



U.S. COAST GUARD PIPE BAND NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the United States Coast Guard Pipe Band

www.uscgpipeband.org

* Active * Reserve * Retired * CG Veterans * Auxiliary *

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Letter from the Board of Directors



By Kenneth Hines, CDR, USCGR (Ret), Band Secretary

The Band completed another successful series of nationally designated performances at the annual Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven in early August. Besides piping and drumming before large, appreciative crowds, the Band had the opportunity to meet with the new Commandant, Admiral Zukunft (who is a big fan). Many of the 24 Band members, who also participated in the events highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter, performed in Grand Haven in previous years; a couple even made the first trip of their lives to Michigan with the USCGPB. While the band has at least two national events each year, many of you stand the watch at regional or local events, such as change of commands, retirements, and funerals.

As I sat listening to the Pipe Major list the number of gigs the band and its members have participated in since 2013, during his report at the 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM), I was struck by the contributions you all make. Many of you often drive long distances and incur significant personal expenses to make a retirement extra special or to honor and remember a shipmate. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts to represent our service and our Band. BRAVO ZULU!

As directed by the Board President, the Band's bylaws are being updated to address gaps in membership status specifics. I recently checked the crew list out of curiosity, reviewing total membership versus those in active status. As of 1 September 2014, the USCG Pipe Band roster listed 152 people. I haven't seen some of you for a while and others I have not had the opportunity to meet. I can't even imagine what the crowd response would be if we turned out 152 band members in Grand Haven or Washington, DC for a performance. Holy cow!

However you are able to participate and remain on the active member list, please keep it up. Band leadership understands we all have challenges in life and that circumstances and interests sometimes change. If we haven't seen you in a few years at a national or regional event, I will be reaching out to you in the coming months to ask how we can re-engage you with the band. Article VI, Section 6.02, of Bylaws states to remain designated an active member with the band, a member must participate in at least one national event or two local events approved by the Pipe Major within the past 24 months.

Finally, I wanted to personally thank Billy Ferguson for herding the Board Election Committee for the past few years with the help of Bob Miller. This is a lot of hard work to cross-check the records the Board Secretary maintains on completed mission requests from PM Loudermilk regarding who is eligible to serve in a band leadership role. Billy, thank you for all your extra efforts to make the process transparent and accurate!

Ken Hines, CDR, USCGR (Ret)
Secretary, USCG Pipe Band





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Letter from the President



Happy New Year All:

Well, another year has quickly passed and it is once again time to be thinking about our upcoming activities. The USCG Pipe Band will participate in Police Week Memorial events in Washington DC in May and the Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI in August. I hope that all of you are planning to make these events. I realize it is difficult to schedule time out of your busy schedules, not to mention the personal expense in attending these activities, but, after I have participated in an event with the USCG Pipe Band, I am able to move through the remainder of the year a little more happier and a little more satisfied. Believe it or not, being a part of this organization makes a big difference in my life and I assume yours as well.

I wish all of you best for the holidays and the upcoming year.



My best to all of you,

Dave Morgan, CWO2, USCGR (Ret)
President, USCGPB

Letter from the Pipe Major



Shipmates,

As Christmas draws near it's time to look ahead to 2015. We had a great 2014 as the band grew in membership and musical quality. Our stable growth and continued high performance has led to gains in respect and further established our position with the Coast Guard, CG Auxiliary, and support organizations, such as the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival.

Our Operations Department, especially Mike Doria and Drew Bacon, have been researching the band's interest for next year's performances. They have completed the daunting task of polling our members and have passed the results to the Board of Directors (BoD) for review. While we may be adding other, smaller performances, the two "National" events we currently plan on are the National Law Enforcement Week (NLEW) in Washington, DC and Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI.





Letter from the Pipe Major (cont.)



The 2015 NLEW ceremonies will be held in May. As in the past we will be performing our standard sets at numerous venues such as the FOP Tent City, the Memorial Parade and the NLEW Memorial Service. For those of you interested in the Band Competition, the set will stay the same as last year's (i.e. MacPherson's Lament and Eternal Father). We scored well with it last year and, hopefully, more of you will be able to learn the tunes. A video of our performance at the 2014 competition is available for viewing on our Facebook page. Listen to it, learn the tunes and let's have an even stronger showing next year.

later, there are numerous local events to sign-up for. The Buxton and Ocracoke British War Graves Memorial Services have become favorites with many of our band members. Originally performed as a solo by Steve Cochran, he invited others of us to share these touching and memorial services. This year's services will be May 7 and 8. Ops will send details for you to sign-up for these, as well as other local events.

The 2015 Coast Guard Festival promises to be "extra-special." Next year is the 225th anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as the 100th anniversary of the Coast Guard Festival itself. In honor of these occasions, there will be several special events and dignitaries. I have received word the Festival Committee has not only invited Admiral Zukunft, but every former Coast Guard Commandant and the current Secretary of Homeland Security. I also understand USCGPB members may be invited to a special gala event, so get your dinner dress uniforms ready for this formal event. (see Dinner Dress uniforms at right)



Over the past few years the Festival has shown a greater appreciation for us, as evidenced by honoring us with a permanent plaque on their Walk of History. We need to have a strong showing so please put the CG Festival on your calendar for July 29 through August 1, 2015. A large number of dignitaries and the Coast Guard Band will be there, so it is important that you make your room reservations as early as possible. It's easier to cancel a room than try to get one too late.

While we may be adding another National Event Finally, congratulations to our members Carol Fortier and Michael Carr who have recently passed their auditions and obtained "Piper" status. While we have too many new members to name individually here, we welcome you all aboard and look forward to performing with you soon.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Semper!



With Warmest Regards,

M. L. Loudermilk, USCG Combat Veteran
Pipe Major, USCG Pipe Band



WANTED

**Public Affairs Officer
Accomplice: Newsletter Staff**



**Wanted for freelance photography,
writing skills and assembling a
quality newsletter!**

**Contact Operations Officer if you know
the whereabouts of these individuals.**

REWARD





Change of Command Ceremony (Port Security Unit 311)



By Jeremy Cook, ME2, USCGR, Piper

The change of command ceremony for CDR John Caraballo, Commanding Officer (CO) of USCG Port Security Unit 311, took place on September 20th in San Diego, California. Petty Officer Cook coordinated the order of events with LT Joseph Rudolf. ME2 Cook also coordinated with the U.S. Navy Band, Southwest to ensure a flawless performance.

He began the ceremony by playing “America The Beautiful” at the Request of the Executive Officer. ME2 Cook alternated piping tunes with the USN Band while the guests were being seated. In addition to “American the Beautiful” with “Minstrel Boy” and “Silver Wings.”



As the ceremony ended, by the request of the XO, Petty Officer Cooke followed the USN Band’s performance of “Semper Paratus” by playing “God Bless America” as the official party departed.



Photos by: LCDR Ayana Pitterson

Ankeny, Iowa Remembers 9/11



By Sam Mitchel, Piper

Sam Mitchel attended the Ankeny, Iowa Fire Department's 9/11 memorial ceremony. He piped gathering tunes before the ceremony as well as “Amazing Grace” after the bell ringing of last alarm.



Photo by: City of Ankeny





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Wreaths Across America

By Billy Ferguson, USCG AUX, Piper



Pipers Billy Ferguson and John Quinn performed at the Wreaths Across America event held at the National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia on December 13, 2014.

Photo by: Staff, Division 2, District 7, USCG Auxiliary



Take a Veteran to School Day

Article and Photo By Jim Taylor, USCG AUX, Senior Drum Sergeant

Jim's daughter-in-law, Alison Black, is an 8th grade teacher at Coronado Middle School in San Diego, California. She requested his presence, in full USCG Pipe Band attire, at their "Take A Veteran to School Day" on November 7th.

Approximately 100 veterans were greeted with a continental breakfast that morning, and then treated with service melodies by the school's Girls and Boys Choir. As is often the case, Jim was the only USCG Veteran to stand and receive applause when our service was honored with "Semper Paratus"

After breakfast, Jim spoke about the U.S. Coast Guard and the USCG Pipe Band to a class of 22 students. Later, all Veterans were ushered to the outside athletic field, where six U.S. Navy Seals parachuted out of an aircraft at 4,500 feet; each displaying a flag from each service in their wake. The Seal with the USCG Standard was the first to land. "Doesn't get any better than that," Jim quoted.



Jim was invited back next year!



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Grand Haven Festival 2014



Photos By Richard Risk, USCG AUX, District 7 and Various Unknown Photographers





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Grand Haven Festival 2014



Photos By Richard Risk, USCG AUX, District 7 and Various Unknown Photographers





Veterans' Day in Cobb County, Georgia



By Billy Ferguson, USCG AUX, Piper



Photos by:
USCG Auxiliary Staff
Division 2, District 7,

U.S. Coast Guard Pipe Band members from Atlanta performed at a Veteran's Day Event in Cobb County, Georgia on November 12, 2014.





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Veterans' Day at Arlington National Cemetery



By James Warner, CWO3, USCG, Piper

At Right: Mr. Jeff Burton, LCDR (Ret), and Mr. James Warner, CWO3, USCG, pose with Admiral Zukunft, the Coast Guard's 25th Commandant



Photo by: PO1 Timothy Tamargo

Below: Mr. Burton and Mr. Warner pose in front of the USCG Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Both Pipers played at the Veterans' Day Flag Ceremony on November 8th.



Photos by: ENS Jessica Snyder



For more info on the USCG Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, please visit:

<http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2012/11/a-memorial-by-our-own-to-our-own/>





Veterans' Day in Kansas City, Missouri



By Ben Kenney, SCPO, USCGR (Ret), Side Drummer

Senior Chief Ben Kenney, USCGR (ret), played with a mass band of musicians from the local Kansas City area pipe bands.

At right, Ben poses with Colonel Don "Doc" Ballard. Colonel Ballard received the Congressional Medal Honor (CMH) for his actions in Vietnam.

Col. Ballard was awarded the CMH while serving as a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class assigned with the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines. He continued his military service after being awarded the CMH, retiring from the Kansas National Guard.

16 May 1970, HM2 Ballard came under enemy fire serving along side his fellow Marines. While directing wounded Marines to casualty helicopters, an enemy grenade fell into the mix of the wounded he was treating. Doc, fearing for his wounded, jumped on top of the grenade to shield them. The grenade failed to detonate. Doc jumped back into action, caring for his wounded Marines and getting them evacuated.



Welcome to New Members / Fair Winds to Departing Members

- * Welcome Aboard Mr. **Jason Mandato**. Jason is a reservist who comes to us from the NY CGIS Field Office. He has been learning the pipes on and off since 2005 and is now playing with the Greater Trenton Pipes and Drums.
- * Fair Winds and Following Seas to Senior Chief (ret) **Michael Goodwin**.





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New Sporrans Coming Soon

By John Quinn, USCG AUX, Band Quartermaster

As some of you may know, we have had great difficulty in recent years maintaining a reliable source of supply for sporrans at a reasonable price. We now have a vendor who has custom-made sporrans to our specifications. We have received samples for inspection and they appear to be of good quality **and** have a leather pocket (unlike the sporrans that many of you currently have). The price with band discount and including shipping is **\$130.00**.

We are preparing to place a bulk order. If you are interested in one of the new sporrans, please specify gold side or silver, and let me know which one of these three options you want:

1. Straight purchase at \$130.00
2. If you currently own your sporran and wish to exchange for a new one (with pocket) upon receipt of your sporran (I will issue you a new one at no cost).
3. if you currently have a USCG Pipe Band owned sporran and want to exchange, based on availability. Upon receipt of your sporran I will issue you a new Band owned sporran.

Please let me know whether you want to exercise any of these options at your earliest opportunity so I can submit our final order. Submit your option by e-mailing me at jquinn@cwa-union.org

Once I have the count and I am able to order the stock, I will notify everyone with arrangements for the exchange.



New USCGPB Patch Available

By Kenneth Hines, CDR, USCGR (Ret), Band Secretary

The USCGPB patch is available for \$5.00 each, including Postage and Handling. The patch measures 4.5 inches tall by 3 inches wide (photo at right). Interested in purchasing one? Please send check payable to:



USCGPB, c/o CDR K. Hines
3700 Bray Court
Columbia, MO 65203

<http://www.cafepress.com/uscgpipeband>





Regional Coordinators Become District Coordinators



By M. Doria, LT, USCGR, Band Operations Officer

After an intense, six-month administrative review by the Band's Operations Department, including feedback from customers, membership, current and past regional coordinators, and Leadership, the Board of Directors (BoD) has approved a change in terms and titles. CG Pipe Band Regions will become Districts. Subsequently, Regional Coordinators will become District Coordinators (DC) and Assistant District Coordinators (ADC).

On behalf of the Operations Department and Band Leadership, I would like to THANK all current and past RC, since the Band's incorporation back from 2002, for all of their outstanding work throughout the years. As you may know, RC have been the core backbone in this Band's existence and we would not be here today without them. RC have spent countless hours planning logistics, coordinating events, executing plans, assisting the Pipe and Drum Major, community outreach through public affairs and making overall decisions on behalf of the Band. These are just a few of their many unnoticeable, but significantly important contributions to this Band's internal operations. A BIG thank you goes out to you all. No doubt that, without the time you all put forward in your duties as RC, we would not be here today.

As you know the Coast Guard has been successful at standardizing processes in the service, making the job and the mission as smooth as possible to carry out. We will be carrying that over into the Pipe Band and the following will be changed:

- * Regions will now be broken into Districts:
(To align the Pipe Band Area of Responsibility (AOR) to the same as the USCG)
- * Districts will now have two Points of Contact for their AOR
District Coordinator's and Assistant District Coordinators who would work as a team for growth in leadership, contributions and ownership

The new list of DC and ADC is provided on the next page. We, Operations Department, want to congratulate each DC and ADC for either continuing, or joining the team. Personally speaking, and serving as an RC myself for many years, this is one of the most critical and important jobs within this organization.

CALL FOR DC & ADC:

** Some Districts have **vacant** slots for DC and ADC. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Band's infrastructure and believe to have what it takes, please submit an email to the Operations Department at: operations@uscgpipeband.org. Your email should explain why you want to become a DC and what skills/talents you can offer to the Band.





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| District | District States | District Coordinator (DC) | Assistant District Coordinator (ADC) |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| First (1) | Eastern NY, VT, NH, ME, MA, RI, & CT | Mike Mone | Kevin Ritchie |
| Fifth (5) | NC, DE, Eastern PA, MD, DC, & VA | Jeff Burton | Steve Cochran |
| Seventh (7) | SC, Eastern GA, & Eastern FL | Steve Rogers | Bob Terlisner |
| Either (8) | ND, SD, WI, CO, NM, NE, KS, OK, TX, Southern MN, IA, MO, AR, LA, MS, AL, Fla Panhandle, Western GA, TN, KY, WV, Western PA, Southern OH, IN, & Southern IL | Brian Shajari | Ben Kenney |
| Nine (9) | Western NY, Western PA, Northern OH, MI, Northern IL, WI, & Northern MN | Dave Linder | Vacant |
| Eleventh (11) | CA, NV, UT, & AZ | Dean McFarren | Brett Bigelow |
| Thirteenth (13) | WA, OR, ID, & MT | Andrew Bacon | Vacant |
| Fourteenth (14) | HI | Vacant | Vacant |
| Seventh (17) | AK | Vacant | Vacant |

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USCG Pipe Band Awards & Recognition



USCGPB Participants

Meritorious Team Commendation
Coast Guard Festival Planning and Execution
September 2013 to August 2014



USCGPB Participants

Meritorious Team Commendation
Recognition for Service between
May 5th to 16th, 2014



LT Mike Doria

CG Commandant's Letter of Commendation
Recognition for Service between
November 2013 to May 2014



YNC John Eudy

CG Commandant's Letter of Commendation
Recognition for Service between
July 2010 to May 2014



Mr. B.J. Ferguson

CG AUX Commandant's Letter of Commendation
Recognition for Service between
July 2009 to May 2014



Mr. M.L. Loudermilk

CG AUX Commandant's Letter of Commendation
Recognition for Service between
November 2013 to May 2014

Submitting of Nominations for Awards and special recognition shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Awards Board
LT Michael Doria - michael.j.doria@uscgpipeband.org.

Please visit our section on the website for further information: <http://www.uscgpipeband.org/awards.php>



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The Mission of the U.S. Coast Guard Pipe Band is to promote greater public recognition and appreciation of the history, traditions, contributions, sacrifices, roles and missions of the men and women of the Coast Guard. Including, but not limited to, participation in Memorial Services, Military Balls, Highland Games, Military Parades, Commissioning, Change of Command, and Retirement Ceremonies, Funerals, or similar ceremonies and events in which any active, reserve or auxiliary component of the Coast Guard or U.S. Armed Forces are participating. We also support the public relations, recognition and recruiting activities of the U. S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

