



WELCOME TO THE **COAST GUARD FOUNDATION**

**NEW YORK SALUTES
THE COAST GUARD
TRIBUTE DINNER**

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

THURSDAY ★ OCTOBER 9, 2025 ★ NEW YORK CITY

**COAST GUARD FOUNDATION
NEW YORK SALUTES THE COAST GUARD TRIBUTE DINNER**

PROGRAM FOR THE EVENING

WELCOME

Debbie Scheer
Master of Ceremonies

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Tom Allegretti
*Chairman
Coast Guard Foundation*

2025 HONOREE

Dr. James S.C. Chao
*Founder & Chairman
Foremost Group*

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

United States Coast Guard Academy Glee Club

DINNER

2025 COAST GUARD FOUNDATION AWARD PRESENTATION

F/V Three Girls Rescue Team

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Susan Ludwig
*President
Coast Guard Foundation*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Madame Secretary Elaine Chao
*24th Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor
18th Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation*

SERVICE MEDLEY

AFTER PARTY RECEPTION

DINNER COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Michael Burke
Statue City Cruises
Buckley McAllister
McAllister Towing

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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of the Port of NY/NJ*
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THE HONORABLE ELAINE L. CHAO

24TH UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF LABOR
18TH UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

Secretary Elaine Chao is an inspiring and consequential leader who has been appointed to two Presidential cabinet positions: U.S. Secretary of Transportation and U.S. Secretary of Labor. When she was unanimously confirmed to her first cabinet post as Secretary of Labor, she became the first woman of Asian American & Pacific Islander heritage to serve in the President’s cabinet in history.

As Secretary of Transportation, Secretary Chao focused on keeping the country’s transportation system safe and efficient; invested over \$300 billion in infrastructure over three and a half years; and, promoted American innovation in autonomous vehicles, drones, commercial space and supersonic jets. During the COVID-19 health crisis, Secretary Chao’s decisive actions kept America’s transportation networks open, safe and moving.

As Secretary of Labor, Secretary Chao focused on increasing the competitiveness of America’s workforce in a worldwide economy by updating outdated regulations and training programs to empower workers. She set new records for workplace safety and health, compensation, and retirement security.

She arrived in the United States in third grade not knowing how to speak English. She received her citizenship at the age of 19. It was her experience transitioning to a new country that motivated her to ensure that everyone has access to the opportunities in our country.

Prior to being U.S. Secretary of Labor, Secretary Chao was President and CEO of United Way of America where she restored public trust and confidence to an organization tarnished by controversy and scandal. She was also Director of the Peace Corps where she launched the first Peace Corps programs in the newly independent Baltic states, Ukraine and the former republics of the former Soviet Union. Secretary Chao began her public service as a White House Fellow working at the White House. She then served as Deputy Maritime Administrator, U.S. Department of Transportation; Chair of the Federal Maritime Commission; and, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation. She had also worked as a banker in the private sector.

Secretary Chao is an experienced board member having served as director of Fortune 500 companies while out of government. She currently serves on the boards of Kroger and a number of new economy technology companies in the mobility sector. She is also a director on many nonprofit boards, including Harvard Business School Board of Dean’s Advisors, Global Advisory Board, Los Angeles 2028 Organizing Committee of Olympic and Paralympic Games (LA28) and a trustee of Ford’s Theater, Ronald Reagan Foundation, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Secretary Chao earned her M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and is the recipient of 38 honorary degrees. Secretary Chao is a resident of Kentucky.

COAST GUARD
FOUNDATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

TEXAS SALUTES THE COAST GUARD

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 | HOUSTON | MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOUSTON

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 | NEW ORLEANS | THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN FLORIDA

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026 | HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA | MARGARITAVILLE HOLLYWOOD BEACH RESORT

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026 | STATEN ISLAND | SOUTH SHORE GOLF COURSE

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN SEATTLE

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 | SEATTLE | BELL HARBOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 | FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA | ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026 | WASHINGTON, D.C. | NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN ALASKA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026 | ANCHORAGE | THE HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK

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

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

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN TEXAS

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

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN HAWAII

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED | LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

SALUTE TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN CALIFORNIA

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED | LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

For more information visit coastguardfoundation.org/events

HONOREE



DR. JAMES S. C. CHAO

PHILANTHROPIST, FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, FOREMOST GROUP

Dr. James S. C. Chao is the Founder and Chairman of Foremost Group, an American shipping company known for its integrity, reliability and service. He grew up in an educated family in a small farming village. Early in his career, he advanced rapidly through the ranks to become one of the youngest sea captains at the age of 29. He took the national Master Mariner Examination and achieved the highest score ever recorded. This achievement gave him the opportunity to pursue further studies in the United States.

Dr. Chao and his late wife, Mrs. Ruth Mulan Chu Chao, have devoted their lives to championing education and philanthropy. To commemorate Ruth's legacy of faith, family, and philanthropy, generous gifts have been made to scholarships and institutions benefiting thousands of students. Since four of the Chao daughters attended Harvard Business School (HBS), Dr. Chao and family foundations endowed the Ruth Mulan Chu Chao Center as part of a \$40 million gift to the University that also supports the Ruth Mulan Chu and James Si-Cheng Chao Family Fellowship Fund. The gift was in recognition of the 375th anniversary of Harvard University and the 50th anniversary of admission of women to HBS; the building was also the first to be named after a woman and Asian Pacific American in Harvard's history.

After earning an MBA, Dr. Chao founded Foremost Maritime Corporation which later expanded to Foremost Group. An early adopter of green technology, Foremost Group incorporates fuel-efficient and decarbonization designs and non-fossil fuel technology in its fleet, continuously upgrading its ships with energy saving devices, and building new ships with alternative fuel and carbon capture features. Foremost's fleet is ranked among the world's most eco-friendly bulk carriers. For his outstanding contributions to the international maritime industry, Dr. Chao was inducted into the International Maritime Hall of Fame at the United Nations.

The recipient of innumerable honors and awards, Dr. Chao has been recognized with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding contributions to our nation, as well as the Horatio Alger Award of Distinguished Americans at the United States Supreme Court. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recognized Dr. Chao as an Outstanding American by Choice. American Legion Post 1291 presented their Outstanding Service Award to Dr. Chao. St. John's University, Niagara University, Nyack University, Fu Jen Catholic University, National Taiwan Ocean University and Massachusetts Maritime College bestowed Honorary Doctorate Degrees on Dr. Chao.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership in the maritime community, the Seamen's Church Institute conferred upon Dr. Chao its highest honor, the Silver Bell Award. Massachusetts Maritime College awarded Dr. Chao with its inaugural Admiral's Distinguished Service Award for inspiring leadership and contributions to society. Columbia University awarded Dr. Chao its inaugural EPIC Achievement Award. SUNY Maritime College awarded Dr. Chao its Admiral's Award for his inspiring leadership. Lloyd's List presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Chao. United States Coast Guard Academy recognized Dr. Chao with its inaugural Scientæ Cedit Mare Award; American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) honored Dr. Chao with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

To learn more about Dr. Chao's journey, please visit the Chao Family Foundations: www.chaofamily-foundations.com; Foremost Foundation: www.theforemostfoundation.org; and the family's story at Harvard Business School: www.library.hbs.edu/hc/chaofamily/

FOREMOST GROUP is an American shipping company headquartered in New York City that charters out some of the world's largest and most eco-friendly ships to blue-chip clients who use the vessels to transport dry bulk products to markets around the world. The company was founded in 1964 by Foremost Group Chairman Dr. James S.C. Chao and his late wife, Mrs. Ruth Mulan Chu Chao. As a global leader in dry bulk shipping, Foremost Group has earned a worldwide reputation for its commitment to exceptional service and performance while always holding itself to the highest ethical standards.

Foremost Group is an industry leader in incorporating fuel-efficient designs and non-fossil fuel technologies in its fleet of modern and eco-friendly dry bulk carriers. The company can ship more than 20 million tons of cargoes around the world each year for its blue-chip clients. This includes a wide variety of dry bulk commodities such as grains, soybeans, iron ore, and other essential resources. Foremost ensures the highest-quality service by exclusively managing ships that have been built to its high standards and specifications. To maintain rigorous quality control, the company does not manage pre-owned or secondhand vessels.

Since its founding, Foremost Group has incorporated eco-friendly designs and technologies in the company's fleet which today includes some of the world's largest and most eco-friendly bulk carriers. This is in keeping with Dr. Chao's steadfast belief that treating the environment with respect is not only good business practice, but also a solemn responsibility. Foremost Group is proud to have an industry-leading track record on environmental issues for over 60 years.

**COAST GUARD FOUNDATION
NEW YORK SALUTES THE COAST GUARD TRIBUTE DINNER**

AWARDEE

F/V *THREE GIRLS* RESCUE TEAM

On the evening of Sunday, August 11, 2024, the 81-foot fishing trawler *Three Girls* was fishing in the Gulf of Maine when a fire broke out in the engine room. The crew — five members and one NOAA fisheries observer — quickly realized the fire was too intense to fight and the vessel's captain told the crew to prepare to abandon ship into the life raft.

Choking back toxic smoke, but with calm professionalism, the captain made a desperate Mayday call stating the location of the *Three Girls* and that the vessel was on fire and the crew was abandoning ship. The Mayday call was received by search and rescue watch standers at Coast Guard Sector Northern New England who assured him that help was on the way.

The captain then fought the intense smoke to make his way out of the pilothouse and the crew abandoned ship together as explosions rocked the vessel and it quickly became engulfed in flames. Once in the life raft, the crew activated their emergency beacon to help rescuers find them and checked each other to ensure they were OK.

The Coast Guard Cutter *William Chadwick* (WPC-1150), which was on patrol roughly two hours away, heard the Mayday call and rushed to the scene. Coast Guard Sector Northern New England search and rescue watch standers also launched an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew and an HC-144 Ocean Sentry airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod to assist. A nearby sister ship of the *Three Girls*, *Princess Laura*, also headed to the scene.

At 10:30 p.m. rescuers found all six crew members safely aboard the life raft. The crew of the Cutter *William Chadwick* launched their boat in rough seas to transfer the survivors to the cutter while the MH-60 Jayhawk crew waited on standby if immediate medical evacuation was needed.

With no injuries reported, the crew of the Cutter *William Chadwick* headed to South Portland, Maine to reunite the survivors with family. The survivors were safely transferred ashore on Monday.



While praising his crew for the rescue, the commander officer of the Cutter *William Chadwick*'s commended the crew of the *Three Girls* for their professionalism and preparation.

"I couldn't be prouder of our crew's swift response in this rescue," said Lieutenant Commander Brent Lane, *William Chadwick*'s commanding officer. "Their dedication and skill were crucial to the successful outcome, but it's also a stark reminder of the importance of having the right safety equipment at all times. This rescue highlights that preparation and proper gear are as vital as the bravery and professionalism our team consistently displays."

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COAST GUARD FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR THE COAST GUARD

YOUR IMPACT IN 2024

The Coast Guard Foundation strengthens the community and service where and when Coast Guard members and families are most in need. We provide emergency relief when natural disasters or tragedies strike, award scholarships and grants to enhance education for members and their families, and provide funding for initiatives and projects that bolster morale and wellness.

■ RELIEF

We provided **\$1.3 million in emergency relief grants to help 610 Coast Guard members and their families rebuild and recover**, when many communities faced natural disasters that destroyed their homes. These included Hurricane Beryl in Houston/Galveston, flooding from a glacial dam burst in Juneau, Tropical Cyclone 8 in North Carolina, wildfires near Ventura, California, and several storms in Florida, including Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricanes Francine, Helene, and Milton.

Twenty-three Coast Guard families received tragedy assistance support after the death of their Coast Guard member or immediate family member, providing comfort and solace during their time of great need. Coast Guard members who were critically injured or experiencing a chronic illness received financial support to aid in their recovery. In addition, the Foundation provided long-term assistance to families of Fallen Heroes to remember them and honor their service.

■ EDUCATION

We awarded **\$750,000 in scholarships to 207 Coast Guard dependents**. Scholarships ranged from **\$2,500 to \$5,000** and supported Coast Guard kids pursuing degrees at colleges and technical/trade schools. These scholarships played an important role in easing the financial burden for Coast Guard families and helped recipients focus on their academic and career goals.

Thirteen surviving children of Coast Guard members who made the ultimate sacrifice received Fallen Heroes scholarships and booster grants. Booster grants provided school-aged children of the fallen with opportunities to engage in year-round enrichment, from academic support to summer camp. Meanwhile, scholarships ensured students can pursue a college degree or trade school diploma by covering 100 percent of expenses at the school of their choice.

We awarded **\$1,000 and \$2,000 grants to 240 Coast Guard spouses** pursuing college degrees, professional certifications, and running their own in-home childcare businesses. These grants are important in providing financial support to further their education, enhance their career opportunities, and contribute to their family's financial stability.

The Coast Guard Academy received support for academic programs, cadet activities, sports, waterfront programs, and a fueling station where student-athletes can recharge after workouts. The Coast Guard Foundation also worked with Academy leaders, allowing cadets and staff to team up on projects that reflect the service's core values. Additionally, the Foundation helped fund leadership programs to prepare cadets for their future careers.

Workforce development programs provided classes and materials to 302 Coast Guard members pursuing captains' licenses and professional training. This program better prepares members for Coast Guard missions and the transition to the civilian sector when their service is over. **We also awarded 126 grants to Coast Guard members** to support their off-duty education.

Coast Guard K-9s and their handlers benefited from a program that provides for the care of working service dogs and training for the members who work with them. This program honors the service's most faithful companions.

■ MORALE AND WELLNESS

The Coast Guard Foundation provided **more than \$395,000 in youth enrichment grants to 890 Coast Guard kids**, helping them attend summer camps and purchase technology to access online enrichment activities during summer breaks. Grants foster personal growth, build new skills, and provide valuable learning experiences to help Coast Guard kids thrive academically and socially.

The Foundation invested more than \$1.1 million in 204 national projects that support health and wellness at Coast Guard units across the country. These projects helped members stay mission-ready by maintaining their physical and mental wellness while at sea and stationed in remote locations. These projects also built a strong community among Coast Guard members through Coast Guard Day events and holiday gatherings that strengthened support networks.

Partnerships with local commissioning committees and financial support from the Foundation funded the **commissioning ceremonies of four new fast response cutters**. Moreover, **each cutter received a grant to start their morale account to support their health and wellness priorities**. In addition, fast response cutters in the fleet received grants for morale projects to support crews and families.

We supported a national initiative that equips Coast Guard members and families with life resources that aid in fostering positive and supportive relationships through a partnership with the Coast Guard chaplain's office. In 2024, our funding supported suicide prevention training, marriage retreats, and resiliency activities that strengthened overall well-being and resolve.

In partnership with the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, we **offered a program to help Coast Guard members heal and cope with military sexual trauma** in a supportive, connected community setting.

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For his decades of dedication &
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Dr. James S. C. Chao
Founder & Chairman
&
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salutes the men and women of

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DR. JAMES S.C. CHAO
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in honoring

Dr. James S.C. Chao

*Founder and Chairman
of the Foremost Group*



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tomorrow
Together





WE ARE THE 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 \$113 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 \$51 million in education initiatives, helping thousands within the Coast Guard community — members, spouses, and children — achieve their dreams of higher education
- Awarded more than 19,100 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 \$30 million in fitness and wellness services for Coast Guard members' physical and mental health
- Provided \$6.8 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.

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