



WELCOME TO THE COAST GUARD FOUNDATION

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN ALASKA

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARCTIC DISTRICT

TUESDAY ★ AUGUST 11, 2026 ★ ANCHORAGE

**COAST GUARD FOUNDATION
SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN ALASKA**

PROGRAM FOR THE EVENING

WELCOME

Dan Newman
Master of Ceremonies

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS AND
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

INVOCATION

Captain Jennifer Bowden
*Chaplain of the Coast Guard,
United States Coast Guard*

REMARKS

Honorable Suzanne LaFrance
Mayor, Anchorage

Tom Allegretti
Chairman, Coast Guard Foundation

Honorable Daniel S. Sullivan
United States Senator, Alaska

Honorable Nicholas J. Begich III
United States Congressman for All Alaska

DINNER

**2026 COAST GUARD FOUNDATION
AWARD PRESENTATION**

Coast Guard Cutter *Polar Star*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Admiral Kevin Lunday
Commandant, United States Coast Guard

Honorable Markwayne Mullin
United States Secretary of Homeland Security

REMARKS

Susan Ludwig
President, Coast Guard Foundation

RADM Duncan Smith III, USCGR (Ret.)
Dinner Chair

POST RECEPTION

DINNER COMMITTEE

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Jennifer Tungul



HONORABLE MARKWAYNE MULLIN

SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Markwayne Mullin is the 9th Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to serving in President Trump’s Cabinet, Secretary Mullin represented the people of Oklahoma for 13 years in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

During his time in the U.S. Senate, Markwayne Mullin quickly earned a reputation as a lead nexus policymaker among the Republican-led House, Senate, and White House in support of President Trump’s legislative agenda. Mullin is known as a strong ally of the President while also striving to find common ground across the aisle on behalf of the American people. Last year, Mullin championed the fight to get major legislation, including the “One Big, Beautiful Bill,” the National Defense Authorization Act, the Give Kids a

Chance Act, and President Trump’s 12 appropriations bills across the finish line.

He is a successful business owner, working cow-calf rancher, and proud husband of 28 years to Mrs. Christie Mullin, and together the two are parents to six wonderful children: Jayce, Jim, Andrew, Larra, Ivy, and Lynette.

A lifelong Oklahoman, Senator Mullin grew up on his family’s ranch in Westville where he and his family still reside to this day. A graduate of Stilwell High School, Mullin went on to attend Missouri Valley College on a wrestling scholarship until the age of 20 years old. At that time, Senator Mullin’s father, Jim, fell ill, and Mullin and his recent bride Christie postponed studies to take over the family business, Mullin Plumbing.

Over the past 25 years, Markwayne and Christie Mullin have expanded Mullin Plumbing to become the largest service company in the region, and along the way founded numerous other successful companies.

Senator Mullin is an enrolled member of Cherokee Nation and he was the second Cherokee Nation citizen to ever serve in the U.S. Senate. He is now the second Tribal citizen to serve in the President’s Cabinet.

Markwayne Mullin is a former undefeated Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter with a professional record of 5-0. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2016. Mullin has remained active in the wrestling community since his retirement from the sport, continuing to coach his children and other young athletes in wrestling tournaments across the country on weekends through today.



ADMIRAL KEVIN E. LUNDAY

COMMANDANT
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Admiral Kevin E. Lunday assumed the duties as the 28th Commandant on January 15, 2026. He commands the Coast Guard, which is an integral part of the Department of Homeland Security team protecting the Nation and at all times one of the six military services and part of the joint force that defends it. He directs operations to control, secure, and defend the U.S. border and maritime approaches, facilitate commerce vital to U.S. economic prosperity and strategic mobility, and respond to crises or contingencies that may come without warning. He leads 57,000 Coast Guard military (Active and Reserve) and civilian personnel, supported by 21,000 Auxiliary volunteers.

Admiral Lunday served as the Acting Commandant from January 2025 until assuming his current duties, directing the initial implementation of Force

Design 2028 to transform the Coast Guard into a more agile, capable, and responsive fighting force. He previously served as the 34th Vice Commandant from June 2024 to January 2025. From July 2022 to June 2024, he served as Commander, Atlantic Area, commanding operations from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf, spanning the inland navigable waterways, Great Lakes, Gulf Coast, and East Coast of the U.S. throughout the Caribbean Sea, Atlantic Ocean and parts of the Arctic Ocean.

Previously, Admiral Lunday served as Commander of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District in the Pacific, leading operations throughout Oceania, including Hawai’i, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, as well as activities in Japan and Singapore. As Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Cyber Command, he directed the operation and defense of the Coast Guard Enterprise Mission Platform as part of Department of Defense (DoD) networks. He also led remote and deployable cyberspace operations to protect U.S. maritime critical infrastructure from cyberattack. At U.S. Cyber Command, he served as the Director of Exercises and Training (J7), responsible for training and certification of the DoD Cyber Mission Force — the joint U.S. warfighting force in cyberspace.

A career national security attorney and judge advocate, Admiral Lunday is a Distinguished Graduate of the National War College with a Master of Science in National Security Strategy. He graduated with distinction from the Naval War College, holds a Juris Doctor with high honors from George Washington University Law School, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering with honors from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He has received multiple personal, team, and campaign awards over his nearly 39 years of service.



MASTER CHIEF PHILLIP N. WALDRON

15TH MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Master Chief Phil Waldron assumed the duties of the 15th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard on July 25, 2025. Master Chief Waldron is the senior enlisted member of the Coast Guard and the principal advisor to the Commandant on all personnel matters.

Prior assignments as a Command Senior Enlisted Leader include the Personnel Service Center, where he advised on the effects of policy, procedures, and initiatives as they pertain to the total Coast Guard workforce of over 55,000 active duty, reserve, and civilian employees, along with an additional 30,000 Auxiliary volunteers. Prior to that he served as CSEL for the Coast Guard Arctic District, where he advised on operations and the well-being of all Coast Guard members and their families in Alaska. He also served as CSEL at Base Kodiak, Alaska, the service's largest base and the senior mission support touchpoint for the Alaskan and Arctic maritime region.

Previous afloat assignments include Engineer Petty Officer, USCGC *Buckthorn* in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and aboard USCGCs *Adak* and *Wrangell*, both deployed to Patrol Forces Southwest Asia in Al Manama, Bahrain. His previous ashore assignments include Assistant Engineer Officer of Sector Mobile, Alabama and Station Belle Isle, Michigan, and as a Recruit Company Commander at Training Center Cape May, New Jersey.

Master Chief Waldron is a proud graduate of the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy Class 201, Coast Guard Senior Enlisted Leadership Course Class 63, and he is a Keystone 25-1 fellow. Additionally, he graduated summa cum laude from Columbia Southern University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership.

A second-generation Coast Guardsman hailing from Plant City, Florida, Master Chief Waldron enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in August 1999. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and numerous other personal and unit awards. He has earned the privilege of wearing permanent Cutterman, Coxswain, Boat Forces Operations, Company Commander, and Command Master Chief insignias. Additionally, he was the recipient of the Chief Petty Officer Academy Class CCI "Spirit of the Chief" award and was selected as the 2008 USO Coast Guardsman of the Year.



REAR ADMIRAL BOB LITTLE

COMMANDER, ARCTIC DISTRICT UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Rear Admiral Bob Little assumed the duties of Commander, Coast Guard Arctic District in July 2025. The District is responsible for securing the homeland by projecting forces to advance U.S. sovereignty and national interest, countering malign foreign influence, and ensuring safety, security and stewardship of the northern high latitudes. Rear Admiral Little is responsible for all operations to control, secure and defend the northern U.S. border and maritime approaches within the U.S. Arctic and Alaska; to facilitate commerce vital to economic security and strategic mobility for U.S. ports, waterways, and shipping in the physical and cyber domains; and to successfully respond to crises and contingencies that may come with little or no warning by sustaining readiness throughout the vast Arctic and Alaskan region.

Rear Admiral Little most recently served as the 20th Director of Joint Interagency Task Force West (JIATF West), U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. There he coordinated among the U.S. interagency and international partners to identify, monitor, and counter illicit and malign activity of our adversaries, cartels, and foreign terrorist organizations. Rear Admiral Little has served aboard six Coast Guard Cutters, held three afloat commands, accumulated over 13 years of sea time, and operated in both the Atlantic and Pacific areas of operations.

Rear Admiral Little's operational career has been focused on securing the U.S. maritime border, conducting alien migrant and narcotics interdiction, defense operations, combating criminal networks, and safeguarding U.S. maritime commerce. His most recent afloat command was the National Security Cutter *Stratton*, among the most capable and technologically advanced ships in the Coast Guard's surface fleet. In *Stratton*, Rear Admiral Little deployed to the Western Pacific for defense and security operations with the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet, the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea to protect National sovereign interests, and the Eastern Pacific to support the U.S. Southern Command. He has led numerous combined military and law enforcement operations afloat to strengthen relationships with international allies and partners.

Rear Admiral Little has also served in several shore-based staff tours, including as the Executive Assistant to the Commandant of the Coast Guard. In this capacity, he was a principal advisor on policy, strategy, and resource initiatives across all operational and mission support activities. Other staff assignments include Chief of Maritime Forces for the Coast Guard's Pacific Area, Special Assistant to the 28th Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Appropriations Manager in the Office of Resource Management, and Deputy Comptroller at the Coast Guard's Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia. Rear Admiral Little is a 1995 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Management. He has been awarded a Master of Business Administration by both the College of William and Mary and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is a 2012 graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and in 2015 completed the Sloan Fellows Program in Innovation and Global Leadership at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Rear Admiral Little's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, six Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and one Coast Guard Achievement medal, along with several additional personal, unit, and operational awards.

COAST GUARD FOUNDATION SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN ALASKA

AWARDEE

COAST GUARD CUTTER POLAR STAR

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter POLAR STAR is cited for exceptional service and distinguished performance in the execution of polar operations during the 2025–2026 Operation Deep Freeze deployment to Antarctica.

As the Coast Guard prepares to invest in a new fleet of ice breakers and Arctic patrol vessels, honoring POLAR STAR in Alaska reminds us of the importance of the state to the nation's sovereignty in the Polar regions and the Coast Guard's role in protecting it, mariners, and our country's national resources.

Homeported in Seattle, Washington, and commissioned on January 17, 1976, POLAR STAR stands as the U.S.'s only active heavy icebreaker and the world's most powerful non-nuclear icebreaker. Built by Lockheed Shipbuilding at 13,500 tons, 399 feet in length, and powered by three aviation-grade gas turbine engines producing up to 75,000 shaft horsepower, she is the most powerful vessel in the U.S. Coast Guard. Her ice-breaking capability — including the ability to continuously steam through six feet of ice at three knots and to break through solid ice up to 21 feet thick via backing and ramming — remains unmatched among non-nuclear icebreakers worldwide.

Departing Seattle on November 20, POLAR STAR embarked on her **29th deployment to Antarctica** in support of Operation Deep Freeze, the annual mission to resupply and sustain McMurdo Station, the U.S. research base located near the Ross Ice Shelf. In carrying out this mission, POLAR STAR's crew broke a navigable channel through miles of dense pack ice, enabling cargo and fuel vessels — including the fuel tanker *Stena Polaris* — to reach the McMurdo Station ice pier safely.

On the evening of January 16, 2026 — the eve of the cutter's **50th anniversary of commissioning** — POLAR STAR received a distress call from the expedition cruise vessel *Scenic Eclipse II* (17,592 GT), which had become beset in pack ice approximately eight nautical miles from McMurdo Sound. Responding without hesitation, POLAR STAR's crew maneuvered the cutter through hazardous polar conditions, executed two precision close-quarter passes to break the surrounding ice, and successfully freed the vessel. POLAR STAR then escorted *Scenic Eclipse II* approximately four nautical miles to open water, ensuring the safety of all personnel aboard.



This rescue exemplifies a tradition of polar service stretching back to 1867, when the USCG Cutter *Lincoln* was dispatched to survey the newly acquired Alaskan Territory. Through the World War II-era WIND-class icebreakers, Operation High Jump in 1946, and decades of Arctic and Antarctic deployments, the U.S. Coast Guard has remained a cornerstone of American polar operations. POLAR STAR and her now-decommissioned sister ship, POLAR SEA, were commissioned in 1976 to meet the growing demand for a more capable polar icebreaking force — a legacy POLAR STAR continues to uphold on every deployment.

As POLAR STAR marks a half-century of commissioned service, her crew's professionalism, expertise, and dedication to mission reflect the highest standards of the U.S. Coast Guard. Through the maintenance of irreplaceable national capability and the decisive response to a vessel in distress on the occasion of her own milestone anniversary, the officers and crew of **USCGC POLAR STAR** have brought great credit upon themselves and the U.S. Coast Guard.

**COAST GUARD FOUNDATION
SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN ALASKA**

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COAST GUARD FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR THE COAST GUARD

YOUR IMPACT IN 2025

In 2025, the Coast Guard Foundation supported Coast Guard members and families across a range of areas, from emergency and tragedy assistance to education, professional development, and morale and wellness programs.

■ EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION

Education remained a cornerstone of the Foundation's work. In 2025, \$925,000 in scholarships were awarded to 255 Coast Guard dependent children, with individual awards ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Funding supported students pursuing college degrees as well as technical and trade school pathways, reducing financial stress and allowing students to focus on academic and career goals.

Children of Fallen Heroes received additional, sustained support. Eleven surviving children were awarded Fallen Heroes scholarships and booster grants, ensuring access to enrichment opportunities such as after-school and summer programs, and scholarships that cover 100% of tuition and expenses for college and trade school at the institution of their choice.

At the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the Foundation supported academic and athletic programs, waterfront activities, and a fueling station for student-athletes. Partnerships with Academy leadership also enabled projects that reinforced leadership development and the service's core values. Through the generosity of a Coast Guard Foundation donor, a capable power boat was donated to support cadet maritime training and sailing programs.

The Foundation invested in professional growth across the service. Workforce development programs provided classes and materials to 349 Coast Guard members pursuing captains' licenses and professional credentials, supporting both mission readiness and transitions to civilian careers. An additional 133 grants helped members offset the cost of off-duty education.

223 spouses received \$1,000 and \$2,000 grants to pursue higher education, professional development, and earn professional certifications; these investments strengthened household stability and expanded long-term career opportunities.

The Foundation also supported Coast Guard K9 teams, funding care for working service dogs and specialized training for handlers, recognizing the operational importance of these teams and the unique bond they share.

■ BUILDING MORALE AND WELLNESS

To support Coast Guard families, the Foundation awarded more than \$416,000 in youth enrichment grants to 921 Coast Guard children, helping fund summer camps and access to technology for online learning and enrichment. These opportunities promoted confidence, skill-building, and social connection during the summer break.

Across the service, the Foundation invested more than \$1.4 million in 247 national morale and wellness projects, supporting physical and mental health for members stationed at sea and in remote locations. Community-building events such as Coast Guard Day celebrations and holiday gatherings strengthened unit cohesion and family support networks.

The Foundation also played a key role in celebrating service milestones. Partnerships with local commissioning committees helped bring the commissioning ceremonies of four new fast response cutters to fruition. Each cutter received a grant to establish a morale

account, and additional funding supported morale projects across the fast response cutter fleet.

In partnership with the Coast Guard Chaplain's office, the Foundation supported a national effort to strengthen relationships and resilience across the service. In 2025, the Foundation funded 58 chaplain-led programs that reached more than 7,100 Coast Guard members and family members that created meaningful moments of connection, reflection, and support at units around the country. From suicide prevention training and marriage enrichment to unit-based resiliency experiences and spiritual fitness events, these programs met people where they serve and live.

■ SUPPORT DURING TIMES OF CRISIS AND LOSS

As natural disasters affected Coast Guard communities across the country, the Foundation provided \$40,000 in emergency relief to 17 Coast Guard members and their families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by flooding and wildfires. Disasters included a glacial dam burst in Juneau, flooding in the Pacific Northwest, and wildfires in California.

The Foundation provided tragedy assistance to 21 Coast Guard families following the death of a Coast Guard member or immediate family member. Members who were critically injured or managing chronic illness also received financial support to aid in recovery, and long-term assistance continued for families of Fallen Heroes to honor their service and sacrifice.

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THE SELFLESS.
THE ALWAYS READY.**

U.S. COAST GUARD • ALASKA



Thanks to the men and women of the United States Coast Guard serving in Alaska—your courage, sacrifice, and commitment protect our waters, save lives, and safeguard our nation.

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ALWAYS READY.



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OF THE
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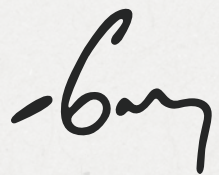
Thank you for your service.



With deepest gratitude, we honor the United States Coast Guard.

Your commitment to safeguarding our shores,
saving lives, and protecting our freedoms does
not go unnoticed. We are profoundly grateful
for all that you do, day in and day out, to keep
our nation safe. Thank you for your dedication,
courage, and tireless service.

Your pal,



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At the Gary Sinise Foundation, we're building custom homes for severely wounded heroes, organizing healing retreats for families of the fallen, hosting uplifting events for active duty service members, and so much more. To learn more, visit GarySiniseFoundation.org



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COAST GUARD FOUNDATION



For more than 55 years, the Coast Guard Foundation has been a vital partner of the U.S. Coast Guard, assisting the service and its members through the toughest challenges confronting our heroes and their families. The Foundation's work strengthens the entire community. Through close collaboration with Coast Guard leadership, our investments support families, bolster unit morale, honor the Coast Guard's service, and more.

Since our founding in 1969, we've provided more than \$122 million in services to Coast Guard members and their families. The Coast Guard Foundation ensures Coast Guard members are always ready, and their families are taken care of while their loved ones serve our country.

Thanks to our generous partners, the Coast Guard Foundation has:

- Funded \$54 million in education initiatives, helping thousands within the Coast Guard community — members, spouses, and children — achieve their dreams of higher education
- Awarded more than 20,450 grants to Coast Guard members for college tuition or professional training, enhancing their duties and setting them up for success after their service ends
- Invested \$32 million in fitness and wellness services for Coast Guard members' physical and mental health
- Provided \$6.2 million in direct support for families who have suffered the tragic loss of a loved one or needed critical support during natural disasters and emergencies

The brave members of the Coast Guard sacrifice so much to serve our nation. The Coast Guard Foundation is committed to providing them and their families the resources they need to build resilience throughout their lives when it's needed most.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 | 6:30 PM | THE QUEEN MARY, LONG BEACH

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN NEW YORK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026 | 6 PM | THE LIGHTHOUSE AT PIER 61, NEW YORK CITY

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN TEXAS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026 | 6 PM | MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOUSTON

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN NEW ORLEANS

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2027 | 6:30 PM | THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, NEW ORLEANS

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN FLORIDA

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2027 | 6:30 PM | MARGARITAVILLE HOLLYWOOD BEACH RESORT

WASHINGTON, DC SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2027 | 7 AM | ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2027 | 6:30 PM | NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM, WASHINGTON DC

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN ALASKA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2027 | 6 PM | THE HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK, ANCHORAGE

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN NEW YORK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2027 | 6 PM | THE LIGHTHOUSE AT PIER 61, NEW YORK CITY

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN TEXAS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2027 | 6 PM | MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOUSTON

**EVENTS IN HONOLULU, SEATTLE AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ARE STILL TO BE ANNOUNCED FOR 2027**



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