



U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

February Daily Chronology of Coast Guard History

1 February

- 1871- Using his administrative authority Secretary of the Treasury George S. Boutwell re-established a Revenue Marine Bureau within the Department and assigned Sumner I. Kimball as the civilian Chief. Kimball's duties included administering both the revenue cutters, which were then under the control of the local Collectors, and the life-saving stations.
- 1938- The Lighthouse Service Radio Laboratory was moved from the shops of the lighthouse depot in Detroit, Michigan, "to the Lazaretto Lighthouse Depot in Baltimore, Md., where a building had been constructed providing more adequately for this Important branch of the work of the Service."
- 1942- Enlistees after this date were restricted to enlistment in the Coast Guard Reserve. This was done to prevent having too many regulars in the service at the end of World War II
- 1944- Coast Guardsmen participated in the invasion of Namur Island, Kwajalein Atoll.
- 1963-The Coast Guard's "newest" helicopter, the Sikorsky HH-52, performed its first rescue. On 1 February 1963 the F/V *Enterprize* sank after colliding with ice off Hyannis, Massachusetts. The two crewman of the vessel abandoned and sought safety on the ice. After a 63-mile flight, 56 of which were over water at night, the aircraft commander, LT R. A. Johannsen, landed the HH-52A (CG-1352) on the ice and made the rescue.

2 February

- 1944- Coast Guardsmen participated in the landings at Saldor, New Guinea.
- 2014-The Coast Guard and Navy completed a joint mission in the Central and South Pacific under an agreement between the services to enforce fisheries laws and enhance regional security 7 January to 2 February 2014. The partnership supported the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative, a Secretary of Defense program, which leverages Department of Defense assets transiting the region to increase the Coast Guard's maritime domain awareness, ultimately supporting its maritime law enforcement operations in Oceania. As part of Operation Persistent Presence and in conjunction with NOAA, a Coast Guard law enforcement team embarked the *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer USS *Kidd* in San Diego to conduct law enforcement boardings while the vessel was in transit. The Coast Guard-Navy team, including the two embarked MH-60R helicopters from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 78, conducted 46 external visual inspections and 13 boardings with internal inspections of fishing vessels across two separate jurisdictional areas in the Marshall Islands and Nauru exclusive economic zones.

3 February

- 1801- Treaty of peace with France was ratified on this date, thereby ending the "Quasi-War," in which cutters of the Revenue Marine had rendered valiant service.
- 1880- Date of a terrific gale on the New Jersey coast. Six vessels came ashore with 47 persons on board all but two survived. Nineteen Life-Saving Service crewmen were



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awarded Gold Life-Saving Medals during the rescue of the persons aboard the wrecked *George Taulane*.

- 1943- A U-boat torpedoed the transport USS *Dorchester* off the coast of Greenland. Two of her escorts, CGCs *Comanche* and *Escanaba*, responded. The crew of *Escanaba* used a new rescue technique when pulling survivors from the water. This "retriever" technique used swimmers clad in wet suits to swim to victims in the water and secure a line to them so they could then be hauled onto the ship. Although *Escanaba* saved 133 men (one later died) and *Comanche* saved 97, over 600 men were lost, including the famous "Four Chaplains" who gave up their lifejackets to those that did not have one and all four went down with the ship.
- 1976-The Coast Guard Academy first announced the appointments of 50 cadets to enter with the Class of 1980, including three women: Cathryn Lis of Bristol, CT; Susan Kollmeyer of Groton, CT; & Cynthia Snead of Melbourne, FL. The Coast Guard News Release published on 4 February 1976 regarding their announcement noted that: "Of the four largest federal service academies (Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard) the Coast Guard Academy is the first to offer an appointment to a woman." (USCG News Release No. 7-76; 4 February 1976).
- 1997-The 660-foot freighter *Contship Houston* ran aground on a coral reef 12 miles southeast of Key West in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The vessel, under Coast Guard supervision, was safely floated off the reef some 144 hours later.

4 February

- 1859-The United States signed the "Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation" with Paraguay at Asuncion after the revenue cutter *Harriet Lane*, as part of a U.S. Navy expedition, forced the opening of the Paraguay and Parana Rivers.
- 1863-Commissioned officers of the Revenue Cutter Service were to be appointed by the President by and with advice and consent of the Senate. This act contained the first statutory use of term "Revenue Cutter Service." Previous laws referred only to "revenue cutters".
- 1881: Keeper Ida Lewis, the head keeper of the Lime Rock Lighthouse, rescued two soldiers from Fort Adams who had fallen through the ice "at the imminent risk of Mrs. Lewis-Wilson's life." For her heroic actions she was awarded a Gold Lifesaving Medal. She was officially credited with saving 13 persons during her distinguished career with the U.S. Lighthouse Service "and it is understood that the number was probably much greater."
- 1982- Attorney General William Smith declared at a press conference that *Operation Tiburon* was "the most successful international marijuana interdiction effort to date." The operation began in November, 1980, and accounted for the seizure of 95 vessels. It was a combined operation that included elements of the Coast Guard, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Customs Service and various state and local law enforcement agencies.
- 1999- The 639-foot freighter *New Carissa* ran aground north of Coos Bay, Oregon. Coast Guard helicopter crews rescued 23 crewmembers but the vessel remained firmly aground and attempts to refloat her failed. A unified command made up of Coast Guard and Navy personnel as well as marine salvors attempted to prevent a catastrophic oil spill as the ship began breaking apart. The team decided to set the oil on board the *New*



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Carissa on fire so it would burn away before being spilled and fouling the shore. It was the largest "in situ" burn ever tried in U.S. waters and it consumed a significant amount of the oil aboard the *New Carissa*. The Coast Guard's annual report for that year noted: "While some oil did spill out of the vessel, the unified command's efforts greatly reduced the potential environmental damage to the Oregon coast." The ship eventually broke in two and her bow section was towed to sea and sunk by the Navy.

- 2014-CGC *Diligence* returned to its home-port of Wilmington, North Carolina, after completing a 49-day patrol in the North Atlantic Ocean in support of Operation Atlantic Venture. The combined efforts of *Diligence* and the other Coast Guard assets involved in the operation resulted in nearly 75 vessel inspections that identified numerous violations of federal safety and fisheries regulations.

5 February

- 1882- The schooner *Mary L. Vankirk*, bound for Philadelphia from South Creek, Pamlico Sound, NC. carrying a crew of five men, encountered heavy weather. She lost sails and sprung a leak, so that before long she became water-logged and almost unmanageable. In this condition it was determined to run to leeward and seek refuge in Hatteras Inlet. Matters, however, became worse and it was decided to beach the vessel. She was discovered heading for the land by the crew of Station No. 18, Sixth District (Chicamomicono, NC). The surfboat was run out, but the life-saving crew returned to the station for the breeches-buoy apparatus. The latter arrived abreast of the schooner at 8:15, fifteen minutes after she struck the bar about half a mile north of the station. The schooner was so close that the keeper was able to wade out into the water and cast a heaving-line to those huddled in the rigging. As quickly as possible, the men in the rigging hauled off the whip-line. The breeches-buoy was soon rigged and went spinning out to the vessel. All five men were safely landed.
- 1946- Four Coast Guardsmen from Willapa Harbor Lifeboat Station perished in the line of duty while searching for two crab fishermen feared lost in Willapa Bay. The men were: BMC Joseph W. Miller, USCG; MM 1/c Gelyod J. Simmons, USCG; Coxswain James R. Graves, USCG; S 1/c Howard W. Hampton, USCG.
- 1973-The position of Senior Coast Guard Officer-Vietnam (SCGOV) was disestablished.
- 1975-The Coast Guard commissioned the Houston-Galveston Vessel Traffic System, the third VTS to be "implemented by the Coast Guard on a major waterway of the U.S."

6 February

- 1893- Secretary of Treasury was authorized to define and establish anchorage grounds for vessels in harbor of Chicago and adjacent waters of Lake Michigan.
- 1942- CGC *Nike* rescued 38 persons from SS *China Arrow* which had been torpedoed off Ocean City, Maryland.
- 1978-Coast Guard units from the First and Third Districts responded to a severe winter storm in New England, including stations providing shelter to displaced families and Coast Guard four-wheel drive vehicles serving as ambulances while an amphibious vehicle was the only means of transportation from the mainland from Sandy Hook, New Jersey, transporting nine people to safety from flooded areas. A 682-foot tanker Global Hope went aground in Salem Sound, Massachusetts, and an HH-3F from Air Station



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Cape Cod arrived on scene followed by CGC Decisive which removed 28 of the 32 persons on board, with four left aboard to assist in salvage and pollution control.

- 1990- Two Coast Guard Air Station Houston crews were the first to receive the Igor I. Sikorsky Award for Humanitarian Service. The award was presented by the Helicopter Association International at their Dallas convention. The crews were honored for their rescue of seven fishermen during Hurricane Chantal last year. They flew through driving rain, winds in excess of 65 miles-per-hour, thunderstorms and squalls to rescue the men from their capsized boat.
- 1996- Alas Nacionales Airlines Flight 301 crashed off the Dominican Republic and Coast Guard units conducted search and rescue operations.
- 1996- Coast Guard units responded to calls of assistance due to severe flooding throughout the Pacific Northwest.

7 February

- 1914-Pursuant to the Convention for Safety at Sea in London, President Woodrow Wilson directed that the Revenue Cutter Service undertake the task of manning the International Ice Patrol. Henceforth, the Revenue Cutter Service and then the Coast Guard, with brief respites during both World Wars, served in this capacity, a traditional mission still undertaken to this day.
- 1942- Presidential order created the War Shipping Administration. The WSA assumed control over all phases of merchant marine activities, including training, which the Coast Guard had been conducting the training since 1938.
- 1943-During a fierce convoy battle near Greenland, CGC *Ingham* rescued 33 survivors from the torpedoed troopship SS *Henry Mallory* while CGC *Bibb* rescued 202. *Bibb* then rescued 33 from the torpedoed SS *Kalliopi*.
- 1969-CGC *Tern*, commissioned on this date and stationed in New York, embodied an advanced concept in servicing aids to navigation. Her over-the-stern gantry system of handling buoys was unique. The automation and modernization of over-age, isolated lighthouses and light stations showed significant progress this year. A new, more effective version of the LAMP (Lighthouse Automation and Modernization Project) plan was promulgated in this year as well.
- 1980-CGC *Cape Horn* saved all six crewmen of the F/V *Hattie Rose* in a dramatic night-time rescue. The *Hattie Rose*, a Gloucester-based 75-foot stern trawler, began taking on water in 25-foot seas and 45-knot winds, 15 miles east of Provincetown. Sea and wind conditions prevented a rescue by air and so the *Cape Horn*, under the command of LTJG William L. Ross, and 11 crewmen, diverted from one SAR case to go to the *Hattie Rose's* assistance. The F/V *Paul and Dominic*, standing nearby the stricken vessel, helped direct the cutter to the area. The *Cape Horn's* crew got a line to the men, now standing on the bow which was still afloat, and pulled four of the crew to safety aboard the cutter. The line parted, however, and the two remaining fishermen began drifting away, but two of the *Cape Horn's* crew, Duncan Grant and Thomas Jennings, leaped into the 35-degree water and secured a line around the two. They were all then hauled safely aboard.

8 February



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- 1958-A U.S. Navy P5M aircraft enroute from San Juan to Norfolk lost one engine and changed course to the island of San Salvador, British West Indies, to attempt a night ditching. AIRSTA Miami sent up a Coast Guard UF amphibian plane, later reinforced by a second amphibian. After contacting the disabled Navy plane, the pilot of the first amphibian talked the Navy pilot out of attempting to ditch without benefit of illumination and alerted the commanding officer of the Coast Guard LORAN station on San Salvador for assistance after ditching. In true Coast Guard tradition, the LORAN station's CO borrowed a truck and an 18-foot boat to assist. The commanding officer managed to be on the scene 1-1/2 miles offshore, when the Navy P5M landed with two minutes of fuel remaining. While one of the amphibians provided additional illumination, the Navy plane was guided through a dangerous reef to a mooring, using her operative port engine. There were no casualties.
- 2007-CGC *Storis* was decommissioned after 64 years of service.
- 2015-CGC *Alex Haley* returned to Kodiak, Alaska, following a successful 70-day deployment patrolling more than 10,800 miles throughout the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. *Alex Haley*, known as the "Bulldog of the Bering," departed Kodiak on 1 December 2014 and spent 70 days conducting law enforcement and community outreach operations in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. During the deployment, *Alex Haley's* crew performed 41 at sea domestic fisheries enforcement boardings and covered more than 5,000 square miles in search efforts for the sunken Korean fishing vessel *501 Oryong*.

9 February

- Chief Boatswain (L) John Allen Midgett, Commanding Officer of Station Chicamacomico, died in the U.S. Marine Hospital in Norfolk, VA, from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident on 23 January 1938. Chief Midgett was the hero of the 1918 *Mirlo* rescue for which he was awarded a Gold Lifesaving Medal.
- 1965-A commercial DC-7 with 84 persons on board exploded in midair off Jones Beach, Long Island. Despite an extensive search by seven Coast Guard cutters, six Coast Guard aircraft, and a U.S. Navy tug, no survivors were located. Only nine bodies and various pieces of debris were located and recovered.
- 1968-Coast Guard cutters *Androscoggin*, *Minnetonka*, and *Winona*, along with 82-footers and Navy assets, on patrol in Vietnamese waters, thwarted a Communist attempt to run four trawlers through the *Market Time* blockade off the coast of South Vietnam. The cutters sank three of the trawlers and forced the fourth to return to Hainan Island without landing her cargo. The defeat of this attempted re-supply was hailed as "the most significant naval victory of the Vietnam campaign."
- 2010-CGC *Alex Haley* rescued a 28-member crew from the disabled fishing vessel *Hou Chun 11* 900 miles southwest of Honolulu. Corpsmen aboard the cutter treated two of the crewmembers who suffered severe burns. The crew of the cutter *Alex Haley* sailed to Christmas Island, Kiribati, where the two burn victims were medevaced by a Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules based out of AIRSTA Barbers Point. The remaining 26 were transported ashore for transport to a vessel that returned them to Taiwan.

10 February



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- 1840- A House resolution was introduced to inquire into transferring the Revenue Marine to the Navy.
- 1938-CGC *Tahoe* departed New Bedford, MA, to inaugurate the 1938 "International Ice Observation Service" (now referred to as the International Ice Patrol).
- 1940-CGCs *Bibb* and *Duane* inaugurated the Coast Guard's participation in the nation's manned ocean station program when they took their positions on Ocean Stations No. 1 and 2 in the North Atlantic on this date in 1940. They also became the first vessels to make radio transmissions as "weather stations."
- 1992- Retired Coast Guard Chief Journalist Alex Haley, internationally noted author, crossed the bar.
- 1995-The 689-foot tank ship *Mormac Star*, carrying more than 4.7 million gallons of Jet A fuel and nearly 5.7 million gallons of number 2 diesel fuel, ran aground in Sandy Hook Channel, two miles off the beaches of Sandy Hook, New Jersey, spilling 33,600 gallons. COTP New York responded. Other responding units included Stations New York and Sandy Hook, VTS New York, and the Atlantic Area Strike Team. The spill was successfully contained and the vessel salvaged.

11 February

- 1973-Due to the draw-down of U.S. forces in South Vietnam the post of Senior Coast Guard Officer, Vietnam, was discontinued.
- 2009-Miami-based LEDET 405, operating as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 and conducting counter-piracy operations aboard USS *Vella Gulf* (CG-72) and USS *Mahan* (DDG-72) in the Gulf of Aden, assisted in the apprehension of 16 suspected pirates in a 24-hour period.
- 2014-The Coast Guard awarded three firm fixed-price contracts for preliminary and contract design for the Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) acquisition project. The contracts were awarded to Bollinger Shipyards Lockport LLC (Lockport, Louisiana), Eastern Shipbuilding Group Inc. (Panama City, Florida), and General Dynamics, Bath Iron Works (Bath, Maine). The OPC would fill Coast Guard and DHS offshore mission requirements and provide capabilities between the Coast Guard's Fast Response Cutter and National Security Cutter, while replacing the aging 210-foot and 270-foot medium endurance cutters.
- 2015-CGC *Valiant* returned home to Naval Station Mayport Wednesday, after completing a six-week deployment in the Florida Straits and Eastern Caribbean Sea in support of operations Southeast Watch and Unified Resolve. *Valiant* responded to a surge of illegal migration attempts in the Florida Straits following the U.S. government announcement to normalize relations with Cuba. The cutter humanely processed and cared for 160 Cuban migrants in a one-week period. *Valiant* also boarded and towed a coastal freighter following its failed attempt to deliver more than 1,000 kilograms of cocaine into Puerto Rico. *Valiant's* crewmembers conducted a search of the vessel, took custody of its crew, and towed the freighter over 120 miles to Ponce, Puerto Rico, where it was transferred to Homeland Security Investigations and Border Patrol authorities. The freighter's crew was turned over for prosecution in federal court. During the cutter's logistics stop in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the crew took time to visit two orphanages that care for infants and primary school children. The crew distributed more than 200 new



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toys they brought with them from Mayport and spent two afternoons playing with the children.

12 February

- 1802-Revenue Marine had a total of 38 commissioned officers in service: 9 captains, 10 first mates, 9 second mates and 10 third mates.
- 1983-The 605-foot collier *Marine Electric* capsized and sank off Virginia during a gale. Three of the 34 crewmen on board were rescued by Coast Guard and Navy assets. This sinking and consequent loss of life contributed to the establishment of a permanent rescue swimmer program for the Coast Guard.
- 1986- Rains began in northern California that lasted for a week, causing severe flooding. Coast Guard units participated in rescue and relief operations.
- 1997- Three of four crewmembers of *MLB-44363* out of the Quillayute River Motor Lifeboat Station were lost in the line of duty when they responded to a distress call from the sailing vessel *Gale Runner*. They were BM2 David A. Bosley, MK3 Matthew E. Schlimme, and SN Clinton P. Miniken.

13 February

- 1960- A Coast Guard R5D aircraft from Honolulu dropped a pump to the Japanese training vessel *Toyama Maru*, which had radioed that it was taking on water and was in danger of sinking off Palmyra Island. The pump controlled flooding until the arrival of CGC *Bering Strait*, whose crew made repairs to the Japanese vessel, using 2,500 pounds of sand and cement parachuted by a Honolulu-based SC-130B plane.
- 1963-The Bureau of Customs requested Coast Guard assistance to search the M/V *Holland Diepe* in Tacoma, Washington, for narcotics. Narcotics agents had previously apprehended three Chinese crew members of the vessel in a Seattle hotel. COTP-Seattle provided a search party of two officers and eight enlisted men, who joined with 10 Customs agents. Two-man teams searched assigned areas of the vessel. A first search of seven hours uncovered a considerable quantity of raw opium. The search party then departed, as if the search were ended, but 45 minutes later they boarded the vessel once more, lined up the crew in the mess hall, and searched them and the ship again. This search, lasting three hours, uncovered more opium, both raw and prepared for smoking, a small quantity of heroin, and several opium pipes. A total of six pounds of opium was seized. WPB 82336 conducted waterside surveillance during the search.
- 1969-The National Transportation Safety Board issued its "Study of Recreational Boat Accidents, Boating Safety Programs, and Preventive Recommendations".
- 1991- During Operation Desert Storm, two HU-25A Falcon jets from Air Station Cape Cod, equipped with AIREYE technology, departed for Saudi Arabia for service with the Inter-agency oil spill assessment team. They were accompanied in flight by two C-130 aircraft from Air Station Clearwater carrying spare parts and deployment packages.

14 February

- 1903- An Act of Congress (31 Stat. L., 825, 826, 827) that created the Department of Commerce and Labor provided for the transfer of the Lighthouse Service and the Steamboat Inspection Service from the Treasury Department. This allowed the



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Secretary of Commerce and Labor to succeed to the authority vested in the Secretary of the Treasury under the existing legislation.

- 2016-CGC *Campbell* returned to its homeport at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, following a 61-day counter narcotics patrol of the Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific Ocean. In the span of one month *Campbell* seized or disrupted a total of seven smuggling vessels carrying cocaine from South America bound for the United States. The amount of cocaine seized was estimated to be 4,800 pounds and worth more than \$80 million dollars. In addition, *Campbell's* crew rescued eight Cuban migrants attempting to sail from Cuba to the United States in an unseaworthy vessel. *Campbell* deployed in support of the Joint-Interagency Task Force-South, which is in an international operation to disrupt the transportation of narcotics. In doing so, *Campbell* worked with air, land, and naval assets from the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as Western Hemisphere partner agencies, to counter drug trafficking.

15 February

- 1911-Congress transferred Fort Trumbull, New London, Connecticut from the War Department to the Treasury Department for the use of the Revenue Cutter Service as its cadet training school.
- 1943-CGC *Calypso* removed 42 persons from a lifeboat from the torpedoed vessel SS *Buarque* (Brazil) east of Cape Henry.
- 1980-The 70-foot fishing vessel *Donna Catalina* sank 40 miles south of Nantucket Island. After pumps lowered to the four-man crew failed to keep up with the flooding, a Coast Guard helicopter lifted the fishing vessel's crew to safety.
- 2015-CGC *Polar Star* successfully rescued the Australian-flagged F/V *Antarctic Chieftain* which had been trapped in Antarctic ice 900-miles northeast of McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, for nearly two weeks. The rescue operation spanned more than 860 miles and required *Polar Star* to break through 150 miles of thick Antarctic ice and navigate around icebergs that were miles wide. *Antarctic Chieftain* damaged three of its four propeller blades in the ice, which required *Polar Star* to tow the vessel through about 60-miles of ice into open water. Towing the 207-foot fishing vessel through heavy ice placed varying strain on the tow line, which broke three times during the rescue mission. Once in open water, *Antarctic Chieftain* was able to maneuver under its own power. The crew of F/V *Janas* escorted *Antarctic Chieftain* to Nelson, New Zealand. *Polar Star* reached the crew of the fishing vessel 13 February after traveling across more than 150 miles of ice. The fishermen requested assistance from Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand Tuesday evening after becoming trapped in the ice. RCC New Zealand requested CGC *Polar Star*, homeported in Seattle, to respond to *Antarctic Chieftain's* request for assistance. *Polar Star* was deployed to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, as part of Operation Deep Freeze. After the successful rescue, *Polar Star* then continued its journey home to Seattle.

16 February

- 1926- Congress authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to "acquire a site at New London, Connecticut, without cost to United States, and construct thereon buildings for the United States Coast Guard Academy at a total cost not to exceed \$1,750,000."



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17 February

- 1934-CGCs *Daphne*, *Hermes*, *Perseus*, *Aurora* and *Calypso* stood out from New York harbor, bound for their new duty station on the West Coast. They arrived safely in San Diego, California on 21 March 1934 after passing through the Panama Canal. The cutters formed and were referred to as the "West Coast Squadron" of the Coast Guard.
- 1944-Coast Guardsmen participated in the invasions of Eniwetok and Engebi, Marshall Island.
- 1956-CGC *Casco* saved 21 persons from a U.S. Navy seaplane that was forced to ditch 100 miles south of Bermuda. The cutter then took the disabled seaplane under tow and delivered both the survivors and the seaplane to the Naval Air Station at St. Georgia Harbor, Bermuda.

18 February

- 1842-The House of Representatives passed a resolution requesting the Committee on Commerce make an inquiry into the expenditures of the Lighthouse Establishment since 1816. This was to explore the possibility of cutting down on expenses, to examine the question of reorganizing the establishment and administration, and also to ascertain whether the establishment should be placed under the Topographical Bureau of the War Department.
- 1935-Three newly acquired Douglas RD Dolphin amphibious aircraft, CG-131, CG-132 and CG-133, took off from Clover Field, Santa Monica, California on "the first every trans-continental flight ever undertaken by a unit of Coast Guard men and planes." CG-131 flew to Air Station Cape May, CG-132 flew to Air Station Biloxi, while CG-133 flew to its assigned duty station at Air Station Miami. All aircraft arrived safely. Total flight time for CG-133 totaled 25 hours and 50 minutes.
- 1952-During a severe "nor'easter" off the New England coast, the T-2 tankers SS *Fort Mercer* and SS *Pendleton* each broke in half. Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and lifeboat stations, working under severe winter conditions, rescued 70 persons from the foundering ships. Five Coast Guardsmen earned the Gold Lifesaving Medal, four earned the Silver Lifesaving Medal, and 15 earned the Coast Guard Commendation Medal.
- 1966-Division 13 of Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE), departed for Cat Lo.
- 1968-Engineman First Class Robert J. Yered was awarded the Silver Star for action on 18 February 1968 while attached to Explosive Loading Detachment #1, Cat Lai, Republic of Vietnam. EN1 Yered was supervising the loading of explosives on board an ammunition ship when an enemy rocket struck a barge loaded with several tons of mortar ammunition moored alongside. His citation noted that "without regard for his personal safety, [he] exposed himself to the enemy fusillade as he helped extinguish the fire on the burning barge. . .His courageous act averted destruction of the ammunition ship, and the Army Terminal." EN1 Yered also received the Purple Heart for injuries suffered during the incident.
- 1979-Coast Guard HH-3F helicopter *CG-1432* crashed 180 miles southeast of Cape Cod, killing four of its five occupants. The helicopter was preparing to airlift a 47-year-old crewman from the Japanese fishing vessel *Kaisei Maru #18*.

19 February



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- 1845-Administrative control of the Lighthouse Establishment was transferred to Revenue Marine Bureau.
- 1845-Metal buoys were first put into service. They were riveted iron barrels that replaced the older wooden stave construction.
- 1862-Congress authorized revenue cutters to enforce the law outlawing the importation of Chinese "coolie" labor.
- 1941-The Coast Guard Reserve was established after Congress passed the Auxiliary & Reserve Act. The Auxiliary was created from former Reserve. The legislation was introduced by Representative Gordon Canfield of New Jersey.
- 1945-The invasion of Iwo Jima commenced. Coast Guard units that participated in this campaign included the Coast Guard-manned USS *Bayfield*, *Callaway*, 14 LSTs and the *PC-469*. Three of the LSTs were struck by enemy shore fire: *LST-792*, *LST-758*, and *LST-760*.
- 1988-The largest drug bust in Hawaiian waters to date took place with seizure of the Panamanian-flagged freighter *Christina M* 800 miles southeast of Hawaii. The units involved were the Navy fast frigate USS *Ouellet* with a Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment from the CGC *Jarvis* embarked, the CGC *Mallow*, and an AIRSTA Barbers Point HC-130.

20 February

- 1845-President John Tyler vetoed a bill providing that no cutter be built nor purchased unless an appropriation was first made by law, on grounds that sanctity of contract of those already contracted for should not be overridden by Congress. Congress overrode his veto on 3 March 1845.
- 1964-CGC *Coos Bay* rescued 11 of the crew of the foundering British freighter *Ambassador* in heavy seas, 1,000 miles east of Boston. Coast Guard aircraft from Air Station Argentia, Newfoundland, were first on the scene after the freighter issued an SOS on 18 February. The *Coos Bay*, on Ocean Station patrol 350 miles distant, steamed to the area and arrived there 24 hours later. In concert with the Norwegian freighter *Fruen*, they managed to get lines aboard the wallowing *Ambassador* in what was called one of the most dramatic rescues of the year. Demonstrating outstanding seamanship during the rescue, the cutter's commanding officer, Commander Claude W. Bailey, was awarded the Legion of Merit. Many of his crew had volunteered to enter the frigid water to assist in the rescue as well. Two were awarded the Coast Guard Medal while seven others received the Coast Guard Commendation Medal.
- 2013-The first LRI-II was delivered by MetalCraft Marine U.S. to the Coast Guard on this date in 2013, and commenced testing activities soon after. The LRI-II, which were built to be deployed on the National Security Cutter fleet, was 35 feet long with a range of over 220 nautical miles and was capable of achieving speeds in excess of 38 knots. "The stern-launched LRI-II's high speed and extended range significantly enhanced its host cutter's ability to execute missions while underway, particularly in migrant interdiction and law enforcement operations where teams need to be put on scene quickly. Its ability to extend the reach of its host cutter is also critical to search and rescue operations, enabling NSC cutter crews to patrol larger search areas. The LRI-II can carry up to 15 passengers, including crew, and safely operate in seas up to 13 feet."



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21 February

- 1943-CGC *Spencer* received credit from the U.S. Navy for attacking and sinking the *U-225* in the North Atlantic. The British Ministry of Defence has since recorded that the *U-225* was actually destroyed by B-24 Liberator "S" of RAF No. 120 Squadron on 15 February 1943 and they have revised the official British records to reflect this change. However, the renowned German naval historian, Professor-Dr. Jurgen Rohwer, stated that *Spencer* "probably" attacked and sank the *U-529* instead, although the *Spencer* has not received official credit for that sinking.
- 2008-On 20 February 2008, two U.S. Air Force F-15C fighter jets from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, collided over the Gulf of Mexico off Panama City. Coast Guard HC-144A, No. 2303, and its crew, which were diverted to the scene from a routine training flight. They located the first pilot and directed his recovery. Both F-15C pilots were eventually recovered; regrettably only one was recovered alive. This search & rescue (SAR) mission included two important "firsts" for the U.S. Coast Guard's new HC-144A Ocean Sentry Maritime Patrol Aircraft. For the HC-144A, the incident marked its first SAR mission, and its first use as an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) platform.

22 February

- 1943-CGC *Campbell* under the command of CDR James A. Hirshfield and assigned to the international escort group A-3 that was escorting Convoy ON-166 through the North Atlantic, engaged numerous submarine contacts during a running battle across the sea. *Campbell's* attacks damaged at least two U-boats. The cutter also rescued 50 survivors from a torpedoed Norwegian freighter. Then, on 22 February 1943, as *Campbell* returned to the convoy after rescuing the Norwegians, it detected a radar contact closing the convoy. *Campbell* raced toward the target and soon made visual contact. It was the surfaced *U-606*, earlier disabled by a depth charge attack delivered by the Free Polish destroyer *Burza*. *Campbell* closed to ram while its gunners opened fire. The big cutter struck the U-boat with a glancing blow and one of the submarine's hydroplanes sliced open *Campbell's* hull, flooding the engine room. The crew dropped two depth charges as the submarine slid past, and the explosions lifted the U-boat nearly five feet. Hirshfield later noted, "I felt sure he was ours." *Campbell* illuminated the U-boat with a spotlight and the gunners continued to fire into the submarine's conning tower and hull. Hirshfield was hit by shell fragments but remained at his station. When he realized the Germans had given up, he ordered his men to cease firing. *Campbell* then rescued five of the *U-606's* crew. Due to the collision, *Campbell* was towed to safety, repaired, and returned to service. CDR Hirshfield was awarded the Navy Cross for this action.
- 1944-Coast Guardsmen participate in the invasion of Parry Island in the Marshall Islands.
- 1966-Division 13 of Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) arrived at Cat Lo for service with Operation Market Time in Vietnam.
- 2015-CGC *Mau*i returned to her homeport in Bahrain after a prolonged period supporting the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) counter-terrorism and maritime security task force, Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150), patrolling the Gulf of Oman and the North Arabian Sea from December 2014 to February 2015. *Mau*i was the first US Coast Guard Cutter to provide direct support of CTF-150 since 2011 and the first such ship to operate outside the Straits of Hormuz in nearly two years. Despite the



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challenges of the small cutter's company, with only 21 sailors onboard, *Maui* was called upon to do more than what is normally expected from a ship of her size, filling a major role in the mission. The boarding team executed several boarding and approach and visit operations, and the ship's executive team provided valuable data about the maritime traffic in and around the Gulf of Oman and North Arabian Sea, strengthening CTF-150's understanding of the maritime picture in the area. Throughout the patrol, *Maui* was able to coordinate with the patrol craft, destroyers, aircraft and oilers supporting CTF-150's mission, ensuring maximum radar coverage, vectoring ships to boarding opportunities, and coordinating logistics. At one point, *Maui* extended the normal endurance of a Coast Guard cutter, spending a total 13 days at sea.

23 February

- 1822-Congress authorized the Revenue Cutter Service to protect the natural environment by preventing "scoundrels" from cutting down live oak on Florida public lands. The oak was used for naval construction.
- 1837-Congress called for an inspection of the coast from Chesapeake Bay to the Sabine River "with regard to the location of additional light-houses, beacons, and buoys." Captain Napoleon L. Coste, commanding the Revenue cutter *Campbell*, was dispatched. He reported that the first addition to aids to navigation on this entire coast should be at Egmont Key, Tampa Bay. A lighthouse was authorized immediately and built the next year.
- 1877-First Lieutenant Dorr F. Tozier, USRCS assisted in saving the French bark *Peabody*, which had gone aground on 23 February 1877 off Horn Island in the Mississippi Sound. Tozier was awarded a Gold Medal by the President of the French Republic "for gallant, courageous, and efficient services" in saving the French vessel.
- 2010-CGC *Alex Haley* returned to their homeport of Kodiak after an 80-day deployment to the South Pacific. While on patrol in the South Pacific the crew of the cutter was involved in the rescue of 28 survivors of a shipboard fire and the subsequent sinking of the Taiwanese fishing vessel *Hou Chun 11* 900 miles southwest of Honolulu Feb. 9. All 28 crew were rescued and delivered safely to Christmas Island, Kiribati. The cutter's expert medical team assisted two badly burned crewmen who were further medevaced by Coast Guard C-130 from Kiribati to Honolulu.

24 February

- 1964-A U.S. Coast Guard ice skiff rescued 25 persons from an ice flow that had broken loose from the shore near Camp Perry, Ohio. A similar rescue took place almost simultaneously at St. Clair Shores, Michigan when another Coast Guard ice skiff and a police helicopter removed five more from an ice flow.
- 1987-Coast Guard attorney LCDR Robert W. Bruce, Jr. became the first member of the armed forces to argue a case before the Supreme Court in uniform. He represented the Coast Guard in *Solorio vs. United States* on 24 February 1987.
- 1989-Coast Guard units searched for survivors of United Airlines Flight 811 after it crashed off the coast of Hawaii. The units included a HC-130, two helicopters, and CGCs *Cape Corwin*, *Mallow* and *Sassafras*. No survivors were found and the units then assisted in the retrieval of debris.



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25 February

- 1799-Congress passed "An Act for the augmentation of the Navy" that authorized President John Adams to place the revenue cutters in the naval establishment. This was done in response to the Quasi-War with France and it had the effect of "redefining the maritime character of the Revenue Cutter Service and making it a service with the dual character of a military establishment and of a maritime service" (Irving King, *George Washington's Coast Guard*, p. 152).
- 1825-Congress empowered the Revenue Marine to enforce state quarantine laws.
- 1942-Wartime port security was delegated to the Coast Guard by Executive Order 9074.
- 2001-The tugboat *Swift* sank after colliding with the freighter *A.V. Kastner* on the Elk River in the upper Chesapeake Bay. Coast Guard units from New Jersey and Philadelphia worked with state police and local rescue agencies to rescue three survivors. Two crewmen perished. The Coast Guard also conducted the marine casualty investigation.

26 February

- 1793-Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury, submitted to the Senate the first official list of cutters with stations, officers' names, rank and dates of commission.
- 1984-Five people died, three were injured, and 22 rescued when the tanker *American Eagle* exploded 180 miles southeast of New Orleans. An AIRSTA New Orleans HH-3 took the three injured crewmen ashore while a British tanker watched over the crippled ship until a commercial tug could arrive. The next day the *American Eagle* started to break up and sink. The 24 remaining crewmen abandoned ship. Oil rig supply boats and a Coast Guard helicopter recovered 22. The other two became the subject of an HU-25 search but the SAR case was suspended after three days.

27 February

- 1925-An Act of Congress repealed the law providing a ration allowance for keepers of lighthouses and increased their salaries correspondingly. This change was not only advantageous to the light keepers, but also simplified office work.
- 1949-Aerial ice observation flights by long-range aircraft operated from Argentina, Newfoundland. An International Ice Patrol by vessels was neither required nor established during the 1949 season, and it was the first time that aircraft alone conducted the ice observation service.
- 1953-CGC *Coos Bay*, on Ocean Station Echo, about half-way between Bermuda and the Azores, rescued the crew of 10 from the U.S. Navy patrol plane that was forced to ditch in the Atlantic Ocean.
- 2003-CGC *Dallas* was ordered to deploy overseas to support Operation Enduring Freedom and to prepare for future contingencies. She was underway on patrol when she received the order from the Atlantic Area commander to sail overseas to the Mediterranean. *Dallas* deployed with an HH-65B Dolphin helicopter and 7-member aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, New Jersey.
- 2004-The Coast Guard repatriated 531 Haitian migrants to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, after they were rescued in the Windward Pass. The migrants were from 13 boats stopped since 21 February 2004. The repatriations were completed by three cutters: CGC *Valiant* transported 290 migrants, CGC *Vigilant* delivered another 241, and CGC



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Nantucket escorted the cutters for safety and security. The migrants were turned over to the Haitian coast guard.

28 February

- 1867-As ordered by the Treasury Department, each officer of Revenue Cutter Service, while on duty, was entitled to one Navy ration per day.
- 1871-Congress passed 16 Stat. 458 which addressed shortcomings in previous legislation regarding the inspection and certification of steamboats and their crews. This Act established the Steamboat Inspection Service (SIS) within the Department of Treasury headed by a Supervisory Inspector General answerable to the Treasury Secretary. The Act also provided SIS inspectors with greater authority over more aspects of the maritime field.
- 1942-Certain duties of the former Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation were transferred to the Coast Guard temporarily by Executive Order 9083. The transfer was made permanent on July 16, 1946. Also, the U.S. Maritime Service was transferred to the Coast Guard from the War Shipping Administration on this date.
- 1963-With the arrival of the ferry crew on this date in 1963 to accept delivery of the HC-130B CGNR 1351 at Marietta, Georgia, the Coast Guard completed its program for the procurement of 12 long range, long endurance, four engine landplanes. The aircraft were assigned to Air Station Elizabeth City and Air Detachments Argentia, San Francisco, and Barbers Point.
- 2004-Coast Guard units responded to an explosion aboard the 570-foot Singapore-flagged tanker *Bow Mariner* off the coast of Chincoteague, Virginia. The *Bow Mariner* was carrying 6.5 million gallons of industrial ethanol when it exploded and sank. The Coast Guard rescued six survivors.
- 2015- CGC *Steadfast* returned to its homeport of Astoria after a two-month Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) deployment. *Steadfast* partook in multiple Coast Guard missions ranging from search and rescue, to counter-narcotics, to securing U.S. borders through enhancement of international relations and coordination with other cutters and aircraft allowing the U.S. to stop drug trafficking before it reaches U.S. borders. While returning from patrol off the coast of Central America, *Steadfast* offloaded approximately 725 kilograms of cocaine in San Diego. The seized cocaine is worth an estimated wholesale value of more than \$23 million. The offload is a result of a successful drug interdiction in the Eastern Pacific Ocean on 23 January 2015. While on a routine patrol, a maritime patrol aircraft working in conjunction with JIATF assets detected a suspicious go-fast vessel south of El Salvador. Using information provided by the aircrew, *Steadfast* was able to vector the cutter's Over-the-Horizon boat to intercept and conduct a law enforcement boarding of the suspect vessel. Once aboard the go-fast vessel, the Coast Guard boarding team found 16 bales of contraband hidden throughout the 35-foot vessel that tested positive for cocaine. The Coast Guard took three suspected smugglers into custody. This seizure is one of many interdictions in the Eastern Pacific in recent months due to an increased presence of Coast Guard cutters in support of the Western Hemisphere Strategy. The Western Hemisphere Strategy has been implemented by the Coast Guard and various other government agencies to protect U.S. borders by stopping illicit trafficking at the source. *Steadfast's* interdiction was part of Operation *Martillo*, which is one component in the United States government's whole-



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of-government approach to countering the use of the Central American littorals as transshipment routes for illicit drugs, weapons and cash. Prior to the visit to San Diego, *Steadfast* participated in a North American Maritime Security Initiative (NAMSI) exercise off the coast of Ensenada, Mexico, 21-22 February 2015.

29 February

- 1944- Coast Guardsmen participated in the invasion of Los Negros, Admiralty Islands.
- 1968-In the largest naval engagement of the Vietnam War CGC *Androscoggin*, *Point Welcome*, and *Point Grey* combined to destroy an enemy trawler. CGC *Winona*, *Point Grace*, *Point Marone*, and *Point Hudson* combined to destroy another enemy trawler and CGC *Minnetonka* forced another trawler to turn back. A fourth enemy trawler was also sunk but Coast Guard units were not involved.