

NACO's Holiday Message

This Holiday season we gather with our friends and family to share good wishes and celebrate the significance of this special time of year. The friendships we have developed take on added meaning during the holidays, and it is a pleasure to send cards and gifts to those who hold a special place in our lives. It is also a time to pause and remember the men and women of our armed forces who are away from their families as they serve in defense of our nation. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers for a safe return home.

Thank you for the time and effort you give to our Coast Guard and for being part of this wonderful family we call the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Your efforts and dedication carry the spirit of this holiday season all throughout the year.

We volunteer to serve in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for many different reasons; ultimately, we derive the satisfaction of a job well done as we serve our fellow citizens on the water, in the air, in the classrooms, on the docks, and even in cyberspace. We enjoy the unique challenges of recruiting, mentoring and fellowship with the finest volunteers in America.

The success and challenges of this year are behind us, and while I pause to be thankful for all that has been provided to us, I am ever mindful of the wonderful opportunity the new year brings. This week the annual Coast Guard Ball in Washington DC is in honor of the volunteers of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. This prestigious event in our Nation's Capital brings a fantastic focus to the incredible contribution our Auxiliarists make to the safety and security of America's, ports and waterways.

My wife Mary Kay and I extend our Aloha and most heartfelt wishes to you and your family for a safe and happy holiday.

Steve Budar

National Commodore