# 28 Aug 2023 - 31 Aug 2023



# 54th CPOA & 22nd CGEA CONVENTION



CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



# WELCOME

Greetings and welcome to the 54th Annual CPOA Convention and the 22nd Annual CGEA Convention. Here we are in Charlotte, the heart of North Carolina, home to the NASCAR Hall of Fame, the U.S. National Whitewater Center, and the Banking Capital of the South.

This year, we are privileged to share the city with The American Legion. We look forward to sharing some content between our associations. Convention Chair, CWO Amy Ponce; YN1 Tammy Bogart; and Headquarters staff have gone all out to ensure we have a great time.

I extend a special welcome to our Gold Lifetime Members and Past Presidents in attendance. We are always grateful for your participation, mentorship, and dedication to the CPOA.

To open the festivities, I'll be hosting the President's Welcome Reception in the Hospitality Suite on Sunday evening from

1700–1800. Following the Welcome Reception, CPOA National Vice President, Senior Chief Charlie Womack (ret.), will hold a brief seminar on Parliamentary Procedures: Robert's Rules of Order from 1800–1900.

The Opening Ceremony will commence promptly at 0900 on Monday; joining us to kick off the week is none other than the 13th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, Jason M. Vanderhaden, USCG Ret. Next, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient LTC Harold A. Fritz, USA Ret., speaks at the Past Presidents/Gold Lifetime Member (GLM) luncheon. And of course, I would be remiss if I didn't mention Susan P. Ludwig, President of the Coast Guard Foundation.

Thank you for attending this Convention and for your continued support of the CPOA. You are the strength of our association. Have a great week!

Semper Paratus,

BMCS Jon Ostrowski, USCG Ret. CPOA National President





# Convention 101

### **PUNCTUALITY**

We have a short week for business, so please arrive to each work session on time.

### DRESS CODE

- \*\* During Opening Ceremonies, all Active Duty Members shall wear **Tropical Blue Long**; you are welcome to change into civilian attire (including for all General Sessions and Committee meetings) afterward.
- \*\* Dinner attire for Active Duty members is Service Dress Blue or Dinner Dress Blue; for civilians, dress jacket and tie.

### CELL PHONE POLICY

Please remember to silence your cell phone during our meetings. Should your cell phone happen to ring while we're in session, the CCCAF coffers will benefit from your generous \$20 (per incident) donation.

### HOSPITALITY SUITE

Our Hospitality Suite is open to all Association members and their guests. While we continue to observe all military customs and courtesies, all our members are entitled to enjoy the same privileges. Persons wishing to conduct official business other than Association business are requested to find another location.

# National Board of Directors



BMCS Jon Ostrowski, USCG Ret.

President

BMCS Charles Womack, USCG Ret.
Vice President

SKCM Brynn Simonetti, USCG
Treasurer

YNCM Clara Wells, USCG Ret.
Secretary

BMC Ray Amabile, USCG Ret.
Region I Advisor

ITCM Neil Garrand, USCG Region II Advisor

ITCS Rick Paauwe, USCG Ret.
Region III Advisor

### **USCG CPOA Preamble**

### Ever mindful of:

The traditions, duties, and purpose of the United States Coast Guard,

Our duty to uphold and defend the Constitution and the United States of America,

Our responsibility to assist and save distressed seamen and others,

Our responsibility in the enforcement of the laws of our Country, and

Believing that through association and mutual acquaintance, the Chief Petty Officers of the Coast Guard may:

Best advance their professional abilities,

Enhance their value, loyalty, and devotion to God, Country, and the service in which they serve,

Promote its unity and morale, domestic and militarily, through responsible leadership,

In respect for those who have gone before, and as a guide for those who follow.

# National CGEA Officers



MST1 Ian Woods, USCG
President

YN1 Tammy Bogart, USCG Ret.
Vice President

BM2 Danny Shanahan, USCG
Treasurer

AMT1 Justin Lawrence, USCG Secretary

### **USCG CGEA Preamble**

### Always remember:

As enlisted members, we must uphold the highest standards and respect the traditions of the United States Coast Guard,

Our past mentors, leaders, and the foundation they left for us to follow,

To hold ourselves and others accountable to the duties and responsibilities of our country, service, and communities,

To give encouragment to the future members and leaders of the Coast Guard,

To persuonally support and stand-by our fellow enlisted members and their families in their endeavors of joy and hardships,

To be forever appreciative for the support and guidance of the USCG Chief Petty Officers Association.





















Other sponsors and corporate partners:









Our sponsors aren't just corporate partners; they're family.
They believe in our mission to help Coast Guard families in need.

Thank you

# SUN 27 AUG

1200-1800

# Registration & Committee Sign-up

Attendees check in and pick up Convention packets. Convention Committee sign-up continues for those who wish to serve.

1700-1800

# President's Welcome Reception

CPOA President BMCS Jon Ostrowski, USCG Ret. welcomes attendees and guests with an informal reception in the Hospitality Suite. Stopy by and say hello!

1800-1830

# Parliamentary Procedures: Robert's Rules

New to Convention and Robert's Rules or just need a refresher? Join CPOA Vice President BMCS Charlie Womack, USCG Ret. and be prepared for the week ahead.





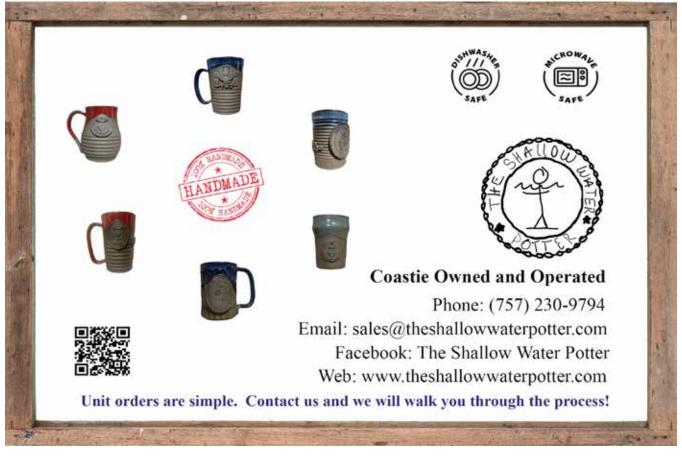
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### Learn more at fcef.com

First Command Educational Foundation (FCEF) was founded in 1983 as a private foundation supporting First Command Financial Services (FCFS) to provide financial education and scholarships to military members and their families. Over time, FCEF has grown and evolved to adapt to evolving financial challenges facing military servicemembers.

Since 2006, First Command Educational Foundation has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity in the state of Texas and has operated independently of FCFS and its subsidiaries. First Command Educational Foundation is governed by our own board of directors, chief executive officer and president. Our commitment to "educate those who serve" through financial education training, literature, tools, and scholarships remains unwavering. Our educational programs provide individuals and families tools and knowledge to be fiscally responsible and financially stable.







https://www.coastguardfoundation.org

The Coast Guard Foundation is committed to getting all members and their families the resources they need to build resilience throughout their lives. Founded in 1969, we're a vital partner to the Coast Guard—tackling the toughest challenges confronting our heroes. We're there for members from enlistment to long after retirement, and our work strengthens the entire community. Through close collaboration with Coast Guard leadership, we're able to respond to new and emerging needs effectively. Our investments support families, bolster unit morale, honor the Coast Guard's mission at the national level, and more.



# Gold Lifetime Nominee

For over 17 years, CWO Mark T. Tahtinen has been a proud member of the CPOA, never hesitating to lend his time and expertise to the association.

On 23 May 2012, then-CPO Tahtinen assumed the duties as the CPOA's National Treasurer, serving until August 2021. It is an understatement to say he walked into a trial by fire. The National Board of Directors (BOD) conducted a thorough review of the CPOA's financial situation in May 2012 and discovered no record of annual audits ever having been performed, years of overpayments & underreporting of wage compensation provided to CPOA employees, as well as a variety of IRS difficulties. In addition, he worked with the then-new Executive Director to modernize the association's accounting system and implement various controls to guard against any single point of failure. These issues served to occupy much of the BOD's first two years in office, and without CWO Tahtinen's expertise and guidance, resolving these and other financial problems would have been next to impossible.

CWO Tahtinen has been an active member at the Chapter level: Hawaiian Islands, Galveston (serving as President, Vice President, and Treasurer), Low Country, Hampton Roads and currently Mobile Chapter. His support of his community extends well beyond his work with the CPOA. He has participated in the Annual Houston Chiefs Mess "Chiefs Giving Lunch," preparing and serving Thanksgiving

meals for Sector Houston/MSST Houston members, and worked as a volunteer to clean up downed trees and repair buildings after the 2021 Gulf Coast storms. He currently volunteers with the Gulf Coast and Greater Mobile Area Chiefs Mess, cleaning up and identifying grave sites on over twenty acres of the Oaklawn Cemetery—historically important, as the Cemetery holds the remains of more than 2,000 Veterans dating back into the 1800's. CWO Tahtinen is a member of VFW Post 4010 in Missouri City, TX (serving as a Trustee from 2017 and reelected through 2024), and a member of the American Legion Post 146 in Houston, TX. In further service to our Association, CWO Tahtinen assumed the position of Treasurer for the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Foundation in January 2023, volunteering his time and expertise to this very worthwhile organization.

CWO Tahtinen is a proud member of the CPOA, exemplifying the motto, "Once a Chief, Always a Chief." CWO Tahtinen has always answered the call to serve the Coast Guard and our Association. CWO Tahtinen's dedication to our Association and our Service is unmatched and we are honored to have him join us as a fellow Gold Lifetime Member.

# MON 28 AUG

0900-1015
Opening Ceremony

Keynote speaker Jason M. Vanderhaden, USCG Ret., 13th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, joins us as we officially open Convention Week.

# 1015-1045 Gold Lifetime Member Ceremony

Please join us as we welcome CWO4 Mark T. Tahtinen into this select group of members who have truly gone above and beyond in service to the CPOA.



# 1045-1115 Photo Session; Break for Lunch

Be sure to look sharp for our professional photo session—you just might show up in *The Chief*!

Looking for lunch? A hip update on The Diamond Restaurant is located at 1901 Commonwealth Ave; the RedEye Diner at 210 E Trade St features typical American comfort food 24/7. In the mood for Southern eats with a more rustic vibe? Check out Rooster's Wood-fired Kitchen at 150 N College St.

# Special Guests



Jason M. Vanderhaden

MCPO, USCG Ret.

# 0900-1015 *MCPOCG XIII*

As MCPOCG, Master Chief Vanderhaden served as the principal advisor to the Commandant of the Coast Guard on all enlisted personnel matters.



Harold A. Fritz
LTC, USA Ret.

# 1215-1330 Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient

While serving as a platoon leader, then-Captain Fritz distinguished himself when he was severely wounded during an attack in Vietnam and risked his life beyond the call of duty to save his men.



Susan P. Ludwig

President

1500-1515 Coast Guard Foundation

Susan leads the organization towards a future where all Coast Guard members and their families have the support they need to be prepared for service, build resilience, and excel throughout their lives.

MON 28 AUG cont'd. 1215-1330

Past Presidents/GLM Luncheon

We're honored to have LTC Harold "Hal" A. Fritz, USA Ret., Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, join us as we celebrate our distinguished past presidents and Gold Lifetime members.

1330-1500

General Session

Association business.

1500-1515

Coast Guard Foundation

**Susan P. Ludwig** joins us to talk about the Coast Guard Foundation and its work.

1515-1700

General Session

Association business continues.

# HONORING HEROES. EMPOWERING FAMILIES. SUPPORTING THOSE WHO PROTECT OUR NATION.





The **Coast Guard Foundation** is a vital partner to the Coast Guard—tackling the toughest challenges confronting our heroes and strengthening the entire community. **Join us today.** 

# TUES 29 AUG

0800-1200

# General Session; Convention Committees

Association business continues; Convention Committees break out to work.

1200-1300

### Lunch: First Command Presentation

Representatives from First Command discuss their services and take your questions.

1300-1700

# Community Service Projects

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Charlotte mission is to embrace families of sick or injured children by providing the comfort and support of home during their greatest time of need.

Hospitality House of Charlotte offers equitable and accessible lodging to families throughout difficult medical journeys.

Volunteers will be involved in meal preparation and light housekeeping, and yard work and maintenance details are available at Hospitality House. Want to volunteer, but didn't sign up yet? Please see YN1 Tammy Bogart for details.

# WEDS 30 AUG

0900-1100

Senior Enlisted & Gold Panel

**Deputy MCPOCG Charlie F. Salls** hosts an informal Q & A session with command leadership.

1100-1130

General Session: Committee Reports

Association business continues as Convention Committees begin sharing the results of their work for approval.

1130-1300

Break for Lunch

1300-1630

General Session: Committee Reports

Convention Committees continue sharing the results of their work for approval.

1800-2130

CPOA Dinner

VADM Kevin E. Lunday, Commander, LANTAREA joins us as the evening keynote during our annual dinner.

# Senior Enlisted & Gold Panel



# Deputy MCPOCG Charlie F. Salls

Master Chief Salls serves as the program manager for the Coast Guard's Senior Enlisted Leader Program, and in that capacity acts as the personal advisor to the MCPOCG and the Vice Commandant on a host of issues related to matters that directly affect the enlisted cadre's health, well-being, morale, and performance.



### DOL

# CMC Henry J. Audette, Jr.

Master Chief Audette assumed the duties of Command Master Chief for Joint Interagency Task Force South on June 4, 2020. He most recently served as Command Master Chief at Sector Key West, Fla.



**LANT** 

# CMC Jeremy P. DeMello

The senior enlisted advisor, Master Chief DeMello advises on workforce policies, provides enlisted mentoring and acts as the sounding board for select administrative actions and initiatives relative to the day-to-day operations of the District.

# Senior Enlisted & Gold Panel



# CMC Marques Johnson

Master Chief Johnson assumed the duties as Command Master Chief for the 8th Coast Guard District in August 2019. His primary responsibility is to advise the 8th Coast Guard District Commander on issues and initiatives pertaining to all Coast Guard members and their families throughout the district, encompassing 26 states.

**PSC** 



# CMC Ann M. Logan

Master Chief Logan most recently served as the Command Master Chief for the Director of Operational Logistics in Norfolk, VA. She previously served as the Command Master Chief for the Coast Guard Aviation Logistics Center in Elizabeth City, NC. During this tour, she also temporarily served as the Command Master Chief for the Aviation Technical Training Center.

HQ



### CMC Lucas M. Pullen

Master Chief Pullen assumed the duties as the Command Master Chief of Pacific Area on 25 May 2021 where he serves as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for all U.S. Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains to waters off the East Coast of Africa, encompassing four Coast Guard Districts.

**PAC** 



### **BALDWIN POST #246**

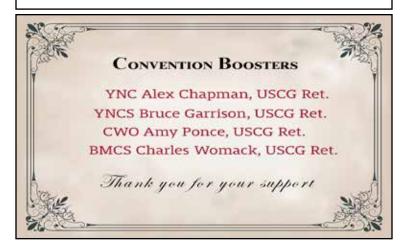
AMERICAN LEGION

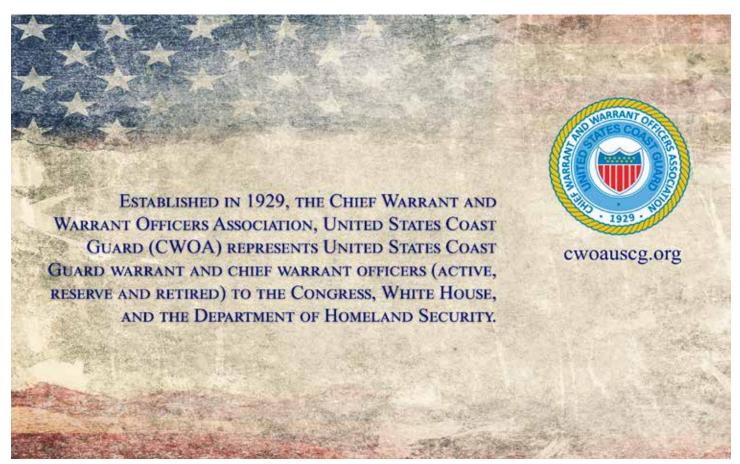
# ROBERT S. HARE Commander

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Post E-mail: baldwin.post.246\_AmerLegn@aol.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion.BaldwinNY.Post246/







# THURS 31 AUG

0900-1000

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and Sea Service Family Foundation

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, and the Sea Service Family Foundation give brief presentations followed by a Q & A session.

1000-1130

General Session: Committee Reports

Convention Committees continue sharing the results of their work for approval.

1130-1230

Lunch

1230-1400

Closing Ceremony

## Crossed the Bar

Bolded italicized names = Silver Lifetime members

CWO2 Richard G. Abel **QMCS Gary H. Abraham** ETCS Barry A. Abrams YNC Michael B. Adams LCDR Cassandra M. Albaugh MKCM Cleo H. Alley RDCS Jesse R. Anderson CWO3 William F. Andres, Jr. SSCM John T. Angotti CWO4 Lawrence P. Antonucci MKCS Paul C. Barron BMCM Wayne M. Bauer SSC Benedicto L. Baxa SKCM John F. Belcher SKCS Paul G. Bernard BMCM David P. Bichrest YNCM Edward I. Bjork SKC Ralph L. Blackford RMC Eugene A. Bober BMCM Bruce A. Bordeau CWO2 Alan J. Borgo CWO4 William I. Bosley SSC Ruben G. Bostillo YNC John R. Bowles DCC Tracy C. Brown EMCS Robert L. Brutcher YNCS Herbert W. Buckley MKC William E. Buffaloe CWO4 Peter F. Burdett RMC Stephen S. Butler RMCM David C. Cabe MKC Burnell L. Carstens YNC John A. Cassel **AECM Richard L. Ceballos** ETC Joe N. Childs AMCS Kenneth M. Christian **OMC Delmond Clark** CWO3 Stephen W. Corcoran CWO Lester C. Cornwell, Jr. EMCM John H. Costello

MKCS Bruce Cowell EMC Michael Carlyle Cox **BMC Eugene Daisey** YNC Michael G. Decker BMCM Louis J. Dedo YNCM Antone P. DeMello, Jr. ASMCS Neal D. Denton CWO4 Kenneth E. Derrick, Ir. TCCS James D. Dixon ETCS Robert A. Dixon BMCM John E. Downey DCCS Frank A. Drabel, Jr. BMC Laurence J. Drozdowski BMCM Jean B. DuBois MKC Henry D. Ducommun ASMCM Charlie J. Dugan, Jr. MKCS Charles B. Eastwood BM1 William D. Edge PSCS Martin J. Fetzer MK1 Peter J. Fitzpatrick II STCM David A. Frietsch GMC William L. Fuhlrodt BMCS Lynn M. Fuller SSC Lamberto M. Galman BMCM Edward W. Ganis, Sr. SSC Romeo P. Garcia MKC Louis R. Gasper BMC Anthony L. Gibson YNCM Burl E. Gibson SKC Edward L. Gies CWO4 Scott D. Gilbert MSgt John B. Grace, USMC Ret. CWO4 Randolph O. Grady BMC James M. Green SSC Sidney J. Green BMCS Johnie V. Greenwell DCCM James H. Grimberg ETCM Jimmy R. Gunn BMCS Dale E. Halsey

**ADCM Russel Hamblett** 

RDCS Julian T Hardy II YNC Donald L. Hardy GMCM John F. Hare CWO4 Carl R. Harlan DCC Richard G. Harold PSCM William S. Harrington CWO4 David W. Hatton YNCS Michael R. Haupert **BMCM Larry Haydon** BMC Richard N. Hayles BMC Robert W. Helbig MKCS Charles F. Henderson ATC Robert D. Hicks CWO4 Robert N. Hildebrand QMC H. B. Horrell ATC William D. Johnson BMCM Duane L. Jones CWO4 Walter L. Jones SKC Richard T. Kearns CPO Victor E. Kennedy, Jr. RMC Ralph E. King HMC Robert D. Knox RMC Earl J. Landry CWO3 Derek R. Lane **PSCM Ronald L. Large** MKC James H. Larson, Jr. **ADC Jacques Leitner** LCDR Garland M. Lewis CWO4 Joe B. Lindsey MSTC David D. Lockhart CWO3 Joseph J. Loiseau AMTCM John H. Long SSC Miguel M. Lumbag RMC William Lynch, Jr. BMC Bert L. Major BMC Endem M. Manabat MKCM Raymond C. Markee **PSCS Robert F. Martin** SSC Edward B. Matthews

BMC Craig W. McCalister

Special Mariner's 23 Psalm The Lord is thy pilot, you shall not go adrift; He lighteth your passage across dark channels; And steereth you through the deep waters. He keepeth your log. He guideth you by the evening star, for safety's sake. Yea, though you sail midst the thunders and tempests of life, You shall fear no peril, for the lord is with you. Thy heaven above doth comfort you. And the vastness of His Sea upholds you. Surely fair winds and safe harbors shall be found all the days of thy life; and wrapped in God's welcoming love, you shall reach home port, Secure forever. Amen.

SKC Ronald G. McCray CWO2 Vernon McGee **FSCM James McGrath** HM3 Charles H. McWilliams MKC Wayne A. Meckel FICM Richard D. Medeiros MKC Leo R. Midgett BMCM J. G. Millwood ADC Van A. Mondier IV2 Thomas A. Morton ETC John E. Moser RMC Glenn A. Mushett BMC Jack R. Nebergall **RMC Gerald Oberfranc** YNC Emma G. Osman **BMC William Ottow** QMC Larry D. Pace CDR Mark S. Palmer AT1 Raymond D. Parks ETCM Robert D. Paul SKC William E. Pavone **BMCM Joseph Pittman BMC Charles W. Prickett** AMCS Kenneth J. Puchalski SKCS Eduardo Quinto MKCS Jesse T. Rainwater DCC Thomas C. Rasmus **BMCM Donald Read** CWO4 Clarence C. Rice ET1 Roman E. Robakiewicz CWO4 James C. Roberts MKC Lyle M. Robinson BMCM Jack H. Rochester BMCM Floyd L. Rollings DCCS Edward W. Ronaghan SSC SSC Rolando G. Rondero **EMC Metro Sabol** SSC Richard F. Sadler CWO4 Richard A. Sambenedetto, Jr. CWO2 Craig M. Sandy

TCCM Fournier Robert Sant SKC Clyde A. Schendzielos **PSCM Robert A. Schultz** RMC Jimmie A. Sellers CWO3 Alexander J. Sherrer BMC James R. Shiffer LT James F. Sinkula **BMC Edward Sivits** SSC Earl F. Smith, Jr. MK1 Thomas A. Snider DCC John A. Soltis **BMC George Staples EMCS** Benjamin Starinsky BMC George E. Steinhardt AE1 James L. Surber CWO3 Edwin Swanigan **ENC Willard Swanson** MKC Leon L. Tellinghuisen DC1 Theodore F. Thompson MKC Thomas G. Thrush SKC David F. Tibbetts EMC Lynwood K. Turlington FSCS Richard L. Turner MKC Samuel J. Tuttle AM3 Corky F. Usrey MKC Richard Van Caster BMCS Mondel N. Watkins BMCS Robert A. White RMC Donald D Wilbert ADC Zeb M. Wilcox **HMC Lavern Wildes** ITC Kevin L. Williams BMC David A. Womelsdorff ENCS Harry M. Yarborough SSC Roy S. Yoshikawa **ADC Charles Young** MKC Thomas E. Zagorski RDC Daniel J. Zapata MKCS John S. Zarzycki

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning
of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,

Too full for sound and foam,

When that which drew from out the boundless deep Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of
Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to
face
When I have crost the bar.

Lord Alfred Tennyson



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