

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Sector Field Office Grand Haven

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August 14, 2009

CWO3 Michael D. Henry, USCG (Ret.)  
Regional Coordinator  
USCG Pipe Band  
20247 Westwood Drive  
Strongsville, OH 44149-4062

Dear Mr. Henry,

On behalf of the men and women of Coast Guard Sector Field Office Grand Haven, I want to commend you and your fellow volunteer members of the Coast Guard Pipe Band for your tremendous efforts and the success of your stirring performances during this year's Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival. Of particular note, your participation in the nation's sole USCG National Memorial Service demonstrated exceptional skill and superb execution with a care and precision that thoughtfully captured the spirit of the Coast Guard and rendered solemn respect as we paid homage to five departed shipmates. From your moving performance to the crisp 21 gun salute provided by the USCG Ceremonial Honor Guard to the precision USCG AIRSTA Detroit 2-helicopter flyover, the accomplishments of the Coast Guard, and its people, were honored at every turn. I'm thankful that the widow of CG 6505 crash victim AMT2 Joshua Nichols could be present for your beautiful renditions during the ceremony. Your other performances were also impressive and it was my pleasure to meet you. From my conversations with Vice Admiral Papp, Rear Admiral Day, and Rear Admiral Neffenger, I know that our visiting dignitaries were equally impressed.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Hemp  
Lieutenant Commander  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Commanding Officer