



**THE NATIONAL COMMODORE
OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

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Dear Fellow Auxiliarists,

In September 2005, as a result of the unprecedented devastation and the resulting catastrophe created by Hurricane Katrina throughout the Gulf Coast area of Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana, we initiated Operation Life Ring to assist Auxiliary and other Coast Guard family members severely impacted by the storm. You came to their aid with heartfelt contributions of over \$125,000.00. These funds were used to assist Coast Guard Mutual Assistance in providing grants to those families in dire need. I thank you for your tremendous response and the personal caring you displayed for our family members.

Through the lessons we learned from that horrific event, we determined that our contingency planning must include provisions for the welfare of our members and their families severely impacted by such events. Operation Life Ring is now a part of our contingency planning to respond to such emergencies. While we have closed the emergency response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we are now moving forward to maintain that capability for any future responses.

June 1, 2006 marked the beginning of the hurricane season. Just this weekend, we saw the birth of the first named Tropical Storm of the season and predictions anticipate another active season. To meet challenges as they arrive, I encourage your continuing support to Operation Life Ring. One hundred percent (100%) of donations received through Operation Life Ring are specifically earmarked to provide disaster relief as it is needed. These funds are maintained in a separate account from other Auxiliary support programs. I look forward to your continuing support of Operation Life Ring so that we may meet the urgent needs of our members and Coast Guard families as they may arise.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene M. Seibert".

Gene M. Seibert
National Commodore

