, a majority of the Prime enrollees could see fee increases at the beginning of each fiscal year. Two categories of retirees will have their rates "frozen." Survivors of active duty deceased sponsors (following the 3-year Transitional Survivor period) and medically-retired service members will pay the same annual fee rate that was in effect the year they enrolled as fee-payers and were categorized as survivors or medically-retired. The freeze remains if Prime enrollment is not interrupted. Beneficiary status and category are recorded in the DEERS ([Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#)) record.

The fees could change each fiscal year. TRICARE is reminding enrollees that you may have

another enrollment fee increase later if new fees are included when Congress passes the final FY 2013 budget. If you don't choose an [automatic monthly payment option](#), it's suggested you make quarterly payments. TRICARE.mil/Costs has more information.

*Do I pay fees? How much do I owe this year?

If you paid TRICARE Prime enrollment fees last year, and you're still enrolled, you still owe fees. If you are recently enrolled in Prime as a retiree, you owe fees. You can always check your fees owed by logging into your secure account at TriWest.com.

What changes will I have to make?

As long as you make your payments by the due date on the statement, your TRICARE Prime enrollment continues. If you have signed up for [automatic electronic payments through TriWest](#), you don't have to change anything. Your payments will be automatically adjusted to the appropriate new amounts:

- monthly allotment from retired pay
- monthly electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings account
- monthly credit/debit card payment.

What if I disenroll?

You can choose to disenroll and use your TRICARE Standard coverage. You will have an annual deductible and out-of-pocket cost shares. As a retiree, you may voluntarily disenroll at the end of the enrollment year (September 30). If you enroll again, your coverage will not be continuous and will start either the month after you enroll or the month after that (based on the 20th of the month rule).

Prime enrollment fees are changing this year. Stay on top of your enrollment and help avoid any missed payments by signing up for [automatic electronic payments through TriWest](#).

DoD TO CUT TRICARE PRIME IN 5 WEST AREAS

By *Patricia Kime - Navy Times Staff writer*

The Pentagon is moving ahead with plans to slash its network of Tricare Prime providers, starting by eliminating the Prime option in three states and two cities in the Tricare West region.

As of April 1, as many as 30,000 Prime beneficiaries — retirees, Active Guard and Reserve troops, and family members — in Iowa; Minnesota; **Oregon**; Reno, Nev.; and Springfield, Mo., will have to switch to Tricare Standard, a traditional fee-for-service health plan, according to a source with knowledge of the reorganization.

Pentagon officials would not confirm that the five areas will lose Prime in April.

The areas lie outside Prime service areas covered under new Tricare regional contracts awarded by the Pentagon.

Under those contracts, Tricare will offer Prime networks only within “catchment areas,” defined as a 40-mile radius around military treatment facilities and in areas affected by the 2005 base closure and realignment process.

However, there are provisions to allow Prime beneficiaries who see a physician outside the 40-mile service area to stay in Prime if they live within 100 miles of an available primary care manager and sign an access waiver.

New enrollments also would be allowed for

those outside Prime service areas if there is network capacity and the primary care manager is less than 100 miles from the beneficiary’s residence.

Spokeswoman Cynthia Smith said the intent is to bolster health care support for the core active-duty populations near military treatment facilities that have been left short-handed “due to the deployment requirements of military medical providers.”

But the move would save big money for the Pentagon because it cuts contract administration overhead in these Prime areas and shifts more of the costs of care to beneficiaries.

What it means for beneficiaries

Active-duty family members in Prime pay no enrollment fees or co-pays. Military retirees pay annual enrollment fees of \$269.26 for an individual and \$538.56 for families, and their co-pays for outpatient care are just \$12. Prime requires no deductibles.

Under the changes that will start April 1, as many as 170,000 Prime enrollees across all three regions eventually may have to drive longer distances to see a Prime provider or switch to Tricare Standard, which has no enrollment fees but carries greater out-of-pocket costs:

- Cost shares are 20 percent for active-duty family members and 25 percent for retirees and other eligible beneficiaries.
- Annual deductibles for outpatient care are \$50 for an individual and \$100 for a family for active-duty members in paygrades E-4 and below, and \$150 for an individual and \$300 for a family for all others.
- The annual catastrophic cap — the maximum health care costs a beneficiary



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must pay in any one fiscal year — is \$1,000 for active-duty families and \$3,000 for retirees.

The move to eliminate Prime service areas away from military installations has been in the works since 2007, when the Defense Department released a draft of its new Tricare contract proposal. But a series of contract disputes delayed the launch of the new initiative.

“The can got kicked down the road” because of the contract protests, said retired Air Force Col. Steve Strobridge, director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America. “Beneficiaries are going to have to change what they are used to. With something as basic as health care, this always raises a certain level of angst.”

With the contract disputes now resolved, the changes in the initial five areas could be just the beginning.

Under the old contracts, the entire Tricare South region was designated a Prime service area. In the West and North regions, the companies that managed the contracts also expanded Prime into areas not located near military bases, populated mainly by retirees, Active Guard and Reserve troops and their families

“We’re worried mostly about the South” because Humana Military Health Services, the contractor for that region, “now provides Prime everywhere,” said Barbara Cohoon, deputy government relations director for the National Military Family Association.

Beneficiaries in the South “already are hearing from their providers” that they will

not remain in Prime, Cohoon said.

Health Net Federal Services manages the North region contract. Beginning April 1, UnitedHealth Federal Services takes over the West region from TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

Officials with all three regional contractors declined to comment and referred all questions to the Defense Department.

Dismantling Prime networks outside the immediate vicinity of military treatment facilities also will eliminate Tricare Extra in these places; that option allowed non-Prime users to lower their costs by seeing Prime network providers.

“All beneficiaries can choose to use Tricare Standard, which gives the beneficiary the most flexibility and greatest choice of any of the Tricare products,” Smith said.

According to the Pentagon, those in Tricare Prime Remote — a program for active-duty troops and their families living in rural areas — as well as those on or near an installation with a hospital or clinic will see no change to their health benefits.

“This will not affect active-duty military and their families,” Smith said. “This change also will not impact areas where there is a military treatment facility.”





**VOLUNTEER
FOR THE
U.S. COAST
GUARD
CITIZEN'S
ACTION
NETWORK
"AKA
NORTHWEST WATCH"**

<http://www.uscg.mil/d13/can/default.asp>



Examples of Coast Guard equipment in action in Puget Sound

Become a Citizen's Action Network member and help the U.S. Coast Guard save lives and property, prevent oil spills, and protect wildlife, all from the comfort of home.

The Northwest has an extensive amount of waterways and communities to protect. The U.S. Coast Guard needs dependable and proactive volunteers to aid in keeping our waters safe and clean.

This program allows residents living near waterways to become associated with the Coast Guard and help conduct its missions.

The Coast Guard will call on Citizen's Action Network members to help investigate cases such as rescue missions and pollution incidents, which puts volunteers right in the heart of the action.

The only requirements for participating are having access to a phone and a marine view from your home.

Verifying or monitoring information during a SAR case; especially when the expected time for Coast Guard responders on scene is lengthy. This type of "eyes on" support is valuable when an initial report is lacking critical information, communications is lost with the initial reporting source or the reporting source moves from the location (such as cell phone reports taken from moving vehicles).

Supporting the Aids to Navigation mission by conducting visual checks after a storm. A participant, knowing in advance the bearing of an aid from his home, could report back when called upon. Several participants in a given area could support a rough triangulation of an aid allowing for the Aton unit to better manage the priority of their response efforts.

Responding to a call from the Coast Guard to verify a vessel's location. This could be helpful identifying positions of vessels too small for VTS tracking.

Having the volunteer check their nearby beach for evidence of a false alarm, flare firing, oil spill impact or disabled/sick wildlife. Ideally, the Citizen's Action Network volunteers will be available when needed; but the odds of being called are great for evening, nights and weekend support.

The complexity of the Thirteenth District's waterways coupled with its limited search and rescue resources make the Citizen's Action Network highly valuable program.

Coast Guard Retiree Council Northwest Newsletter

c/o COMMANDING OFFICER
USCG Base Seattle
Attn: Work Life (Retiree Council)
1519 Alaskan Way South, Bldg. 1
Seattle, Washington 98134



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U. S. COAST GUARD
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HOW WE SERVED...YESTERDAY IN THE U. S. COAST GUARD



*The Coast Guard sent a team of beach patrol experts to China in 1944 to help train the Nationalist Chinese Army in the use of dogs and horses for patrol and counterinsurgency duty. A total of 21 enlisted Coast Guardsmen and three officers comprised the Coast Guard team and they trained over 500 Nationalist Chinese Army troops. Three veterinary officers were also sent along. For more information, see Eleanor C. Bishop's book *Prints in the Sand* that is listed as a source. From USCG Historian's web site: <http://www.uscg.mil/history/>*