

NACO Message regarding the 66th Anniversary of the USCGAUX

As you know, last Thursday, 23 JUNE 05, marked the 66th anniversary of the formation of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. I would like to take a few moments, and I ask you to join me, in reflecting back on what things were like when our organization was formed, and compare that to where we are today.

You've probably heard the saying "the more things change, the more things remain the same." A good deal has changed in the world since our organization was founded back in 1939. Although we live in a different time, with different personnel, our challenges are similar to those faced by our fore fathers - the need to constantly recruit and train new members, the need to balance our mission priorities between safety and security, and of course, budgetary issues.

It is likely that you've also heard the saying "time marches on, but some things never change." There is much truth in that statement in that our parent organization, the United States Coast Guard, and our entire country for that matter, need our service now, perhaps more than ever before. Although our service has been around for over six and a half decades, our many missions remain critical to the safety of the recreational and commercial boating communities, and to the security of our ports, critical infrastructures, and local waterways. We must continue to undertake these various missions and do them to the best of our abilities, just as our brethren before us did.

Anniversaries are a time of reflection, to celebrate accomplishments, and rededicate one's self in those areas that need further improvement. As we enter into the long 4th of July holiday weekend – one of the busiest for our organization – I ask you to reflect back on our accomplishments (both personal and organizational), and celebrate our successes. Moreover, in those areas where we have had suboptimal results, I ask you to join me in rededicating yourself to make these areas a success by this time next year.

The bottom line is – we must remain *ready, responsive, and resolute*, in order for our organization to continue to serve our country for another 66 years.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

SEMPER PARATUS!

Gene M. Seibert

Gene M. Seibert,
National Commodore