

# Mystery

Continued from Page 1A

Officially, they're stumped. So are the couple's friends and families. "It just doesn't add up to me," said Patrick Quinlan, a buddy of Rutherford's from Albion College. "Rutherford is not a risk taker that I have seen, and that's what disturbs me about this whole accident that seems to have taken place," he said. "I don't see him as doing anything stupid out there on the water."

## They were happy-go-lucky

When the blonde and her tall companion pulled up at Presque Isle State Harbor just after noon Aug. 11, dock attendant Gene Austin headed out to help them tie up. After Austin pumped more than 50 gallons into Stempien's 27-foot Wellcraft cabin cruiser, the two boaters bickered good-naturedly over who would pay the bill.

Stempien was going to pay with her credit card. But Rutherford insisted. "OK, then let him pay," Stempien said with a laugh. "They were happy-go-lucky, on their way to Mackinac Island for a fun weekend, it sounded like," Austin said.

The two came from different backgrounds. Rutherford was the oldest son of a well-respected partner with the law firm Dykema Gossett and a former elementary school teacher. Stempien was the second daughter of a retired pipe fitter and a hair stylist. Her family was large, extended and close-knit.

Friends say she was just the sort of girl Rutherford fell for: smart and beautiful.

"He was just infatuated with her," said friend Eric Thewes. "I was impressed. Chuck didn't date a lot of girls in college. Lana seemed very impressive."

Depending on who you ask, the couple were either nearly engaged or on the verge of a split. Stempien had told a friend that she had considered breaking off the relationship.

"She was uncertain where the relationship was heading," said Shirley Stanek-Darke, Stempien's best friend. Stanek-Darke declined to say why.

Even so, the couple continued to share Rutherford's house, on Muir in Grosse Pointe Farms, with three dogs they had rescued.

Friends say the couple loved to party and hang out. They were regulars at Tom's Oyster Bar and Andrews on the Corner.

Rutherford, a former Wayne County assistant prosecutor with a private practice, knew his way around the courtroom, and a former colleague described him as "fearless in court."

Friends and ex-girlfriends describe him as sensitive guy, a poet with a dry sense of humor, a little vain, but with a habit of anonymously giving to charities.

A free-spirited Stempien was known for her singing and her unabashed way of sharing it — no matter how off-key — with others. At a family wedding last year, Stempien got onstage for an impromptu rendition of "We Are Family."

Family say the onetime model knew she wanted to be an attorney since age 3, could talk her way out of anything, loved to travel and had an easygoing way about her.

"You could have a conversation about anything with her," said Christian Draheim, an ex-boyfriend of Stempien's and a longtime friend.

To outsiders, the two appeared to have it all: budding careers, friends, family and love. But what happened on Lake Huron — and it's largely conjecture — ended all that.

## GPS mystery

It wasn't like Stempien to miss checking in with family by phone when boating. Nor was it like her, they said, to be under way without engaging the GPS.

But cell phone records show no calls were made from Stempien's or Rutherford's cell phones after about 3 p.m. Aug. 11.

Earlier that afternoon Stempien had chatted with her father, Stanek-Darke and at 1:30 p.m. with her aunt Pat Koczars.

At 1:36 a.m. on Aug. 12, police believe someone flipped on the GPS as Sea's Life idled in neutral, east of Bois Blanc Island, in Lake Huron. Stempien's family has contested that theory and police said Thursday they are reviewing the data that supported the claim.

Because the search for bodies was based on the GPS data, police may have been looking for Rutherford in the wrong place.



Depending on who you ask, Charles Rutherford and Lana Stempien were either nearly engaged or on the verge of a split.

The boat was 20 to 25 miles from the couple's destination, and it was hours after Stempien and Rutherford were to have checked in at Mackinac.

That leaves a 10-hour hole between when family last heard from the couple by cell phone and when police believe the GPS was activated. "Probably the biggest (mystery) is probably going to be a time gap between the last phone call and the GPS activation," said Michigan State Police Detective Robin Sexton.

"Is there an explanation for it? Yes, there has to be; it exists. Is it untoward? Is it rational? I don't know. But we hope we will find out."

Some suspect the two may have had company.

Kerry Crowley, Stempien's cousin, has said he spoke with people who saw the couple with others.

When Stempien and Rutherford stopped in Oscoda on Aug. 10, Crowley said a witness reported seeing them with another couple.

Police say the couple and others they have interviewed who saw Stempien and Rutherford were never suspects and, so far, haven't led to new information.

"We've talked to them, and we're looking for more," Sexton said.

Sexton also said police are looking into tips that suggest defendants in a case Rutherford was litigating could have targeted the couple during their trip, leading to a double-murder theory.

## Body, boat hold clues

Stempien's body is one of the few clues that could hold some answers. Forensic pathologists said nothing on her body pointed to foul play.

"There's certainly no evidence of trauma and there are (organs) that we can use for toxicology, which may provide some information as far as why she ended up in the water," said David Start, a forensic pathologist with Spectrum Bloodlet-Health Campus, who performed the official autopsy on Stempien.

A private autopsy on Stempien has been completed, but her family won't say what it found.

Family and investigators are awaiting a toxicology report due out in the next two weeks. Though a Michigan State Police trooper has said an empty fifth of Absolut vodka was found in a trash can on the boat, lead investigator Sexton refused to con firm or deny that report.

A console knob embedded in the sole of one of Stempien's shoes raised questions as to whether there was a struggle on the boat, though police have said the shoe is not conclusive evidence of anything.

"We don't know what's connected or not," said Sexton, the Michigan State Police detective.

No life preservers were missing from the boat, casting doubt on the theory that Stempien or Rutherford had slipped and fallen overboard.

Also, Sea's Life's flare gun had not been used. And the ladder to the boat was up. A 20-foot rope hung off the stern, according to police.

"The boat was still running (when it was found), plus the fact that the running lights weren't on, so that would tell me that the last time (Stempien) was on that boat was during the daytime," said Joe Crowley, Stempien's cousin.

Stempien was trained by her father, a former member of the U.S. Coast Guard, to handle her boat. Both she and Rutherford were strong swimmers and would have known what to do in case of an emergency, relatives say.

The fact that Stempien was naked "could fit a couple of different theories, I'm not going to speculate on what that means," Sexton said.

## Theories are 'wide open'

Jack Cote, a well-known attorney who worked nine years on unraveling the boating disappearance of Detroit restaurateur Chuck Mues, had offered his services, free, to Rutherford's family to help determine why and how Rutherford disappeared.

But Cote said he was asked to suspend his investigation just days ago. He doesn't know why.

"I kept asking questions and asking questions, and all of a sudden, they no longer needed my services," he said.

Some in Stempien's family have said they felt the police's inspection of the boat was inadequate.

The boat was canvassed by a Michigan State Police detective and two evidence technicians before it was released to the family, who used it to search for Stempien and Rutherford on Lake Huron early in their disappearance. And police say they left "no stone unturned."

Mike Schouman, Rutherford's uncle, has heard all the theories.

"The theories are still pretty much wide open," he said. "I've even heard theories where they say (Stempien and Rutherford may have) harmed each other, but I would reject that concept out of hand."

But even after all of the guesses seemed to be exhausted, another surfaces.

"You know as you unpeel an onion and you just get more layers and more layers?" said Joe Crowley. "That's exactly how this is."

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"They were happy-go-lucky, on their way to Mackinac Island for a fun weekend, it sounded like."

GENE AUSTIN

Dock attendant



Both lawyers, Lana Stempien, 35, and Charles "Chuck" Rutherford Jr., 34, shared a home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

They were young, full of life and off to Mackinac. Now only a boat, a body and questions remain.

# MYSTERY ON LAKE HURON

By DOROTHY BOURDET  
The Detroit News

The strange shape on a rocky shoal along Lake Huron caught Beverly Wheaton's eye. Using a telescope, Wheaton spotted the body of a blond woman in her 30s, about 50 to 100 yards offshore.

Wheaton's discovery only compounded the mystery surrounding Lana Stempien, 35, and her boyfriend, Charles "Chuck" Rutherford Jr., 34. The two lawyers, who shared a home in Grosse Pointe Farms, had been heading to Mackinac Island on Aug. 11 when they disappeared from her cabin cruiser, Sea's Life.

There are plenty of clues, but they don't seem to add up.

The abandoned boat was found the day after it was expected in Mackinac — idling, its radio playing, running lights off, life preservers and cell phones still on board. Police say someone had turned on the GPS system in the middle of the night, 10 hours after anyone had heard from the couple.

When Stempien was found, she was wearing nothing but a necklace, an Omega watch and a ring.

There are plenty of theories, too. Maybe it was a tragic accident. But some friends and family members suggest foul play — that others were involved.

Police won't speculate as to why Rutherford's body has not been found. They're treating the case as a missing person investigation.

# Memorial



Members of the Coast Guard Color Guard return Thursday during the 30th annual Great Lakes Mariners Memorial Service at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. The service is held each year on the anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald to remember mariners who have died on the Great Lakes and oceans.

Record-Eagle/Greg Lindner

Please see Mystery, Page 8A



# Boys on raft are rescued in Straits

BY PATRICK SULLIVAN  
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TRAVERSE CITY — As the sun set over Lake Michigan, Jacob White and Alex Thomason left their campsite at Emmet County's Wilderness State Park and waded in for a swim, their yellow-and-blue trampoline raft in tow.

The Friday evening swim nearly turned tragic after a strong current and gusty wind pulled the boys far into the lake and sent them drifting about eight miles, into the Straits of Mackinac, and perilously close to a shipping lane between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Shivering and desperate to be found, White, 13, and Thomason, 12, both of Grand Blanc, were plucked from the raft several hours later and hoisted into a rescue helicopter about two or three miles from the Mackinac Bridge, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Gabe Somma said. They had clung to the roughly 10-foot diameter raft, but neither boy had a life preserver, Somma said.

The boys were flown to Pellston Regional Airport and then taken to Northern

PLEASE SEE PAGE 9A

## BOYS

### Two are rescued after raft drifts into Straits area

FROM PAGE 1A

Michigan Hospital where they were treated for mild hypothermia, state police said.

White and Thomason were staying with their families at the state park campground north of Cross Village. The Record-Eagle was unable to reach them or their families for comment.

Officer Jeannie Bennett, of the state Department of Natural Resources, said the families were in good shape Saturday and had left the campground to spend the day at Blissfest, a folk music festival in Emmet County.

"Everybody's doing fine and everything went well," Bennett said.

Somma, who was aboard the helicopter that left the Traverse City air station at around midnight, said the raft was spotted at around 3 a.m. on the last pass the crew planned before they were to head back to Pellston for more fuel. He said the chopper turned, leveled out and



the raft was spotted bobbing in the water.

"Obviously, they were as excited as we were," he said. "They were waving their arms and you could see the smiles on their faces."

Somma said the wind blew at around 25 knots to the northeast and churned two- to three-foot waves.

At first the conditions were good for the search because moonlight illuminated the lake surface, but as the early morning dragged on, the moonlight dimmed and the lake became harder to see, he said. The crew relied on night vision goggles to see what they could.

Freighters traveling

through the Straits were alerted to keep a lookout for the raft, and the ships turned on search lights, he said.

"The kids said they saw the (freighters) go right by, they just never saw them," Somma said.

The boys also spotted the helicopter several times before anyone on the helicopter spotted them, he said.

The search also involved numerous police and rescue agencies who searched from land, as well as a Coast Guard ship.

Sgt. David Hart of the state police Gaylord post said the boys were fortunate to be spotted.

"They were out far enough

where they couldn't see anything and no one could see them," Hart said.

White and Thomason told Somma they were tempted to abandon the raft and attempt to swim to shore — a decision that could have been fatal because it would have been harder to spot them and they probably underestimated how far they were from land.

Somma said he's been out of flight school for two years and has flown on 40 missions, but this is the first real success he's experienced. Some searches were false alarms, sometimes people were saved before he arrived, and in some cases people were lost.

## STRAITS OF MACKINAC

# Boys recount rescue from lake

BY PATRICK SULLIVAN  
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TRAVERSE CITY — The sky grew dark, the land grew dim, and it soon became apparent that this after-dinner swim with a raft in Lake Michigan was not going as planned.

"We just got done eating and we were kind of bored. We ... figured we'd

go out a little ways and just hang out in the water and then just come back," said Jacob White, who was rescued with his friend, Alex Thomason, from the Straits of Mackinac by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter at around 3 a.m. Saturday.

"A current got us and took us further and further away, until it was too far to swim,"

he said.

White and his family wrapped their stay at Wilderness State Park and headed back along I-75 to their Grand Blanc home. He recounted over a mobile phone how he and Thomason spent more than five hours in chilly air and

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2A

## STRAITS

### Boys recount their rescue from raft in lake

FROM PAGE 1A

a heavy lake chop on a raft that was 10 feet in diameter.

A mobile phone would have come in handy late Friday night, as White, 13, and Thomason, 12, were swept away by a current that took them east toward the Mackinac Bridge and about a half-mile from the shipping lane that freighters use to cross between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

But the boys had no way to call for help, other than to yell and wave their arms. As the night wore on, they could only hope that a searcher would spot them.

"After the sun went down, I realized that there was no

drifting back to land, that we'd have to wait for someone to see us," White said. "We got really scared. We started talking about what could happen if we didn't make it."

Once, while a hint of light remained, they spotted kayakers nearby but they were unable to raise an alarm.

"The kayakers probably just thought that we were messing around," White said.

Concern soon turned to fear.

"I just thought, you know, how are we supposed to get back?" said Thomason, who traveled with the White family Tuesday. "I was thinking about my mom and dad, seeing them again, just getting back on shore."

Probably around the same time, as twilight turned to darkness, White's family at the campground realized something was wrong.

"It was probably about 10 o'clock when we thought, 'They're gone, where are

they?'" said Tami White, Jacob's mother. "Then we thought, 'Oh my God,' because that means that they're out in the raft in the water."

On the raft, the boys passed the time trying to stay positive and figure out a way back to land.

"For a while, we'd joke around and stuff and just say stupid stuff, and I think if it weren't for that, we probably would have went crazy," Thomason said.

They felt the water with their toes and considered swimming for land or taking turns getting into the water and swimming the raft to land, but the water was frigid.

"We're both pretty good swimmers, but if we would have tried to swim, they said we would have died because of hypothermia," Thomason said. "But I'm kind of afraid of really deep water, so I guess it's a good thing I was afraid because I wasn't really

feeling (like) swimming." White said he saw the Coast Guard helicopter for about two hours before the crew on the chopper saw them.

They drifted into the light of the Mackinac Bridge and could see search lights coming from land and from sea. They then began to believe they'd be saved, even though it took so long to be spotted.

The helicopter finally appeared above them. As it hovered, a rescuer diver in scuba gear took them off the raft one at a time to a basket dropped into the water. They were lifted into the helicopter then whisked to the airport in Pellston, where they were greeted with warm blankets in the airport lounge.

Neither boy went back into the lake for the rest of their vacation.

"I was just so relieved to be out of the water and warm and with my family," White said.

# SOARING THROUGH HISTORY

## Gliders subject of book and museum exhibit



Michael Baker of Lake Ann makes a turn over Crystal Lake in a glider. Baker is a member of the Northwest Soaring Club, which flies out of Frankfort Airport nearly every day. Baker learned to fly in the Navy and flies helicopters for the Coast Guard, but only has been flying gliders for about four years.



Pete and Jeff Sandman have compiled an exhibit of photographs from early soaring meets that are on display at the Empire Historical Museum through September. The Sandmans also co-authored a book on the sport, "Soaring and Gliding: The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Area," which was published on Wednesday and is available at area bookstores. Both father and son developed an interest in the sport while taking a Michigan history class at Central Michigan University.

FRANKFORT — On a Monday afternoon, Dow Memorial Field is left to deserted, hours pass without a takeoff or landing.

At the far end of the runway, the door of a lone hangar is raised. The hangar belongs to the Northwest Soaring Club. Inside, club members Pete Brancheau and Doug Hovetter stand slouched under the wing of a newly rehabbed Schweitzer 233 glider. It's a crude training glider, Brancheau said, not built for performance like sleek, modern models. But it's big, a broad, 50-foot wingspan helping to keep it aloft without the luxury of an engine.

Hovetter is the mechanic and the group's tow pilot, carrying gliders up to several thousand feet in the single-engine taildragger "Spirit of Stollie." Brancheau, 40, is a self-confessed flight junkie, and arguably the future of a club whose core members are in their 70s and 80s.

He steps out of the hangar and squints toward the sky. He's looking for clouds to form, indicating the

presence of thermals — pockets of rising air that gliders pilots ride up like escalators.

"I don't know if you have that enthusiasm in a lot of the people. The interest is just kind of waning."

On this particular Monday, it's just Brancheau, Hovetter and the spirit of Stollie. To the visitor, a small sign at the entrance to Airport Road advertising the club's existence. A lot has changed since the late 1930s, when the city flirted briefly with the title of "Gliding and Soaring Capital of the United States."

That era is the subject of an exhibit that's on display at the Empire Historical Museum through September. It was compiled by Pete and Jeff Sandman, who also have published a

For more photos, please visit the Record-Eagle Web site at [www.record-eagle.com](http://www.record-eagle.com)

Record-Eagle staff writer **BOB DARROW**

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2B



Escanaba, March 14

### Three Stranded Fishermen Rescued From Ice Floe

Three ice fishermen in Escanaba were rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter Monday night, after being stranded on an ice floe.

Ray Segorski, John Deplonty, and Paul Roll were ice fishing when the ice broke, stranding them in the middle of the bay, and carrying them further and further away from shore.

There was nothing local law enforcement and rescue teams could do, the fishermen were too far out.

"You kind of feel helpless. Everybody was trying to put their heads together and come up with a way to get to them," explained Thomas Lewis of the Delta County Sheriff's Department. "With this incident here, the Coast Guard did an excellent job. I can honestly say, if it wasn't for them, I don't know what we would have done."

Local police were unable to locate a boat to reach the men. However, just before 7:30 p.m. a search light appeared over the water. An hour and a half after one of the men first called 911, a Coast Guard rescue helicopter finally arrived from Traverse City.

"We found them right away. They were able to turn the lights on their ATV's," says U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Com. Kim Pacsal. "We came right into a hover, I deployed my rescue swimmer down to the ice. He was able to assess the situation and see the condition of the survivors."

The anglers were transported by air to the Delta County Airport where they were met by paramedics and loved ones. The crew of the Coast Guard helicopter said the rescue could not have gone any better but they know the situation could have had a far different outcome.

Escanaba, March 14

### Ice Fisherman Reflects On His Rescue



Paul Roll says he probably won't be ice fishing again this winter.

Paul Roll is a lucky man.

Monday morning, he and John Deplonty ventured out on Little Bay de Noc for what they thought would be a pleasant day of ice fishing.

They weren't worried about the condition of the ice. "There was 10 inches of ice or more out there and along the shore," he explained. "So we didn't have any concern, just the wind."

However, as the day wore on, high winds kicked up waves and broke the ice apart. Roll, Deplonty, and another fisherman, Ray Segorski, suddenly found themselves floating out into the bay.

"We didn't even know we were floating until 5:30," Roll said. "We got about 50 yards from the edge of the ice and then saw that much open water. It was kind of scary."

Fortunately, they had a cell phone and they called 911, but it wasn't until two hours later, as they were drifting southward, that they were plucked from the ice floe by a Coast Guard helicopter.

All three fishermen were okay and were reunited with their families. Roll wouldn't repeat what his wife said to him when she saw him, but he made it clear that his ice fishing days are over for this winter.

### Three rescued off ice

ESCANABA - The U.S. Coast Guard rescued three men from a floating ice flow in Little Bay de Noc Monday night.

Ray Segorski, 56, John Deplonty, 58, and Paul Roll, 73, all of Escanaba, were ice fishing off the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when they became stranded on a large ice flow floating away from shore, according to a release from the Delta County Sheriff's Department.

The men, who had driven 4-wheelers onto the ice, called 911 from a cell phone at approximately 5:48 p.m. At the scene, deputies observed a large area of open water between the ice flow and the shoreline.

A Coast Guard Rescue Helicopter was dispatched from Traverse City. The men were rescued approximately two miles from shore, toward Stonington Point, said Undersheriff Ed Oswald.

They were lifted to safety at approximately 7:25 p.m. and flown to Delta County Airport where they were treated and released by Rampart personnel. No injuries were reported.

The men were stranded on ice eight to 10 inches thick, said Oswald. "It broke loose in the strong winds and flowed out into the bay," Oswald said. "The ice started busting up. When there are waves, the ice starts deteriorating."

Officers stayed in contact with the stranded men throughout the rescue via cell phone and also worked to direct the helicopter.

(For complete story see today's Daily Press.)

From rescuing crew members in peril on sinking fishing boats off the storm-tossed coast of Oregon to finding lost hunters and fishers on the Great Lakes, Eric Biehn seemed to have experienced every challenge a U.S. Coast Guardsman

## TO THE RESCUE

Alumnus Eric Biehn Carried Hundreds from Peril to Safety in Katrina's Aftermath



might confront. That is, until the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

For eight days in September following the hurricane, he participated in the grueling rescue or transportation of hundreds of residents of New Orleans and its surrounding communities who were victimized by the storm.

"They always had that million-mile stare," Biehn recalls. "They couldn't believe what was happening to them."

Biehn, a 1996 physical education graduate and South St. Paul native now in his ninth year of service as a "loosie," has been stationed at the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Traverse City, Mich., for the past 2-1/2 years. Following the storm, Biehn, another swimmer and an officer from his base were sent to the Mobile, Ala., Coast Guard base. Biehn compliments the USCG training that brought a pilot, co-pilot, mechanic and himself together from bases across the nation—they were able to quickly merge into a team.

Four hours after his arrival he was on his first 12-hour shift, flying eight rescue missions over the eerily silent city. In the skies over the city without power, lights or air traffic controllers, scores of rescue aircraft were flying missions with crewmembers like Biehn keeping a watch out both for those who needed rescuing and other aircraft to avoid a mid-air collision.

"All you could see was moonlight reflecting off the water between the buildings and the trees. It was totally quiet," he muses. "The extent of the flooding was 'unbelievable,'" said Biehn, who conducted rescue missions in the Ninth Ward, the Super Dome and Convention Center, and neighboring communities. His rescue situations presented every imaginable challenge.

"Tethered by a steel cable, Biehn was lowered to rooftops and helped refugees into a basket that lifted them into the helicopter. Often they were weak from dehydration and would have been blown off the rooftops from the aircraft rotor wash if he were not there to steady them. Biehn would take medicine every four hours to prevent infections from the bacteria-infested floodwaters that would be blown onto him as he rescued nearly 60 individuals.

Sometimes his crew found people who wouldn't abandon their homes. He'd leave behind the food and water his aircrew picked up after every sortie in the anticipation that some residents might reject rescuing.

The challenges were unparalleled. "We're trained to do rescues in a certain way," Biehn says. "Doing urban rescues isn't something we're used to—from figuring out how to lift people in wheelchairs to how to get into a building."

Biehn recalls one night rescue when his helicopter crew had to lower him onto a tree that had tipped into a house, since scrambling up the trunk was the only way he could enter the residence to help its occupants. Adding to the tension were downed power lines that could have been live.

His rescues included the last five critical patients from New Orleans Memorial Hospital and people on a bridge that was awash from both approaches.

Those rescued were grateful and cooperative. Only once did

he run into problems when his helicopter spotted a half-dozen people on a building. As he was lowered, more than 30 people clambered onto the roof. When Biehn began to direct that women and children would be rescued first, a handful of men "came out of nowhere" and started screaming at him that they should have priority. Another male victim intervened and ensured Biehn's orders were followed.

His mission also included transporting hundreds of refugees from the Super Dome to the airport, where they received emergency medical treatment, food and water. All baggage, trucks and vehicles at the airport were used as galleys to transport the injured. A double line of helicopters was continuously rolling down the runway to drop off their charges and head out for the next load.

"It was really impressive," he recalls of the coordinated effort.

What helped keep him going was his contribution in rescuing his fellow Americans. "There was lots of gratitude, lots of hugs, lots of smiles," he reflects.

Now returned to Traverse City with his wife, Jennifer, who is expecting their second child in April, and their 15-month-old daughter Emma, Biehn chuckles that he's back into the routines of his usual job.

An aviation survival technician 1st class, he is a graduate of the four-month rescue swimmer school program. At Traverse City, his duties include spending a 24-hour shift every few days where he might be called on for an array of responsibilities, including rescues, aiding disabled divers or assisting local law enforcement agencies. His unit of five HH-65B "Dolphin" helicopters patrols Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and the western half of Lake Huron.

When not on watch, he supervises 11 other rescue swimmers and oversees quality assurance on all rescue equipment. Biehn also provides monthly training for the 150 officers and enlisted personnel on the base, drawing heavily on his courses at UWRF in outdoor recreation and wilderness survival.

Thinking about Katrina, he says, "I was extremely happy with what we were able to do. I loved it. That's why I do my job."

He adds that he's committed to his rescue work. "I was only going to do my four years and thought it would help me pay off my school loans. I thought I would get out and go back to school or teach. But I absolutely love this job. I'll do my 20 years and see where it goes from there."

by Mark Kintner, UWRF Public Affairs







2006



# PTERO-ROOST!

BTC '06





# OPEN HOUSE



## Coast Guard gives tour of their duty

Public turns out to see rescue demonstrations, new Dolphin helicopter at air station

By Carol South  
Herald contributing writer

Under dazzling blue skies, which nicely cleared for a few hours Sunday afternoon, personnel at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City welcomed their admiring and curious public.

From rescue demonstrations and flyovers by the station's helicopters to tours of the 25-foot Response Boat from the Charlevoix Life Station and movies about Hurricane Katrina rescues, the service put its best foot forward.

"We've lived around it our whole lives and never been here before," said Mike Brennan, who attended the event with his sons Jordan, 14, and Jeremy 10. "It was pretty cool to see how they did [the rescue.]"

Waiting in line with his dad and brother for a peek into the cockpit of the new HH-65C Dolphin, Jordan added: "I want to see what it's like in there."

As her son, Anthony, 9, pretended to pilot a Dolphin, Nancy Kratovil of Traverse City appreciated the event for her family.

"My sons, they're loving it," she said. "We really didn't know too much about this."

One goal of what is planned to be an annual event is to thank the community for all their support as well as their forbearance for noise the notable Dolphin helicopters make as personnel train and carry out their duties.

"This town supports the Coast Guard very much and they put up with a lot of noise so we wanted to say, 'Thank You!'" said Commander Sam Creech, operations officer and chief pilot at the air station. "We're just glad to see everyone out here to see what we do."

Not to mention the chance of sparking interest in the service among younger visitors.

"Hopefully, we have some young Coast Guard men and women here today," added Creech.

Prominently displayed and open for hands-on exploration were two of the air station's fleet of helicopters: the older HH-65A and the newer HH-65C. The new model has been re-engined and also has a longer, sleeker nose, an all-glass cockpit and all digital instrumentation.

These changes boost the craft's safety, speed and area of coverage, noted Creech.

"The engines on the old helicopter are somewhat unreliable so we didn't want during a rescue for someone to have to rescue us," he said. "This new one eliminates that: it's safer for our crews and safer for the public."

The Traverse City Fire Department also showcased its new Striker 3000 Airport Rescue and Firefighting vehicle during the open house. This massive truck holds 3,000 gallons of water and 460 gallons of foam and is designed specifically to fight aircraft fires. The truck



Herald photos by Carol South

Personnel from Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City demonstrated rescue operations Sunday during an open house at the facility near the Cherry Capital Airport.



George Goldkuhle, 3, plays pilot in the cockpit of the new HH-65C Dolphin.

is one of two housed in a new city fire station next to the new Cherry Capital Airport terminal. Before the new station and equipment, the city fire department responded to any calls from stations near the airport.

"It requires special training but we all rotate through," said firefighter and paramedic Larry Mueller. "This is all federally funded and we plan to have it for 25 years."

Mueller noted that the Striker, despite its size, weight and enormous tires, turns on a tight radius because the rear

wheels also turn. The vehicle is also licensed as a basic life support unit, although not as a transport unit.

"So we go out on any calls on airport property," he said.





# Air Station Hosts Air Force Association Chapter 414 September 13, 2007





# Bendle grad drops in

## Arriving by helicopter, Coast Guard commander gives kids a pep talk

By Elizabeth Lowe  
elowe@theburtonnews.com • 810.766.6281

**BENDLE** — The orange and black helicopter flashed in the sunlight, tilted and circled the Bendle stadium.

Blowing bits of grass toward a crowd of cheering high school students the H-65C Dolphin hovered, titanium blades whirring as the crew touched onto the field.

Capt. David Throop was on home turf again.

Throop, a 1981 Bendle graduate, went on to gradu-



▲ David Throop speaks to students at Bendle High after the flight.



▲ Bendle High senior Alysha Lawson, 17, talks to her niece and nephew Katelna, 3, and Dylan Beverly, 2, as the Coast Guard helicopter piloted by David Throop lands at her school's football field.

ate from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the Howard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. He now is the commanding officer of the Coast Guard Air Station in Traverse City.

"You might not realize right now, but teachers, administrators, principals — they have a tremendous impact on your life," Throop said with a nod toward high school Principal Bill Parish, his former coach.

"People like Bill Parish reached out and grabbed me by the scruff of my neck and wouldn't let me quit basketball."

It was a 1949 Bendle graduate who approached Throop about speaking to Bendle students.

"My grandson is there now and he doesn't think there's any hope," Throop was told. "You need to come down here and tell those kids there's opportunities out there."

"Yes sir," answered Throop. Of 22 years with the Coast Guard, Throop has worked 18 years with helicopters such as the short-range chopper the crew flew from Traverse City.

The Coast Guard uses helicopters for rescues, such as last summer's lifesaving feat

involving Grand Blanc eighth-graders Alex Thomason and Jacob White. They were airlifted two miles west of the Mackinac Bridge after six hours adrift on an inflatable trampoline in the 300-foot-deep waters of Lake Michigan.

The Traverse City station also helped with drug busts and supports Homeland Security efforts. The station is credited with saving 117 lives in the past two years.

Paying for college was Throop's initial reason for joining the Coast Guard. Since then, he has cruised the Coast of Mexico and Alaskan waters and has worked with helicopters for 18 years.

"I wouldn't have had a clue when I was sitting in your seat that was even an opportunity," said Throop.

But students wanted to know more.

"How much money do you make?" called out sophomore Jared Gipson, 16.

"Some days they can't pay me enough," joked Throop, adding, "Next year I'll gross more than \$100,000 a year."

The May 24 appearance was Throop's fourth attempt to address career paths for Bendle students.

The one-hour flight from Traverse City was skunked on three occasions due to bad weather, but the fourth time



▲ David Throop prepares to land his helicopter on the football field.

proved to be the charm, said Throop, who will move his family to Washington, D.C., next month to work in the Coast Guard's Officer Personnel Management office.

The event was a thrill for his parents Howard and Kitty Throop of Burton.

"This is the first time we've seen him fly in anywhere," Howard said.

Throop's visit piqued an interest in the Coast Guard for senior Vincent Dubay, 18, and freshman Dylan Couch, 15.

"I might actually consider it," said Dylan. "He's got a lot of achievements under his belt and he gets to fly. I find machinery a beautiful thing."

The Coast Guard might strike the right balance between her yearning for military service and appeasing her concerned family, said camouflage-sporting senior Jessica Harris, 17.

But the Coast Guard sees its share of danger, said Throop.

"With Port Security teams protecting ports and oil wells in the Middle East, we've had some close calls," said Throop, citing a petty officer killed while defending an oil well from a boat's suicide attack.

"We're certainly able to go into harm's way. We've fought in every conflict since World War II."



▲ Bendle High School students look over the Coast Guard helicopter.

### Friendly fly-in



Staff photo • Bruce Edwards

David Throop speaks with his mother, Kitty Throop of Burton, at Bendle High School after flying his Coast Guard helicopter from Traverse City and landing on the football field of the high school on May 24. In the background is his father Howard Throop. For related story and more photos, see page 3.




Staff photos • Bruce Edwards

▲ David Throop shows Vincent Dubay, 18, a senior at Bendle High School his gear after flying his Coast Guard helicopter from Traverse City and landing on the football field of the high school.









Nov 14, 2006 Dear Officer Loeb:  
Thank you for coming to  
Central Lake Elementary School. I  
learned a lot about you  
now helicopter. I found that  
the helicopter can get extremely  
hot. I also learned that you  
can go 10,000 ft. in the air.  
I also found that you guys  
do rescues and you have the  
best vision in the air because  
you can go so high.

Your friend  
Frank Hoffman





11-20-2006

Dear Officer Loeb,  
Where is your working place located  
at? Can you come and visit us  
agin? Please? So you do come backe I'll  
wright you a poem. It's called, Airplans and  
helicopters. Airplans and helicopters glide throa  
the sky as the sun sets, in the hie, and  
we say good bye for this day has ended  
I just want to cry but insted  
I just sie to the moon and say  
good bye, good bye I just want  
to cry good bye, good bye.

x  
x  
x

Come agln soon  
your friend Rosalynn Elect Sharfer

x

Oh P.S. I hope you  
like the poem.



November 20,  
2006

Dear Officer Loeb,

Thank you for coming to  
our school. It is very intresy  
how one person jumps out of a  
plane and some person operates the  
helicopter and <sup>another</sup> saves people. I think  
the helicopter is cool! It must be  
boring reading all those books. I  
think the inside of the helicopter  
was cool too!

Your friend,  
Makayla Konefke



November 21, 2006

Dear Officer Loeb,

Hi my name is Destiny.

Thank you for stopping at our school. I learned that your job is really important. Some day I want to be a Coast Guard officer.

I learned a lot like when someone is stuck in the water and some one has to save that person. Or some one could get to close to the blade things and get there hands cut off. Oh again thank you



so much. I had lots of fun.

My favorite part was when we got  
to go through the helicopter.

It was so cool in side.

From Destiny



11-20-06

Dear, officer Loeb,

Thank you for taking time off your job to come and tell us about your job. Most people in the whole school probably liked that. I think your job is really neat. I liked it when you let us go inside the Helicopter. I wondered how hard it is to control all those buttons and what they do. I learned lots of things like how much gas it takes, how many miles can you go before you need to get more gas. I also learned that in the castgould you can save someones live just by the weather.

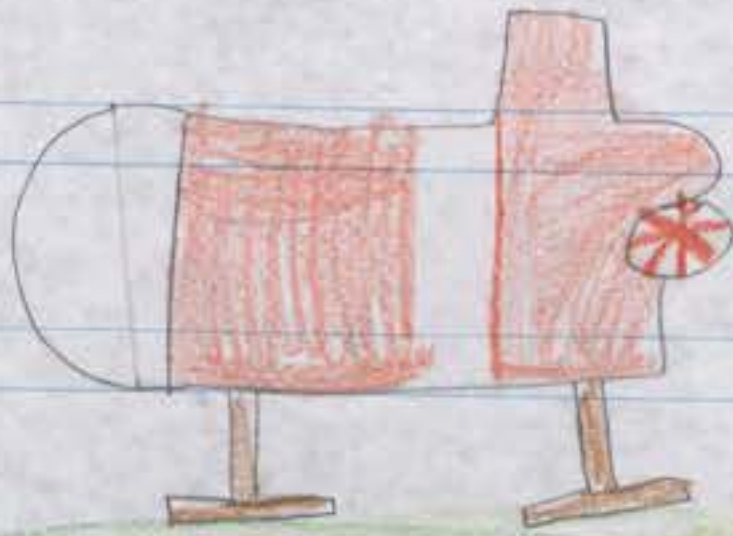
From, Connor



Dear Coast Guard,  
I think that the helicopter  
was cool. I liked that I could  
see the helicopter.

Love Madison.





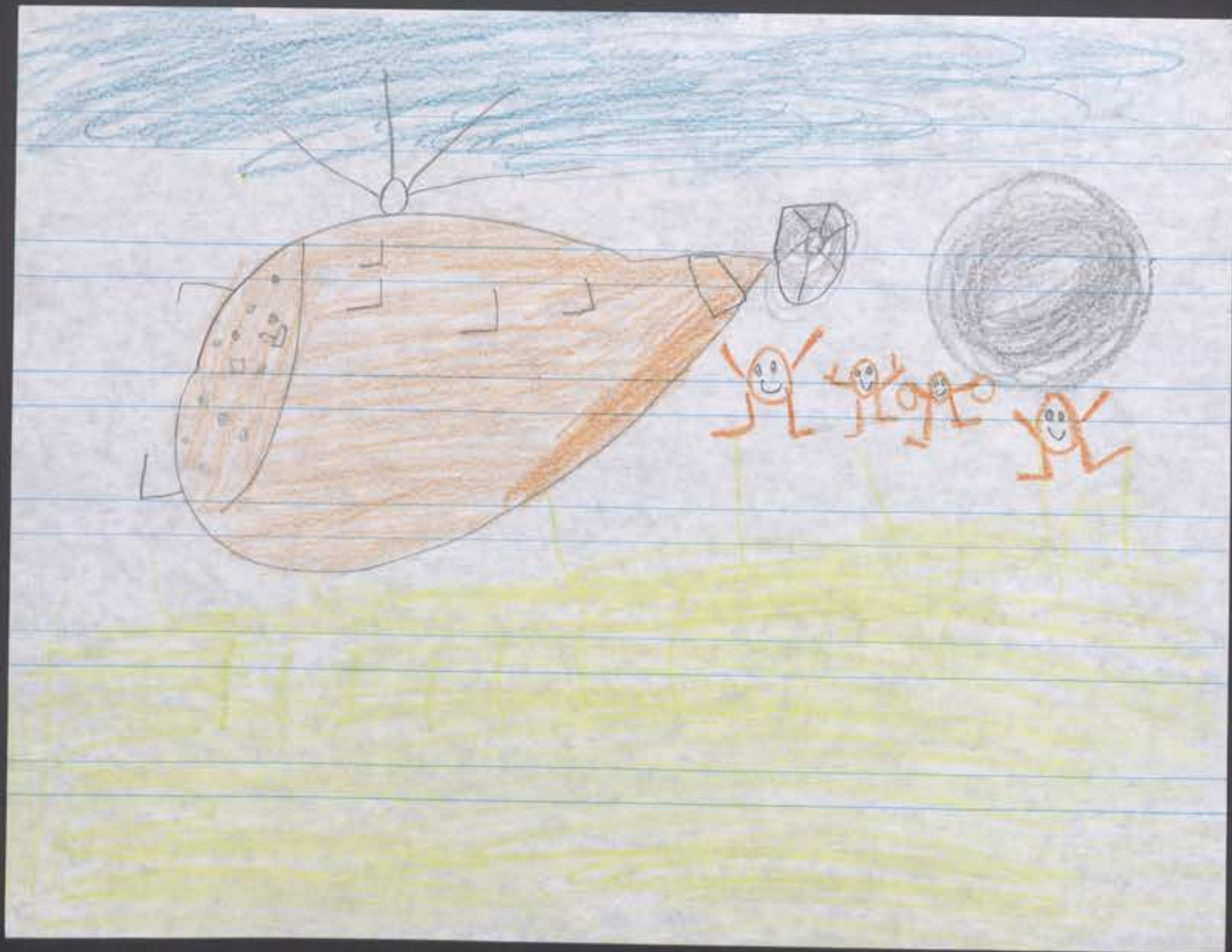


Dear Coast Guard,

THANKS FOR COMING TO MY  
SCHOOL.

I love to my







Dear Coast Guard,

Thank you for coming  
to the school.

I have never saw a  
helicopter that close for

Love Abbie







Dear Coast Guard

Father coming

Polaxnie







Dear Coast Guard,

Thank you for letting us

go in your helicopter. It

was cool.

Love Leah







Dear Coast Guard,

Thank you for coming to  
are scool I hope you come back.

L.

Love Kayla









Nov. 14, 2006

Dear Officer Loeb:

Thank you for coming to Central Lake Elementary school. I learned a lot about your new helicopter. I learned that the helicopter can fly about 10,000 feet. How many people do you save in a day? What tools do you use?

Your friend,  
Erin Hybl,







NOV. 14, 2006

Dear Officer Loeb:

NOV. 14, 2006

Dear Officer Loeb:  
Thank you for coming to  
Central Lake Elementary School.  
I learned a lot about your helicopter. I learned that you can  
fly 10,000 feet in the air. I learned  
you have to read a lot of books.  
I learned you have to rescue  
people. I also learned the propellers  
are VERY sharp. I also learned you  
have a water saver tool.

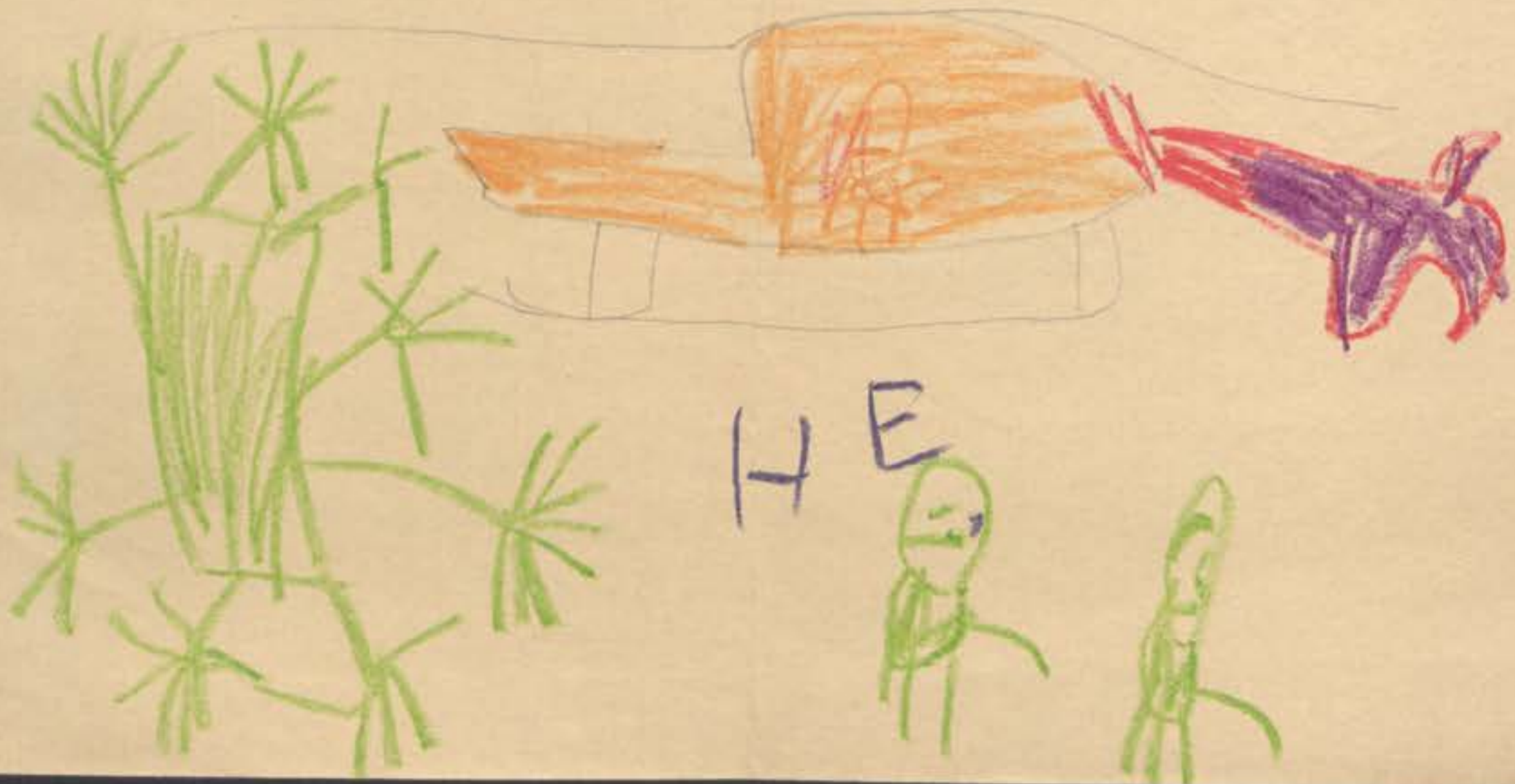
Your friend,  
Emma Malburg





DALIN

Thank you for showing us  
your helicopter.





D A L I N





Thank you for letting us go inside  
of the helicopter.





Dear Coast Guard,

Thank you for coming

to our school. It was cool.

I like your red helicopter.

Love Sophia







Dear Coast Guard,

Thank you for coming to our  
school. The helicopter was cool.

love kathryn







Dear Coast Guard,

I am happy because you flew  
over the school.

Love ~~Amilton~~







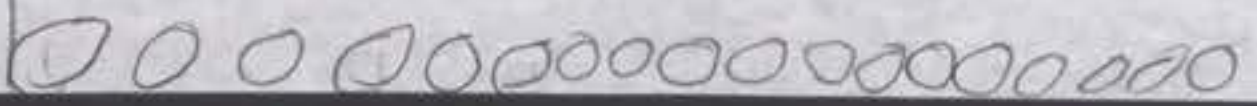
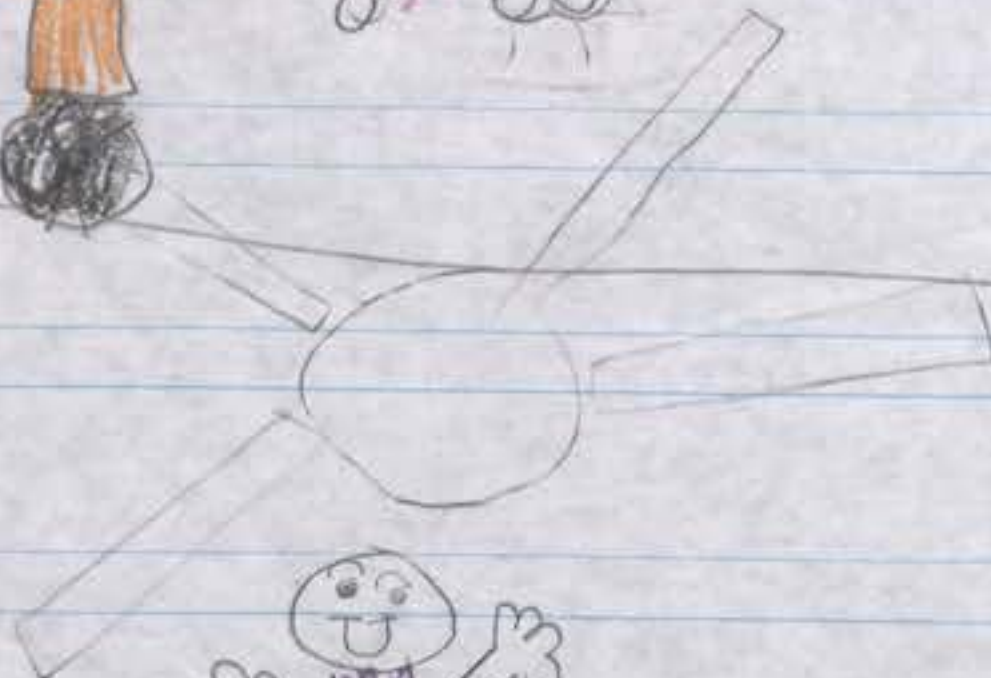
Dear Coast Guard,

Thank you for coming.

It was a fun time with  
you.

Love Gavin







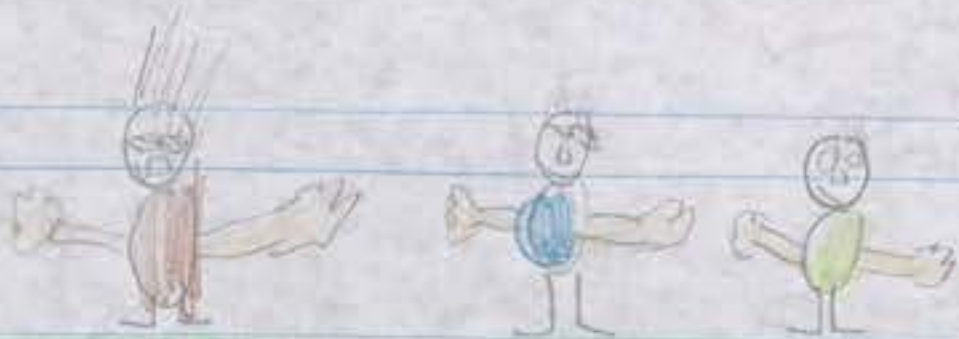
Dear Coast Guard,

I wasit here wen you  
came to my school.

love collin



①





Dear const Guards

I hope that you like your  
new helicopter. It is cool.

Love Jayce

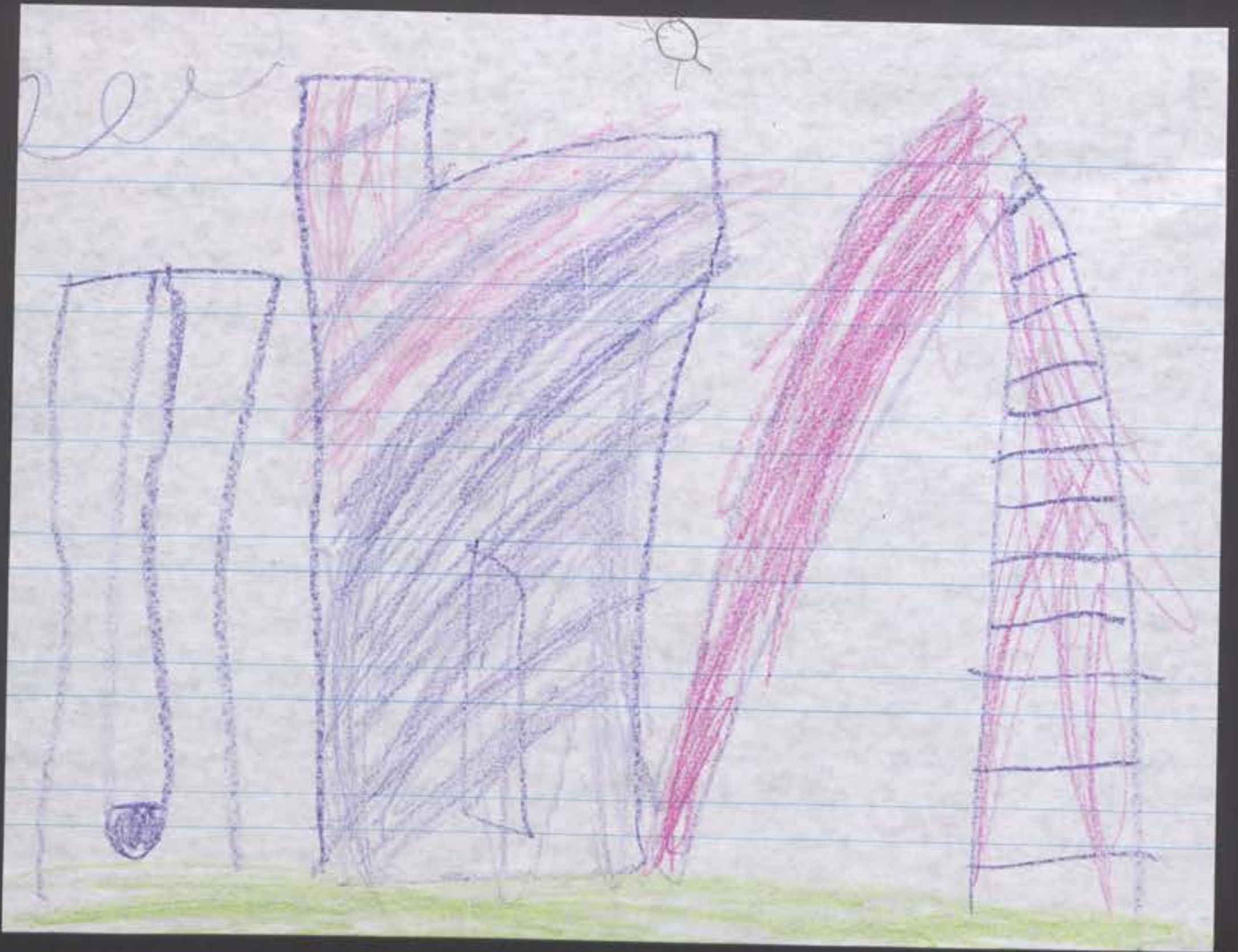






Dear Coast Guards,  
Thanks for coming  
to are school. Love Sadie







Dear Coast Guard,

Thank you for coming to Aer

school. I hope you like your

helicopter.

LOVE ~~LUCAS~~







Dear Coast Guard,

Thank you for coming to our  
School.

Love Ramsie







Dear Coast Guard,

I Thank you for letting  
me get in your helicopter.

Thank you for coming to my  
school. Love Gaby









Dear Coast Guard

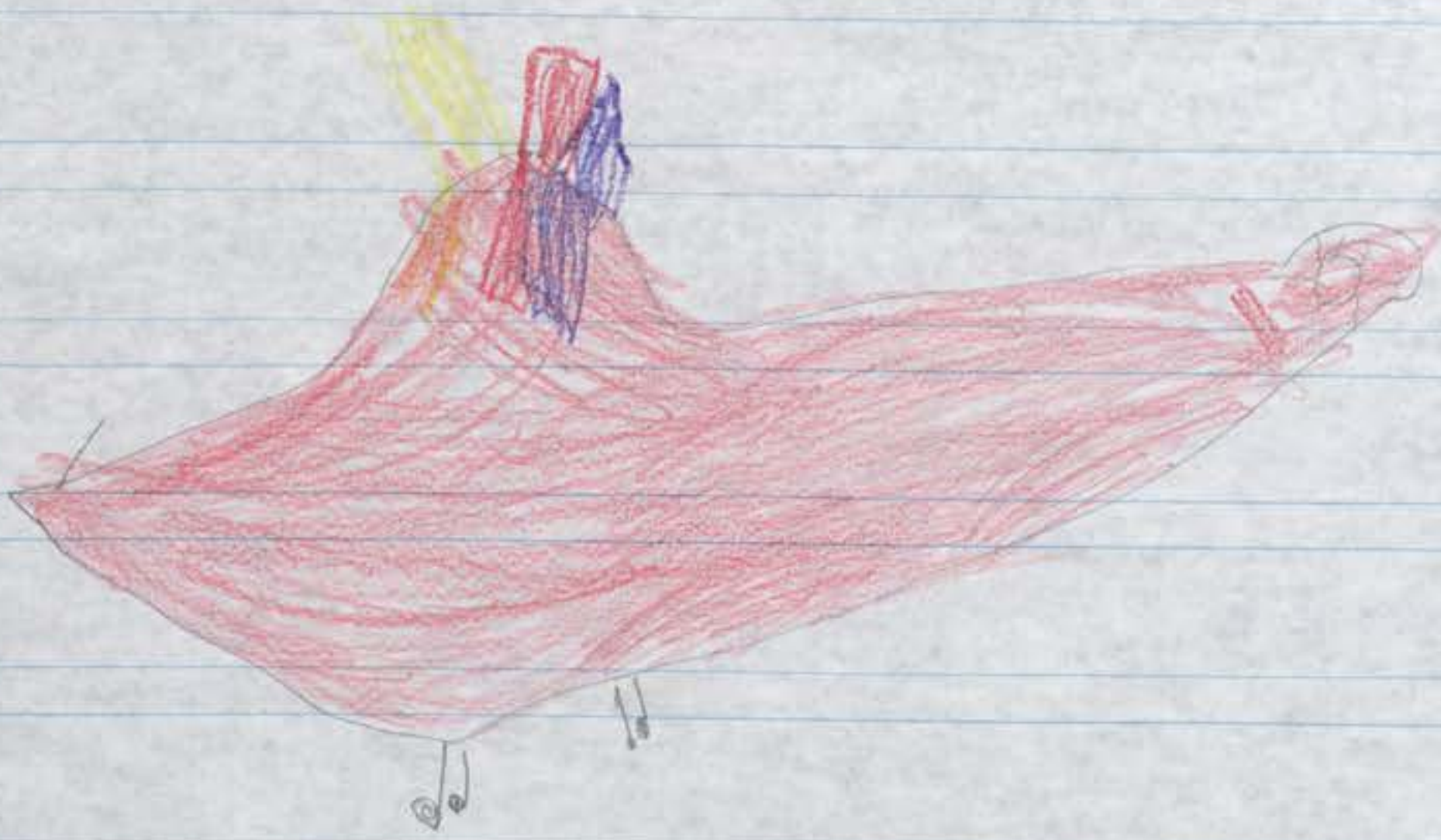
Thank you for coming

because you have

A cool helicopter

Love ~~Jocklyn~~







Dear Coast Guard,

I am happy for you flying  
down to our school.

Love,  
mia







Dear Coast Guard,

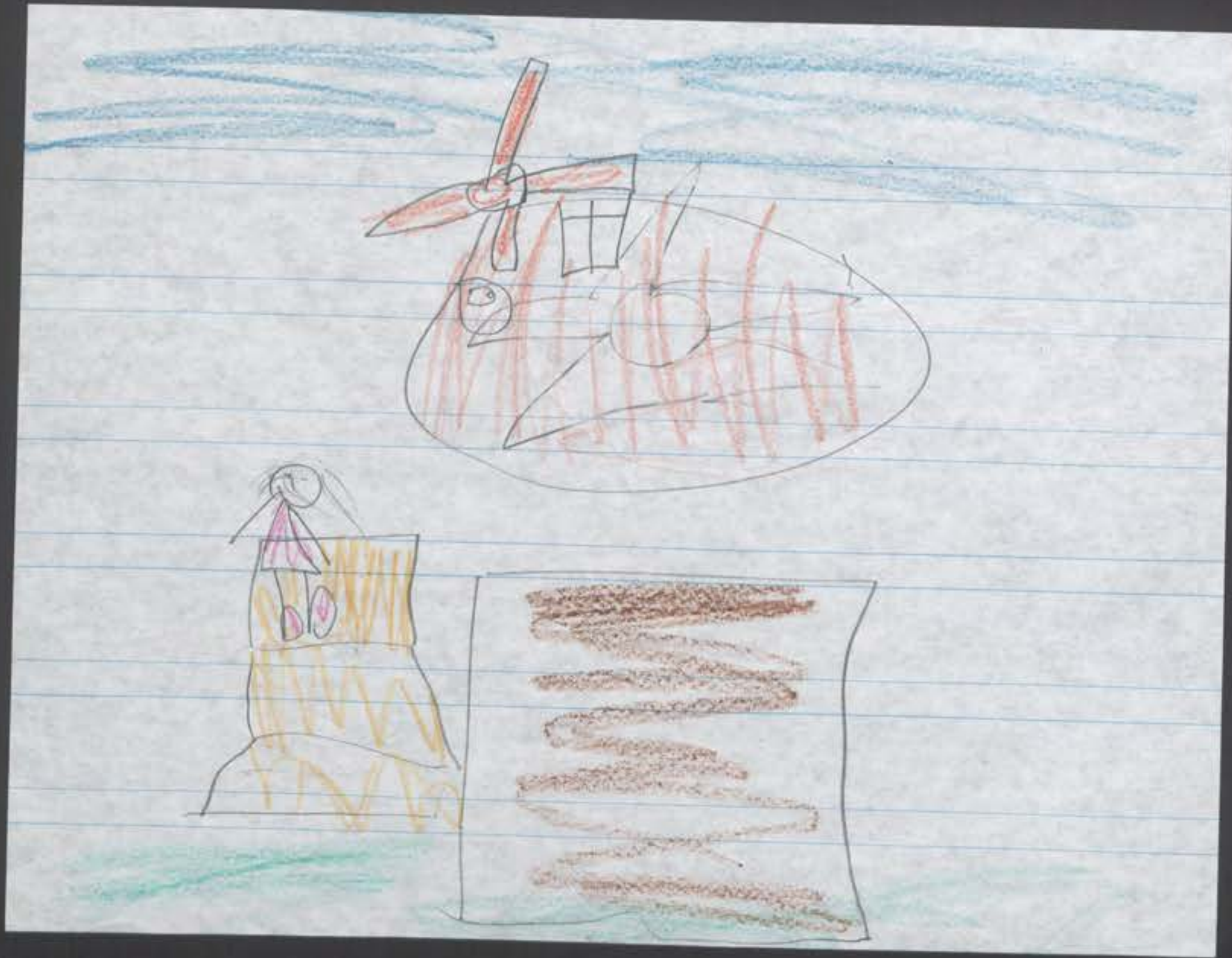
Thank you for coming

I really liked it.

I hope you liked  
your new helicopter.

Love Taylor







Dear Coast Guard,

Thanks for coming to  
our school.

Love kaitlyn





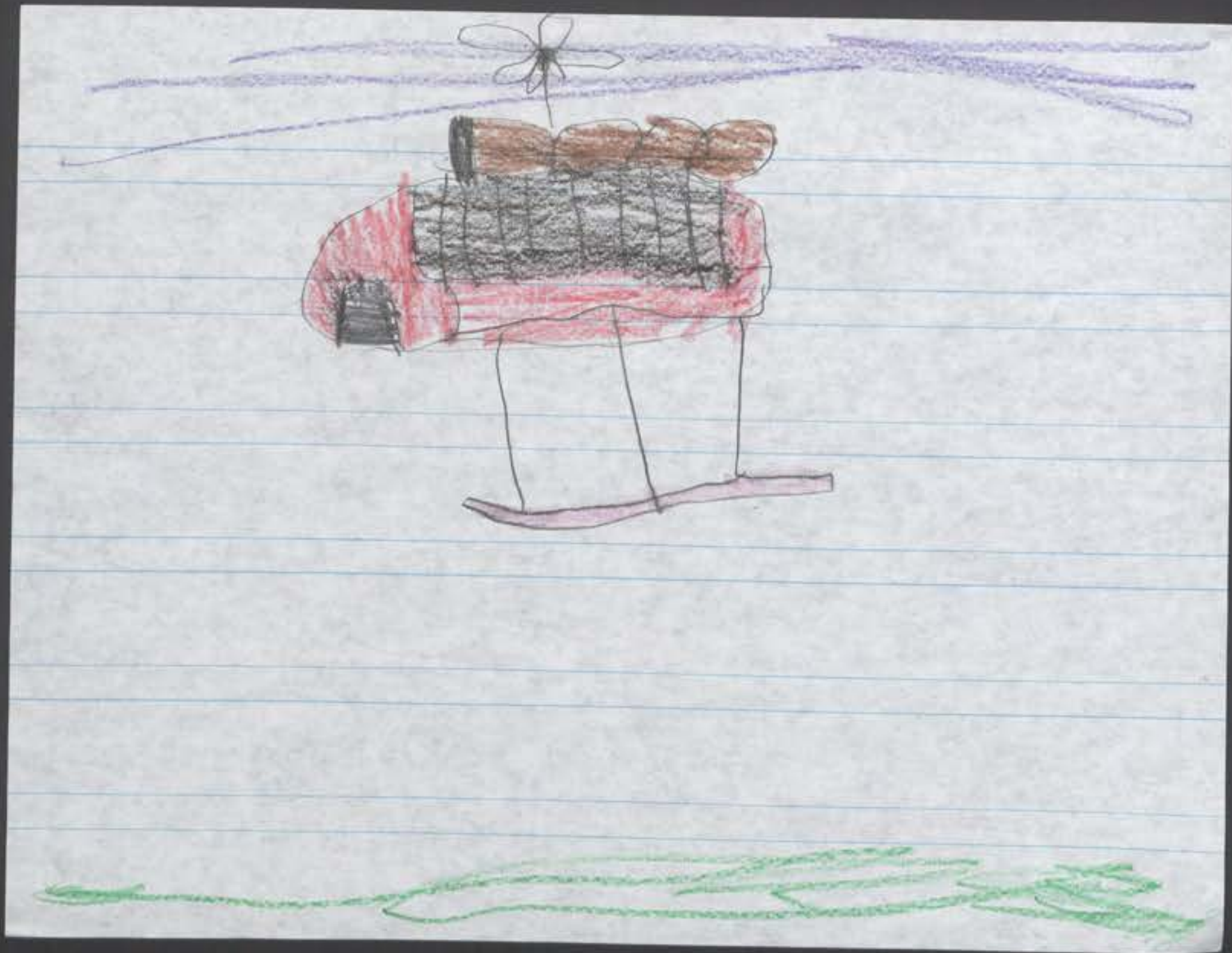


Dear Coast Guard,

Thank you for letting us look  
in your helicopter. It was fun  
looking in the helicopter.

Love Matilda





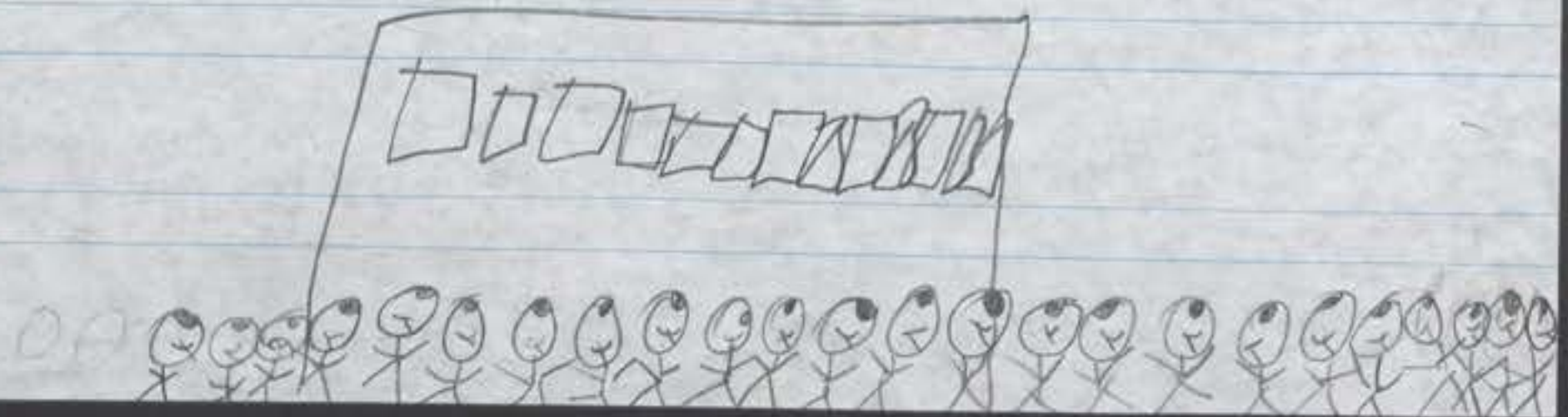
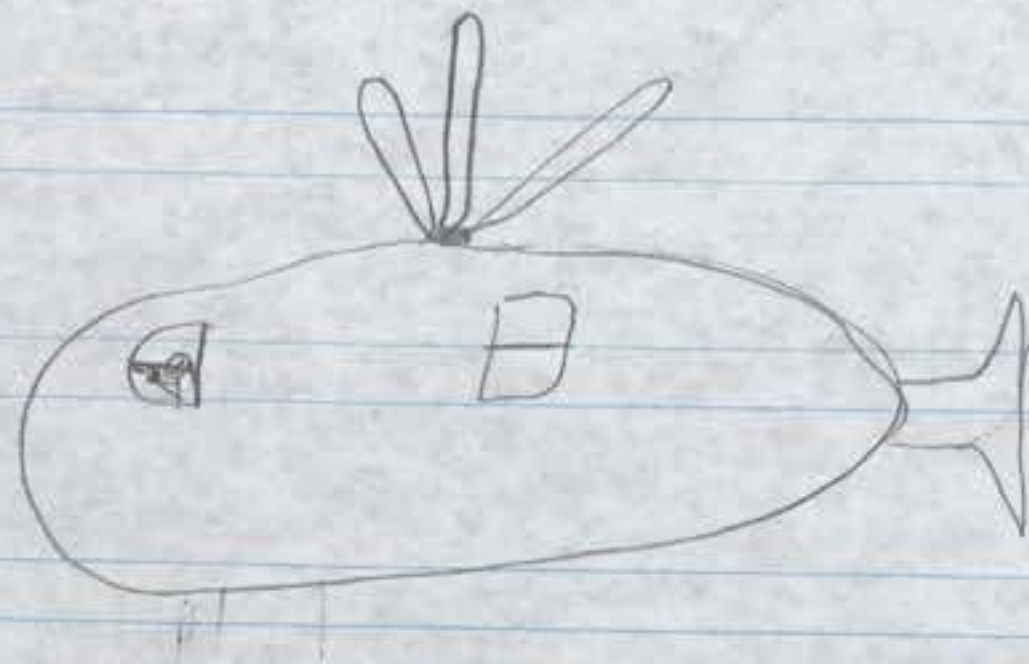


Dear Coast Guard,

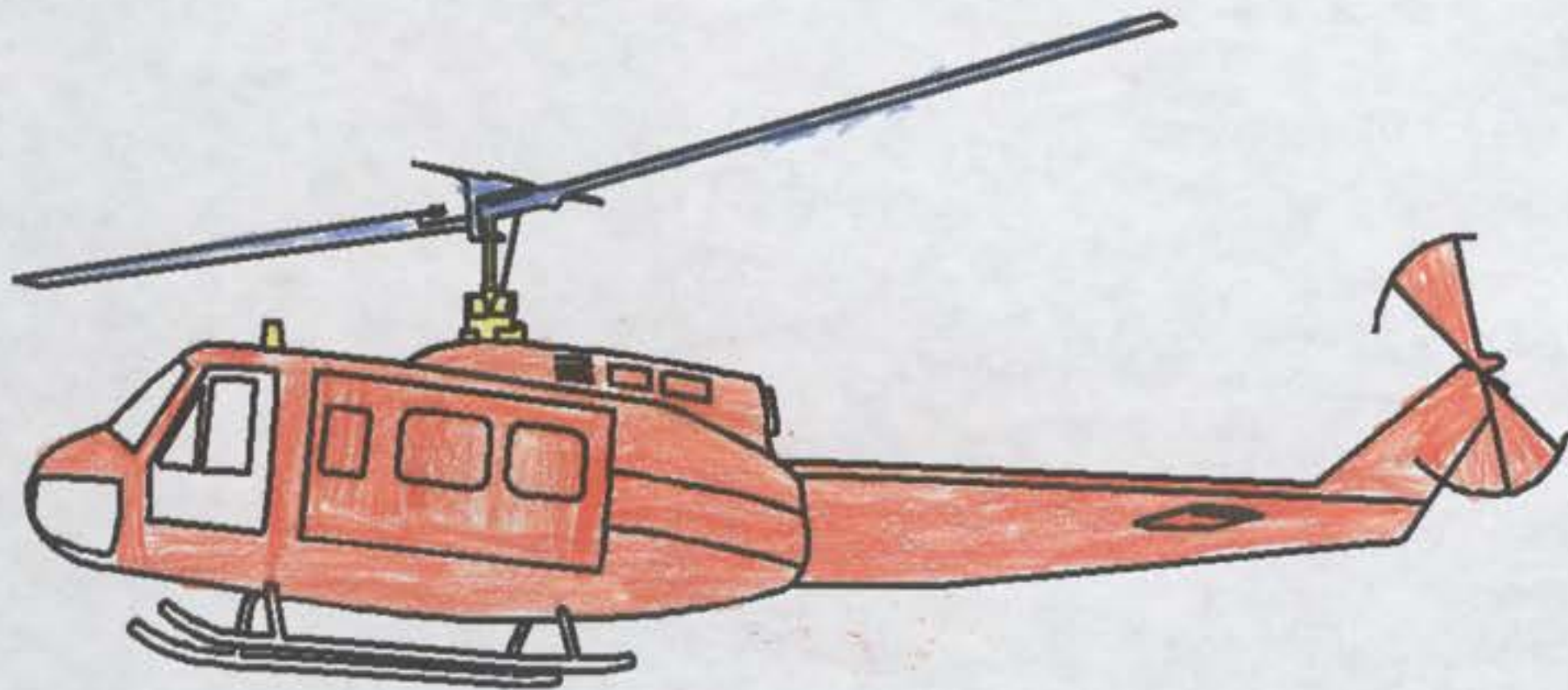
I am sorry that i did not  
come to see your hel  
helecopter. i rilly want to  
to see it.

Love Katie









I looked inside your helicopter. I liked  
the helicopter. Thank you for showing  
us the helicopter.

Dyiah



Dear Coast Guard,

Thanks for showing the  
helicopter. I liked when the  
helicopter landed.

Love, Paige







Dear Coast Guard,  
Thank you for coming.  
I like helicopters.

Love Brian.









Nov. 14, 06


Dear Officer Loeb:

Thank you for coming to Central Lake Elementary School. I learned a lot about your new helicopter. Like... your swimmer puts people in the basket. Your flight monitor tells people where to fly. Your director tells people what to do.

Your friends,  
Gabe Meriwether







Nov. 14, 2006


Dear Officer Loeb.

Thank you for coming to  
Central Lake Elementary School.

I learned a lot about your new  
helicopter. I learned that you  
can rescue a lot of people. I  
learned that a lot of people  
can fit in a helicopter.

Your friends,

April Melom.







Nov. 17, 2006

Dear Officer Lueb:

I thank you for coming to Central Lake Elementary School. I learned a lot about your new helicopter. I learned that the rotor is VERY sharp and it cannot cut your hand. I also learned that the helicopter can fly up to 10,000 feet high. What kind of suit do you wear to go in the water? I wonder how you dive the helicopter.

Your friend,  
Christopher Moore







Nov. 14, 2006

Dear Officer Loeb:

I thank you for coming to Central Lake Elementary School. I learned a lot about your new helicopter. My favorite thing was when you told us how high the new helicopter went. The propellers are VERY sharp. I hope you can come here again.

Your friend,

Andrea  
Shaffer







Dear Officer [unclear]  
I think you for coming  
to Central Lake  
November 2000 Dear Officer  
Loeb Thank you for coming  
to Central Lake Elementary  
School. I learned a lot  
about your new helicopter  
I learned that helicopters can  
go 10,000 feet in the air. I also  
learned that if someone was  
stuck in the water you could  
go down in a basket and  
rescue the person. I also got  
to see the cool tools I  
guess I did not know what  
kind of tools you used.  
Your friends  
Danielle Prate





Nov 14, 2006



Dear Officer Lorb  
Thank you for coming to  
Central Lake Elementary School  
I learned a lot about your  
new helicopter. I learned  
that a gas tank is  
under the seats and that  
what the back did and that  
you help people

OLOT!

Your friend

Taylor Deforest







NOV 14, 06

DEAR OFFICE I hope  
thank you for coming  
to central lake elementary  
school. I help a lot  
of about your new  
helicopter. I liked in  
when you let us see the  
helicopter. I know that  
you help in the hospital  
you did a very good job  
you are a very brave  
rescue you help people.

YOUR FRIEND  
Victor J. 2006







NOV. 14 2006

Dear officer loeb: Thank you for coming to Central-Lake Elementary school. I learned a lot about your new helicopter. I learned that the propellers can cut a hand off a hawk. How can the propeller go? All of your gadgets are cool.

Your friend,  
Elijah Newton







Nov. 14 2006

Dear Officer Laeb:

Thank you for coming  
to Central Lake

Fleming Elementary School.

I learned a lot about  
your new helicopter.

I learned that the helicopter  
can go up to 10,000

feet in the air. Also I  
learned that the blades

are very, very sharp. I  
learned that an

engineer  
the seat is an  
engineer

your friend,  
Eric St John.



THANK YOU JOHN

THANK YOU JOHN





NOV 14 2006

Dear officer Loeb:

Thanks you for coming  
to Central Lake  
Elementary School I  
learned a lot about your  
new helicopter. I learned  
that there is a person  
that hangs from a  
rope. I learned that  
there are three rotors. I  
also learned that there  
can only be four people  
in the helicopter.

Your friend  
Eileene Vanisemi







Nov. 14, 2006

Dear officer

Nov. 14, 2006 Dear officer  
Loeb: Thank you for coming  
to Central Lake Elementary  
School. I learned a lot  
about your new helicopter I  
learned that you save people, you  
go high up in the sky. Do  
you like saving people? Can  
you go to 200 feet.

Your friend,  
Brooklyn Allen.





11-20-06

Dear Officer Leob,

Thank you for sharing information about your job. I liked the inside of the helicopter, it was excellent! I like how your job of helping to rescue people is cool! Your job is cool about rescuing pets. Thank you for coming to your school.

Your friend,  
Tyler Ash



11-20-06

Dear Officer Loeb,

Thank you for coming to our school.  
I learned a lot about our job. I liked  
going inside the helicopter and thanks for  
sharing what you do when you rescue people.  
I think it would be cool to be a Coast  
Guard but I want to be a veterinarian  
because I like animals. Thank you for taking  
your time.

Your friend,  
Alyssa



Nov. 20, 2006

Dear Officer Loeb,

Thank you for bringing us the helicopter and telling us about it. I really liked it when you took us inside of it. It was cool when you landed, everything flew up. You shared a lot of information that I did not know. I appreciate you taking time off and showing us the helicopter.

Your friend,  
Kendra Lay



11-20-06

Dear officer Loeb,

Thanks you for coming and taking time off of your job to show us the new helicopter.

It was cool seeing the inside of the helicopter. I never saw the inside of an helicopter.

I learned that you guys have a person <sup>that</sup> jumps down and gets the person that needs help.

It was fun when we got to go through the helicopter.



Thank you for coming.

Your friend,  
Stephanie Kendall



Simeon

11-20-06

Dear Officer Lopez  
Thank you for showing  
what your job is like  
with us and it was  
intriguing to me because  
I've never seen a  
helicopter up that  
close. Thank  
you for telling us  
everything you told  
us. I was  
interested in that  
to your friend  
Simeon. P.S. Maybe  
you can come to  
the school again  
and tell us some  
different things.

From Simeon



11-20-06

11-20-06

Dear Officer Loeb,

Thank you for coming to our school. I really appreciate you coming. I enjoyed the information that you gave us. Your job is pretty neat!! Come again sometime. I especially liked the part when you landed. I learned all about your job. Next year come to the high school because that's where I will be next year.

from,  
Jeffery Joyce



11-20-06

Dear OFFICER LOEB

Thank you for landing  
your Helicopter at Owen  
School. Thank you for saving  
your job. I thought <sup>to</sup> inside  
the Helicopter was cool. I was  
surprised by the gas mileage.  
It was awesome.

FRW  
Michael  
Halladay



Dear officer loeb,

11/20/06

I like your helicopter that you brought to our school. Do you drive the helicopter often? Thank

you for coming and bringing

your helicopter to our

school. The helicopter was

cool in the inside and the

outside was cool too. I like

it when we got to see

the inside of the helicopter.

I learned that helicopter do not just save people.


From Aubrey



11/20/06

Dear Officer Leeb,

Thank you for taking time off of your job. I really liked the helicopter it was so cool!. My favorite part was when you rode the inside the helicopter. I heard that there were at least 400 butters and savit's. I hope to be a pilot when I get older.

From: Kenny Mier 



November 2006

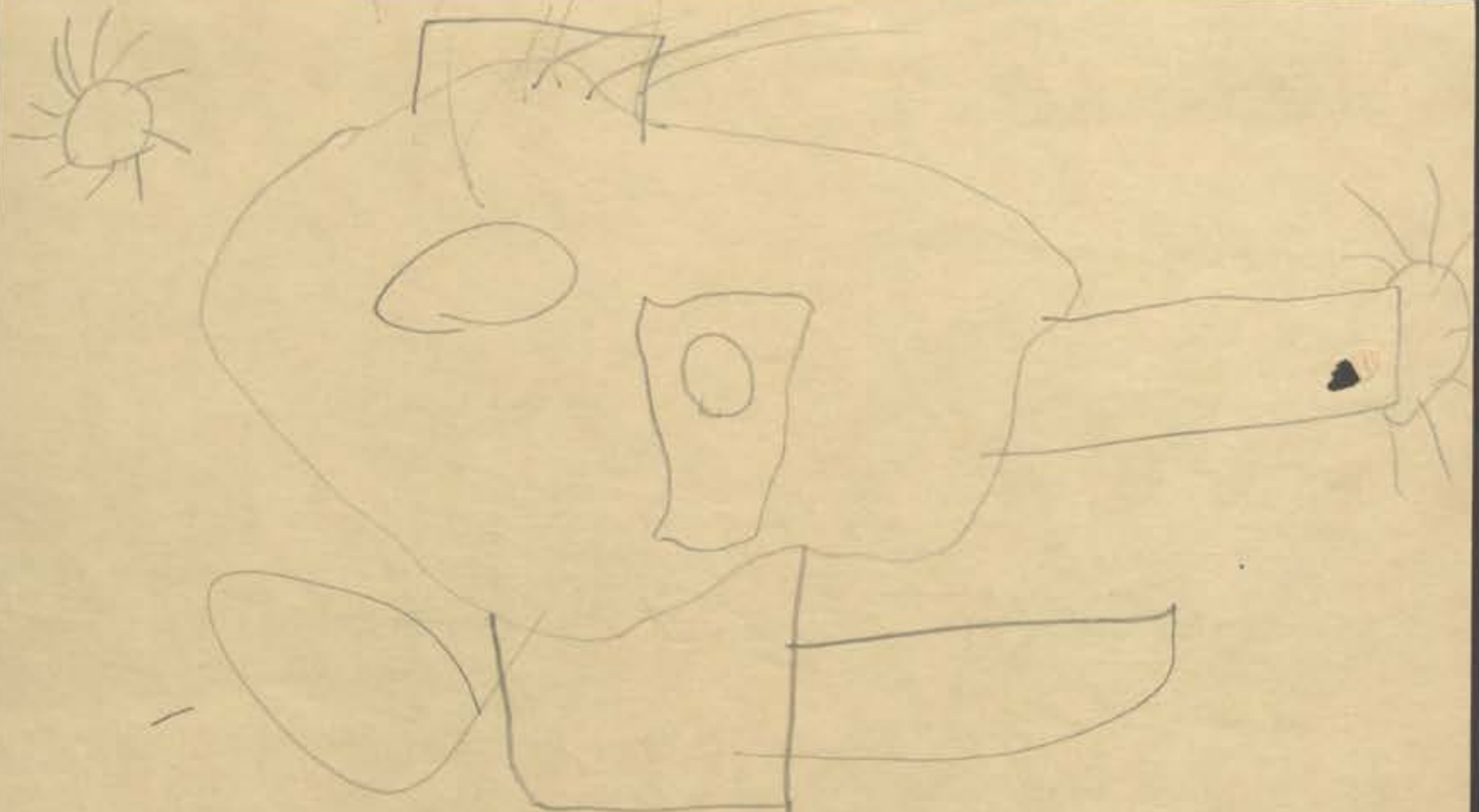
Dear Officer Loeb,

Thank You for Coming to visiting  
or school. It was fun going in to  
the helicopter. I've been in one when  
My dad was talking to a guy at boys camp.  
I didn't get to drive in one. I just been in  
on for a little while.

It was nice of you for taking your time  
off and coming.

From: your Friend  
Jhanna





Thank you for showing us what  
your helicopter can do.

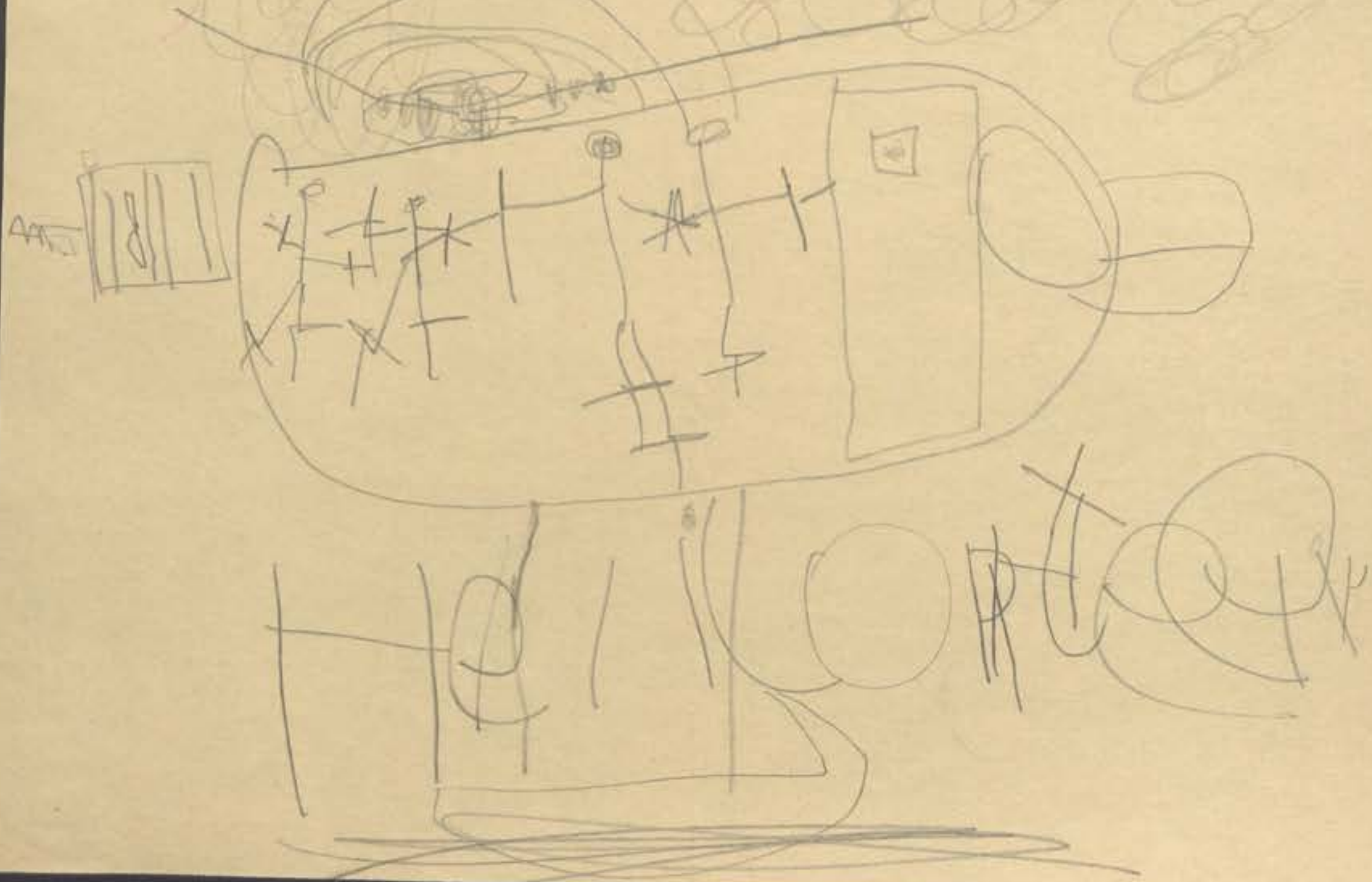


SIENNA

your beloved  
I have you for always no what



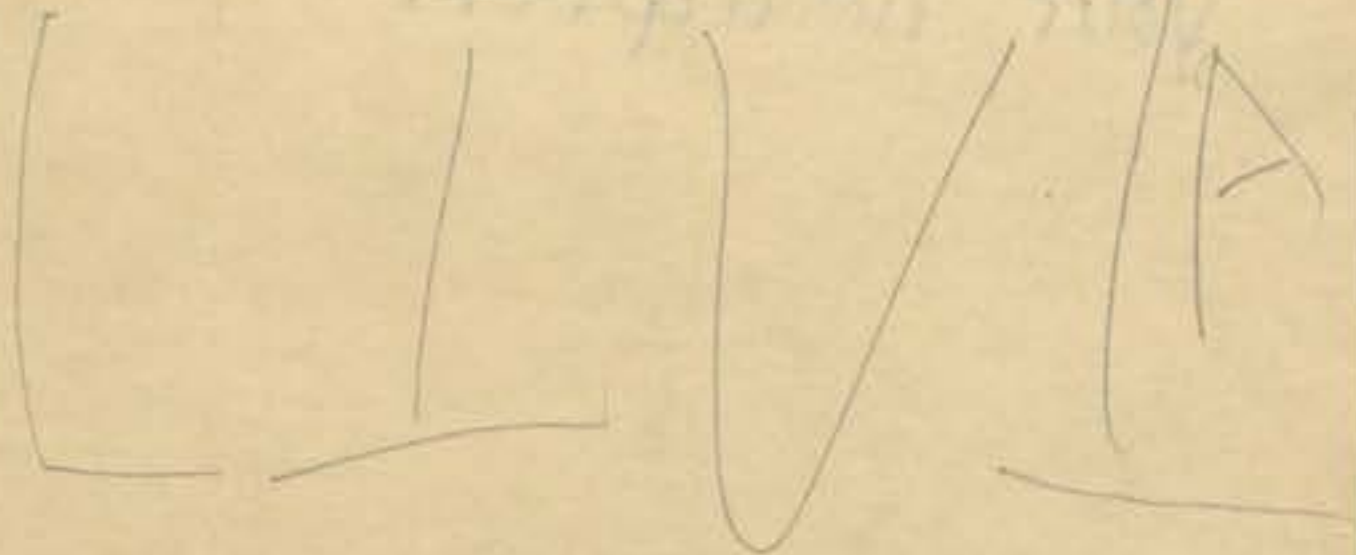
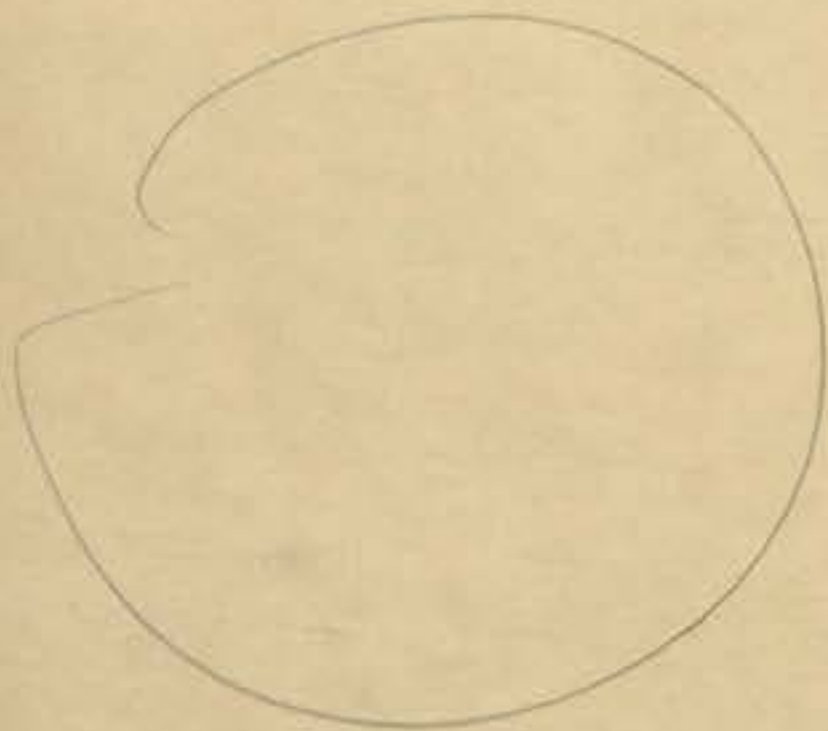
Thank you for letting us go through  
your helicopter.





Thank you for letting us go through

your help





Thank you for showing us your  
helicopter.

COL # N







Thank you for bringing your  
helicopter to see us.



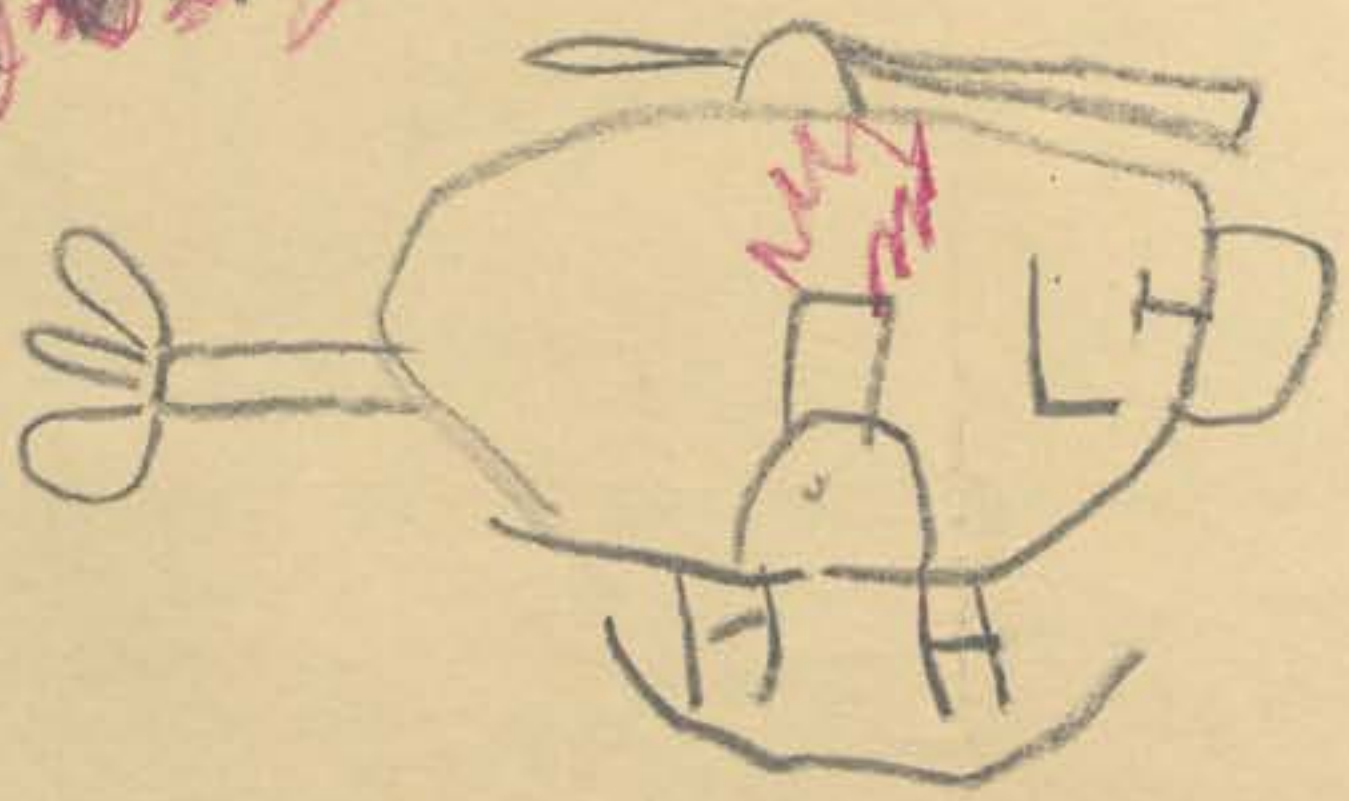


ADAM

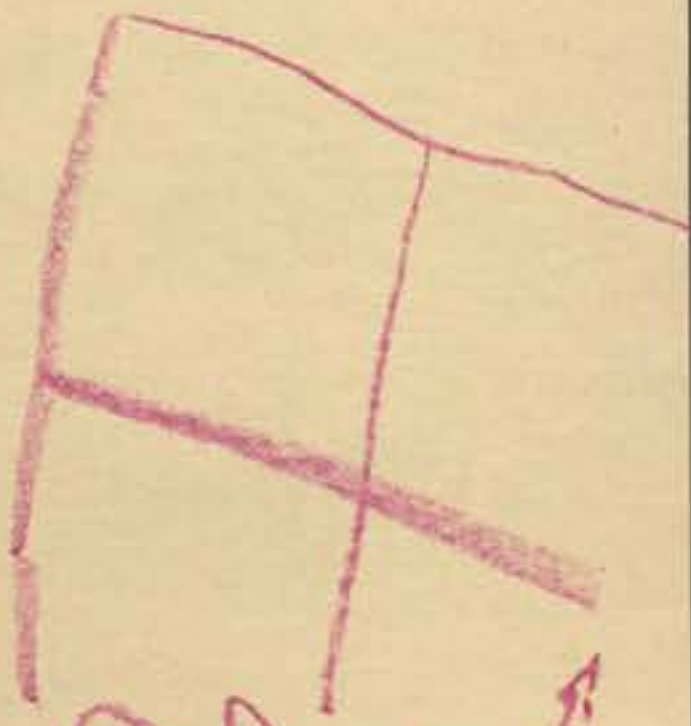


Thank you for  
helping me to see  
you





Thank you for letting  
me see your helicopter.











HELICOPTER



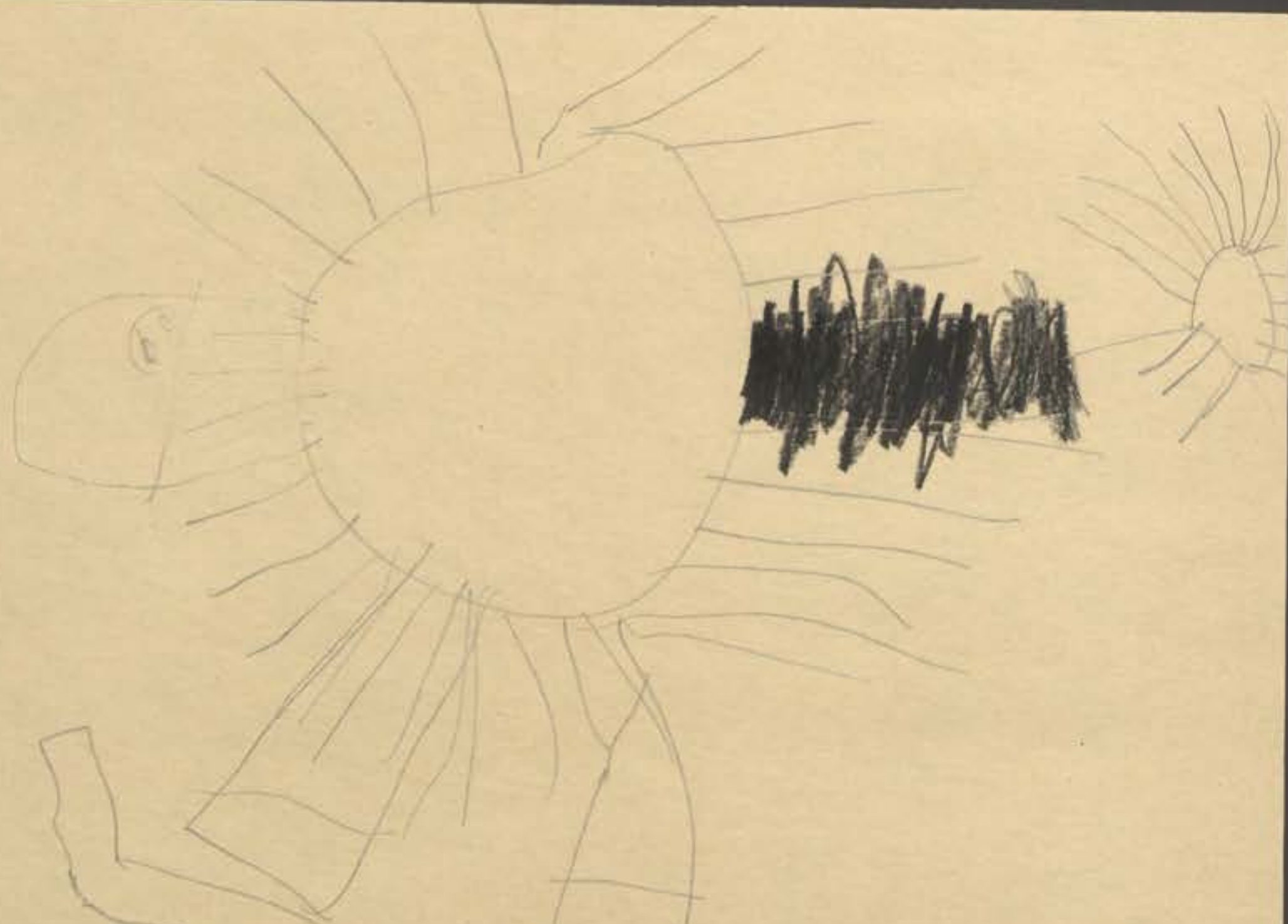
Thank you for letting it  
land here.



1711. 1015.  
L'homme de la montagne

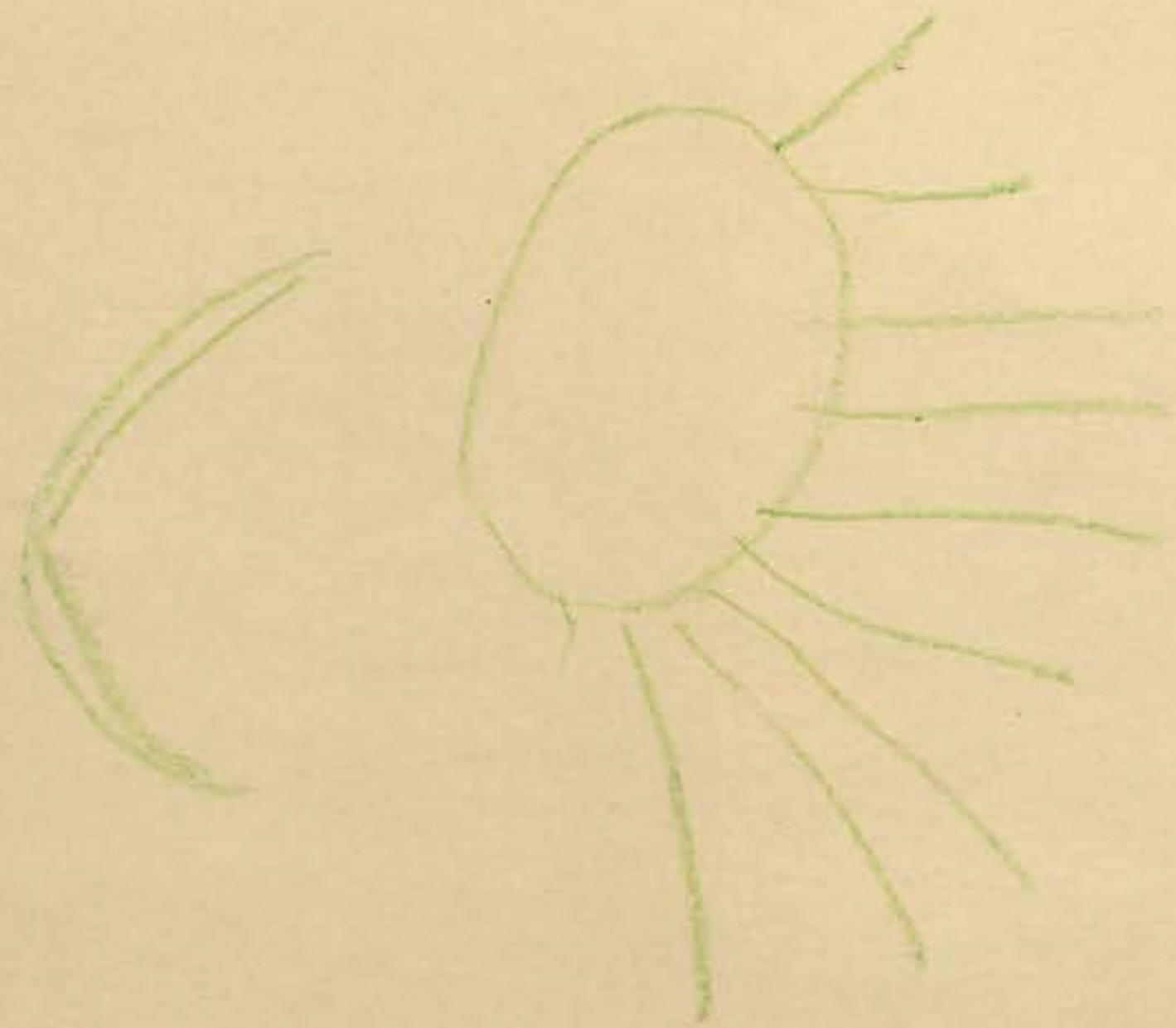
ESPAN





Thank you for bringing your  
helicopter here.





Thought you saw the  
Puffinbird





Thank you for letting me  
see your helicopter. I loved  
it!



BRIEVAVA

Thank you for helping me  
see your beautiful I love  
it!

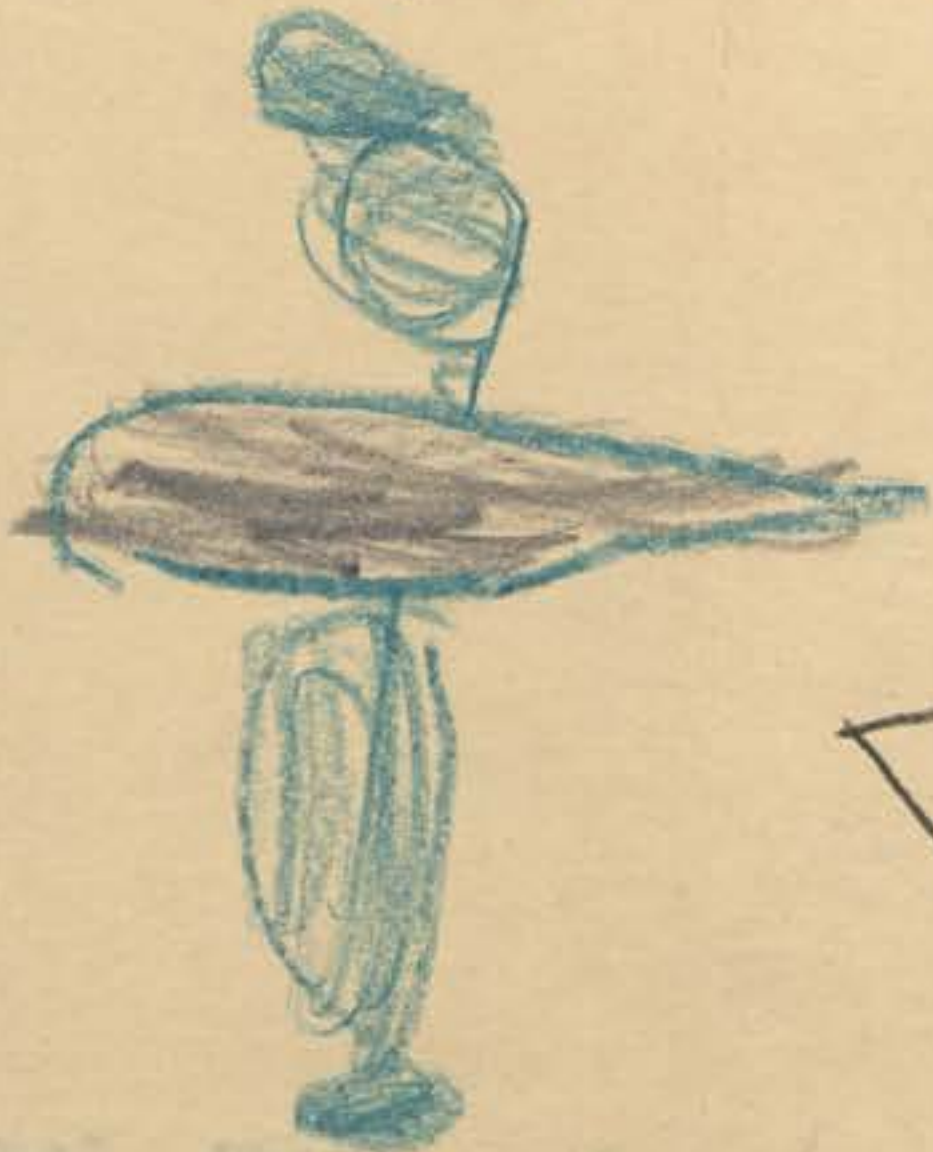




Thank you for coming  
to our school.

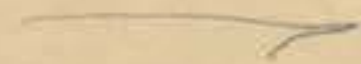


GRANT



Thank you for coming  
to our school.





Thank you for letting us come in the helicopter.



JOHN H. A

Thank you for 10-1-1914





U.S. Coast Guard photo

**MID-BAY RENDEZVOUS** — A Coast Guard helicopter from the Traverse City Air Station touches down on Whitefish Bay ice to meet the icebreaker Mackinaw during the just-completed Operation Taconite. Taconite is Coast Guard terminology for spring break-up on the Bay, St. Marys River and Straits of Mackinac. Altogether, five icebreakers and two tenders worked together in the breakout project, which clears area shipping channels of ice for the start-up of commercial shipping. The helicopter does overhead ice spotting for icebreakers working at the surface below.

## Coast Guard concludes Operation Taconite

**SAULT STE. MARIE** — The end of Operation Taconite brings the U.S. Coast Guard ice-breaking season to a close in the western Great Lakes.

Operation Taconite is the Coast Guard's largest domestic icebreaking operation, according to a USCG release. U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie is responsible for the icebreaking operation which encompasses Lake Superior, the Straits of Mackinac, northern Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. This year, the Ninth Coast Guard District decided to consolidate control of operations in Lakes Michigan and Superior under a single command at Sector Sault Ste. Marie. The District made this change due to Sector Sault Ste. Marie's 24 hour staffing and ability to monitor vessel traffic and maintain communications.

U.S. Coast Guard cutters Mackinaw, Alder, Hollyock, Mobile Bay, Heah Bay, Katmai Bay and Biscayne Bay operated as a team, under the direction of Sector Sault Ste. Marie, who corresponded with the industry and Canadian partners, to bring about another successful icebreaking season. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City enhanced the mission's effectiveness by performing 18 ice reconnaissance flights.

During the peak of the ice-breaking season, icebreakers operated in 36 inches of snow covered ice and sometimes encountered waterways blocked by up to 12 feet of ice. The cutters combined efforts to assist 119 commercial vessels requiring assistance. The cutters spent more than 1700 hours underway establishing and maintaining tracks for the safe navigation of barges

carrying fuel oil or heating products; breaking Lakers free from their icy moorings to begin a new shipping season; and flushing ice from ferry routes, which allowed daily commuters to continue their transits from the various islands to their mainland destinations.

Each year as winter comes to an end, so does Operation Taconite. Sector Sault Ste. Marie brought Operation Taconite to an end once it determined that commercial vessels were able to transit throughout the St. Mary's River and western Great Lakes without the assistance of Coast Guard icebreakers. The waterways, once covered in ice and snow, have given way to open water, which is a result of warming temperatures and the tremendous efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard.



SHERIFF JERRY NIELSEN





U.S. Coast Guard photo

**MID-BAY RENDEZVOUS** — A Coast Guard helicopter from the Traverse City Air Station touches down on Whitefish Bay ice to meet the icebreaker Mackinaw during the just-completed Operation Taconite. Taconite is Coast Guard terminology for spring break-up on the Bay, St. Marys River and Straits of Mackinac. Altogether, five icebreakers and two tenders worked together in the breakout project, which clears area shipping channels of ice for the start-up of commercial shipping. The helicopter does overhead ice spotting for icebreakers working at the surface below.

## Coast Guard concludes Operation Taconite

**SAULT STE. MARIE** — The end of Operation Taconite brings the U.S. Coast Guard ice-breaking season to a close in the western Great Lakes.

Operation Taconite is the Coast Guard's largest domestic icebreaking operation, according to a USCG release. U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie is responsible for the icebreaking operation which encompasses Lake Superior, the Straits of Mackinac, northern Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. This year, the Ninth Coast Guard District decided to consolidate control of operations in Lakes Michigan and Superior under a single command at Sector Sault Ste. Marie. The District made this change due to Sector Sault Ste. Marie's 24 hour staffing and ability to monitor vessel traffic and maintain communications.

U.S. Coast Guard cutters Mackinaw, Alder, Hollyock, Mobile Bay, Heah Bay, Katmai Bay and Biscayne Bay operated as a team, under the direction of Sector Sault Ste. Marie, who corresponded with the industry and Canadian partners, to bring about another successful icebreaking season. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City enhanced the mission's effectiveness by performing 18 ice reconnaissance flights.

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April 30, 2007

United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City  
Attn: Lt. Trotchil  
1175 Airport Access Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686

Lt. Trotchil,

The Midland County Sheriff's Office would like to extend our gratitude toward your help in our efforts to recover David Mair from Sanford Lake last week. Thank you for providing helicopter support in our search. The effort, cooperation and help from all the teams involved were a great asset to our finding the victim. I am proud to serve a great community that can come together in such tragic situations such as this. The efforts of everyone involved ultimately led to the successful outcome of this case.

Again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Nielsen*  
Sheriff Jerry Nielsen





A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter stirs snow on the ice near the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mobile Bay last week as the USCGC Mackinaw executes ice trials on Green Bay near Sturgeon Bay. The Mobile Bay was part of the ice trials. Photos by Corey Wilson/Press-Gazette

# Ice breakers help keep ships, economy sailing

## Cutters open frozen shipping lanes on Great Lakes

BY NATHAN PHELPS  
nphelps@greenbaypressgazette.com

**ABOARD THE MACKINAW** — For two weeks this winter, ship traffic around Chicago and northern Indiana ground to a halt due to ice.

Late last month, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw — the most advanced ice breaker on the Great Lakes — was sent to the area to clear shipping lanes for tug/barge operations in the area.

The ship and crew were able to clear enough ice to get 20 tug/barges carrying coal, coke and steel moving again.

While ice breaking may not always get the national attention of other Coast Guard missions, for commercial ships and businesses around the region it's critical.

That's not lost on the crew of cutters like the Mackinaw.

"I always thought (ice breaking) was rewarding because you got to help people ... If a boat's stuck, you get out there and get them moving again," said Chief Boatswain Mate Scott Cichrachi, 35, of Lapeer, Mich. "It's not just Mackinaw ... there are seven other



The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw Cmdr. John Little communicates last week with the USCGC Mobile Bay as his ship clears a passageway on Green Bay from Marinette to Sturgeon Bay.

ships that do this all winter long, and it's a really a team effort, along with the Canadians."

**More online**  
► To see a photo gallery and a video from the Mackinaw go to [www.greenbaypressgazette.com](http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com) and click on this story.



**More on A-8**  
► Coast Guard orders keep shipbuilder busy.

Glen Nekvasil, vice president of the Cleveland-based Lake Carriers Association, said during the traditional "ice season" from December through the middle of April, ships move between 15 million and 20 million tons of cargo — almost 20 percent of the cargo carried during the entire shipping season.

"The vessels run basically as long as they can," he said. "This is why we got a new heavy ice breaker on the Great Lakes because it's critically important to the movement of cargo."

While it's hard to say just how much of that traffic is assisted by the Coast Guard, Nekvasil said in some way almost all of the winter traffic is

► See Ships, A-8

# Ships/'We know we have an important mission,' commander says

► From A-1

impacted in one form or another by an icebreaker.

"Every ton, no. But you can say the vast majority of those cargos are assisted either directly or indirectly," he said. "Since the industry knows the ice breakers are there, they can keep the boats going ... If you didn't have the assurance the icebreaker will be there — or can get there if you need one — you couldn't continue to schedule your boats."

The Mackinaw was on Green Bay last week as part of a series of ice trials to determine how the vessel is performing while looking for the most efficient ways to clear lanes for shipping during the winter.

Those trials continue this week in the St. Mary's River and Whitefish Bay. The crew will then gear up for the opening of the Soo Locks and then set out navigational buoys as the shipping season moves into top gear.

### Coal, limestone, cement

"We realize the economy of the lakes is dependent upon raw materials being shipped between the mines, the mills, the refineries and the processing facilities, and we help do that," said Cmdr. John Little, a Chattanooga, Tenn., native

who commands the Mackinaw. "They have to do it year-round to stay competitive with overseas markets, and stockpiling is not efficient. That sometimes requires movement through heavy ice."

Little, who formerly commanded the cutter Mobile Bay in Sturgeon Bay, keeps large samples of staple items moved on the Great Lakes — including taconite, cement, coal and limestone — in plastic containers in his quarters and shows them to crew members as they come aboard.

The ship is based in Cheboygan, Mich., near the Straits of Mackinaw, but they operate wherever needed, he said.

"We know we have an important mission," Little said.

Lt. Cmdr. John Hallman is the executive officer on the ship and sees another impact to the ice-breaking mission.

"Jobs," he said, over the steady rumble of ice hitting the bow of the ship. "If cargo isn't moving, money isn't being made, products aren't getting to where they need to go, and people won't be able to work."

Hallman, 36, is from Annapolis, Md.

Jim Marquardt, terminal manager in Green Bay for Lafarge North America, said



Navy architect technician Bill Sands, left, and seaman Travis Kent measure ice and snow Wednesday alongside the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw on Green Bay near Sturgeon Bay. The crew executed ice trials to test the boat's limits. Corey Wilson/Press-Gazette

shipping is key to their operation, which brings in 30 to 35 vessels each year loaded with powdered cement.

"They usually look for their first ship to come in around the first week of April, while in years past they may have needed help from the Coast Guard to make it in, during the past decades or so, that hasn't been the case."

"Some other ships are usually in before ours in the last few years ... If someone comes in ahead of us (the ice) is broken up," he said. "We've been stuck out there in years back

and the Coast Guard had to come in around us and break ice in front of us so we could get in. They'd be pushing three feet of ice out there."

With mild weather early this winter, LaFarge had a ship in port in early January that was able to make it to the port without assistance, said Marquardt, who has been at the terminal for 34 years.

"That's as late as we've had one in," he said. "We haven't had to call the Coast Guard for any assistance, we just don't have the ice," Marquardt said they have a

good working relationship with the Coast Guard.

"They said, 'Hey if you need us, let us know,'" he said.

### Cold duty

Dressed in coveralls and balaclavas, seamen Travis Kent and Brandon Crespo stood on the deck of the Mackinaw in sub-freezing temperatures as the ship neared a rendezvous with the Mobile Bay near Sturgeon Bay Wednesday.

"Not that many people in the world can do this, or say they have done it," Crespo said about working on an icebreaker. "It's good to see you're keeping the economy going ... It's a different part of the Guard, but it's very important as well."

Nekvasil said the Coast Guard looked at retiring the former Mackinaw without a replacement in the middle-

1990s, which the carriers' association fought very hard. It was eventually determined a heavy icebreaker was needed and the new, multi-mission Mackinaw grew out of the process.

"We are very happy we have a new Mackinaw. Had we not gotten a replacement ... the reliability of Great Lakes shipping would be in question during the ice season," he said.

# Cheers

► To the Manistee group working to raise \$785,000 to purchase 22 acres of property along Lake Michigan to preserve Man Made Lake just north of the Manistee River and next to Lake Michigan. The fundraising campaign aims to help the City of Manistee come up with a 25 percent match for a state Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to buy the property for \$3.15 million.

► To the state Historical Preservation Office and Consumers Energy for their plan to erect a marker at a roadside park overlooking Big Rock Point near Charlevoix. One side will describe the history of Big Rock Point as a meeting spot and navigational guide for American Indians, whose presence in Michigan dates back centuries. The other side will chronicle Big Rock Nuclear Plant's presence on that site for 35 years. In 1962 it became Michigan's first nuclear power plant.

► To the Fishtown Preservation Society for closing on its purchase of the historic Fishtown property in Leland. The deal includes 11 properties on the north side of the Leland River between the Cove Restaurant and the Manitou Island Transit Co., two fishing boats and related fishing licenses and equipment. The group reached a \$3 million purchase agree-

ment with the Carlson family of Leland in June.

► To the National Cherry Festival for eliminating a \$25 membership fee on its "Ambassador Corps" of volunteers who provide up to 40,000 hours of free labor for the annual event. A wise decision that will help the festival attract more volunteers — perhaps even some younger folks — and keep those they have.

► To the small-business owners, hotels and motels, restaurants and bars that finally experienced a busy northern Michigan winter weekend over the President's Day holiday. After suffering through a snowless first half of the season, they saw the snowmobilers arrive in droves. A lot of businesses that rely on snowmobiling and other winter sports to survive got a needed shot in the arm.

► To the crew of a U.S. Coast Guard rescue helicopter for pulling a man who apparently fell off the Frankfort breakwall out of the frigid waters of Lake Michigan. Someone saw the man fall and called the Coast Guard station in Frankfort, but they were unable to get him out of the water. A rescue helicopter from Traverse City arrived and hoisted Billy McKeon, 25, to safety. They estimated he had been in the water between 45 minutes and an hour.



# Ice rescue sends bone-chilling message



**TOM RAU**  
SENIOR CHIEF  
U.S. COAST  
GUARD  
RETIRED

Ever the claim for the existence of guardian angels needed validation it would be the recent life-saving rescue of Billy McKeon in the icy waters of Lake Michigan on February 20, 2007. While walking on the Frankfort breakwater the 45-year-old slipped off the icy surface. Unable to climb onto the ice, he floundered in the 33-degree waters of the lake. His fate, all but certain, lay in the hands of guardian angels — this time in earthy forms.

Carol Stack told Roland Halliday of the Benzie Record Patriot that she was walking her dog on the beach.

"I saw this person out on the breakwater and all of a sudden he disappeared."

"I stopped and I didn't see him come back in sight. Then I heard him yell. I didn't have my cell phone with me, and I ran to the house to call the Coast Guard. I heard him yell four times," said Stack.

Stack said she is one of a few people who live along the beach in winter. At about the same time Stack was making her call, a man reported to Station Frankfort that a person had fallen off the breakwater.

The Station Frankfort crew responded at 2:09 p.m. It took the four-man rescue team about 12 minutes to reach McKeon. "We proceeded at a fast walk," said Mike Davis, the team leader. The crew's ice rescue gear included boots with cleats that provided traction on the slippery ice. Ice from waves caked the entire length of the breakwater.

Davis figures McKeon fell in 1,700 feet from the base of the breakwater. "We couldn't see him, but we could hear him calling 'help,' 'help...'"

The rescue crew followed his cries and spotted McKeon in the water at the base of a slope of ice.

"He was in the water on the lake side, and we tossed him a life sling," said Davis. The four coasties could not pull him up and over a lip of ice that extended over the water's edge. Time was ticking against the rescue. "I told him to hold on and keep his arms close to his body," said Davis.

## SIX CASES

During February, Ninth Coast Guard District units, located throughout the Great Lakes, have responded to more than 17 search-and-rescue cases where people were in distress on the ice. Three of these cases were fatal. Cases include:

- **FEB. 7** - A missing ice fisherman in Saginaw Bay. A search by Coast Guard Station Saginaw Bay found the man deceased. The gentleman went fishing by himself often and was considered a very experienced ice fisherman who knew the area and the hazards of the ice.
- **FEB. 10** - Five snowmobilers fell through the ice in Sodus Bay, N.Y. All were able to save themselves, but lost their machines.
- **FEB. 20** - A man slipped off the Frankfort breakwater into 33-degree

Lake Michigan. Coast Guard crews from Station Frankfort and Air Station Traverse City responded. A Coast Guard rescue swimmer helped airlift the man to safety.

• **FEB. 22** - Two ice fishermen were stranded on an ice floe off of Toledo, Ohio. Coast Guard Station Toledo and Air Station Detroit responded and recovered both men.

• **FEB. 24** - Two people fell through the ice in Saginaw Bay. Coast Guard Station Saginaw Bay and Air Station Detroit recovered the individuals. One person was treated for hypothermia, the second was pronounced dead at the hospital.

• **FEB. 28** - Two boys, ages 13 and 8, were rescued after falling off a mound of ice into Lake Michigan. A Coast Guard Muskegon crew responded and rescued the boys.



Bob Pletschow photo

**RESCUE** — A Coast Guard HH-65C helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City airlifts Billy McKeon from Lake Michigan after he slipped off the Frankfort breakwater.

Except for tennis shoes, the victim was wearing all cotton wear jacket, pants, shirt.

Even if the Coast Guard and the Frankfort fire department ice rescue team, which also responded, could muster a boat to reach McKeon, it would take too much time. The time crunch coupled with logistical challenges during cold water ice rescues can leave little room for options. Fortunately Coast Guard air was available this time. From the start, Davis had requested air support from Coast Guard Air Station

Traverse City, 40 miles north.

"When we were hovering over the breakwater, I could see our guys and a line running down a slope of ice and over the edge," said Coast Guard rescue swimmer Noel Hutton. "As the flight mechanic lowered me down, the pilot eased away from the pier. I spotted a man clinging to rocks underneath a lip of ice."

"When I reached him I could see he was very hypothermic. Ice was building on his cotton clothing," said Hutton. The crew hoisted

McKeon aboard the HH-65C helicopter. He was taken to Munson Medical Center in Traverse City and later released.

Rescue swimmer Noel Hutton, an Alaskan Coast Guard veteran, estimated McKeon could have survived another 10 minutes. It was that close.

I praised his aircrew for a life saved, and he said, "Thank our guys

on the deck. Had they not stabilized the situation until we arrived, it would have all been for naught."

Good as they are and dedicated as well, they do have limitations, and this rescue found them on the outer limit of those limitations.

I asked Mike Davis what should have McKeon done to help himself.

"Not be out there in the first place," he said.

## ICE SAFETY TIPS

Snowmobilers, ice anglers, and others near ice should heed forecasts calling for temperatures in the mid 30s or 40s. Warning trends this month can produce unstable ice. The following ice-rescue survival tips mostly apply to snowmobilers; however, they also apply to anyone who recreates on or near ice.

- Do not operate a snowmobile on ice over water at night.
- If several snowmobilers are operating on ice, they should not run in tandem, but single file so if one breaks through the ice the other can assist.
- Carry a length of nylon line with a small weight on the end. This could be used to assist another person who fell through the ice. I prefer the "rescue heaving line", which is a 70-foot, 3/8-inch braided synthetic line with a flotation ball at the end.
- Should an operator break through the ice, do not accelerate; it could carry you further into open water and out of reach of help or drifting back onto the ice.
- Carry two ice saw picks attached together with a line you can wear around your neck. Place the saws in an upper pocket so they don't ride over your neck. If you plunge into water, there's less chance of losing one or both saws if attached to a line. Should you end up in the water, pick with the saws and kick with your feet to pull yourself onto solid ice.
- Carry a marine radio or cell phone and red flares in a water tight plastic bag; also carry a whistle. Wear a life jacket or flotation suit. At night, carry a strobe light. A handheld GPS in a water-tight bag could prove to be a life saver. Use these before hands grow numb.
- Place reflective tape on your foul-weather suit. Wear a full body protective suit with insulation and thermal underwear.
- Always check the weather and ice conditions before any trip out onto the ice. Ice thickness is not consistent.
- Tell others where you are going and when you expect to be back — and stick to the plan.
- Never go out on the ice alone. If you choose to go out on the ice alone, stay in an area where other people can see you and call a summon help.
- Beware! Stable ice can turn unstable in hours. Ice near stream outlets into open water can be unstable.
- Lay off the alcohol while operating a snowmobile: over the last ten years, 61 percent of Michigan snowmobile fatalities involved alcohol and drugs.



March 1, 2007

LTJG Jeremy Loeb  
US Coast Guard  
1175 Airport Access Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686

Dear Jeremy!

On behalf of the entire Special Olympics Michigan Delegation, we would like to congratulate and thank the Coast Guard members who participated in the 2007 Michigan State Winter Games.

What a great team you are! We cannot thank you enough for your support in making the 2007 State Winter Games a huge success. Without the teamwork we share, these magnificent events would never take place.

You continue to amaze us by your commitment to the athletes in this program. Your dedication and support to the "Spirit" of this organization is what Special Olympics Michigan is truly all about.

Thank you for your time, energy, and talents in making the 2007 State Winter Games the best ever!

"In the Spirit"

Steve & Ann

## Cheers

■ To Emmet County area police agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard for finding Stephen Grant, a Macomb County fugitive suspected of killing his wife. The manhunt started March 4 after Grant's abandoned truck was found at Wilderness State Park. Ground searchers found Grant, believed to be suicidal, coatless and shoeless. A Coast Guard helicopter airlifted him to Northern Michigan Hospital for treatment before he was transported back to face charges downstate.

■ To Steve Perdue, this year's recipient of Traverse City's Sara Hardy Humanitarian Award awarded by the city's human rights commission. Perdue was received the award because of his work with Grand Traverse Industries, a nonprofit that works to provide jobs to people with disabilities.

■ To John Gembel of Johannesburg, who will soon receive the Legion of Honor, France's highest military honor for his part in helping liberate France during World War II. Gembel, 82, joined the Army

when he was 16 after lying to an Army recruiter about his age. He was a member of D Company in the 26th Regiment of the Army's 1st Infantry Division. He fought in Africa and Europe, including the invasion of Normandy on D-Day. He also has received the Bronze Star, the POW Medal and seven campaign ribbons. He was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in 1945, having never been wounded in battle.

■ To area health departments for their campaign to alert the public and area doctors about the rise in whooping cough, or pertussis. The number of cases in Michigan has grown from 62 in 2002 to 546 last year. The highly contagious respiratory illness can be contracted by people of any age but severe symptoms are most common in young children. Childhood vaccines don't provide lifetime immunity. It's only been since 2005 that a booster vaccine against pertussis, tetanus and diphtheria has been available for adults, who are the primary source of infection in the young.



**MAHALO**  
MARCH 27, 2007  
DEAR CAPTAIN THROOP,  
SER, I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ONE OF YOUR NA-65'S TO CONDUCT A FLY-OVER AT THE FUNERAL FOR MY CREWMEMBER, BM3 CHRISTOPHER STARR. THIS ADDITION TO HIS FUNERAL REALLY SHOWED PRIDE FOR THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE HE DID FOR OUR COUNTRY. I KNOW MR. AND MRS. STARR WERE THANKFUL AND IMPRESSED. THANK-YOU SER. VERY RESPECTFULLY,  
LT SHAD THOMAS USCGC KESKA (HPB 1336)



1.

The Guardian Angels of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard  
10/24/2006

Recently my wife and I went to see a remarkable movie about the US Coast Guard and their rescue swimmers in the Alaskan area. Memories were brought back after many years of a "routine" day in U.S. Naval Aviation.

On 18 February 1952 our Patrol Bomber, a PBM-5 Martin Mariner aircraft was airborne on a routine patrol off the Atlantic coast. The weather was routine lousy with overcast skies and strong surface winds of 20-35 knots creating many white caps on the oceans surface. I was flying in the left seat while the Patrol Plane Commander LTJG Angelo Clemente was in the co-pilot's seat on the right hand side of the cockpit. I was monitoring the radio traffic while Clem was talking to a crewmember.

Suddenly the dreaded radio transmission came over the air, "MAYDAY- MAYDAY- MAYDAY." This is the world wide emergency call for help. I immediately went on the intercom and told Clem that I had just heard a Mayday in our area. Standard procedure in any airplane is to constantly scan outside the cockpit for conflicting traffic. I could scarcely believe what I saw directly in front of our plane. A

2.

parachute with a pilot waving frantically at us!

We circled him until he hit the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. We dropped

a smoke light immediately to pinpoint his position. Even with the smokelight we could not see him because of the white capped sea and his white plastic flying helmet. We continued to circle his area until the pilot deployed his bright green dyemarker. At that point we could see his helmet which was much like today's football helmet. The green dye floated away from him forming a funnel shape with the pilot at the tip of the spout. Flying into the wind at very low altitude just above the waves we dropped him a very bright yellow raft which inflated as soon as it hit the water. Much to our shock and disappointment the raft floated right by him at a very high speed.

While all this was going on our radioman had contacted Atlantic Fleet Headquarters. Very quickly they notified the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station at Elizabeth City, N.C. and within minutes their Search and Rescue helicopter was airborne and enroute to the scene. The helo arrived overhead in about 45 minutes while we maintained visual contact with the downed pilot. Every couple of minutes we dropped a smoke light which helped maintain visual contact.

While the helo was over head the pilot and the helo crew had

3.

successfully retrieved him we certainly had a front row seat on the Coast Guard doing what it does best- "Save lives."

By the time the helo reached the coast line they were so low on fuel they landed on the beach to refuel.

Later we learned that the rescued pilot was flying a Navy F8F Bearcat fighter practicing air combat maneuvers when the plane caught fire. He really had no choice but to "bail out."

He lived to fly another day because of two highly trained Navy and Coast Guard aircrews.

(We never heard from the rescued pilot but after all we were just doing our jobs.)

Submitted:

CDR Charles H. Zilch US Navy (RET)  
1600 Cedar Lake RD NE  
Stanton, MI 48888  
(989)762 5046  
[Zllyn@aol.com](mailto:Zllyn@aol.com)

Former U.S. Navy Patrol Plane Commander  
And All Weather Attack Pilot



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SERVICE TO  
OUR COUNTRY  
AND OUR LOCAL  
COMMUNITY.

HOPE YOU ENJOYED  
THE MOVIE AND  
THAT IT DOES  
YOU GUYS AND  
GALS JUSTICE.

PRAISE FOR

**THE**

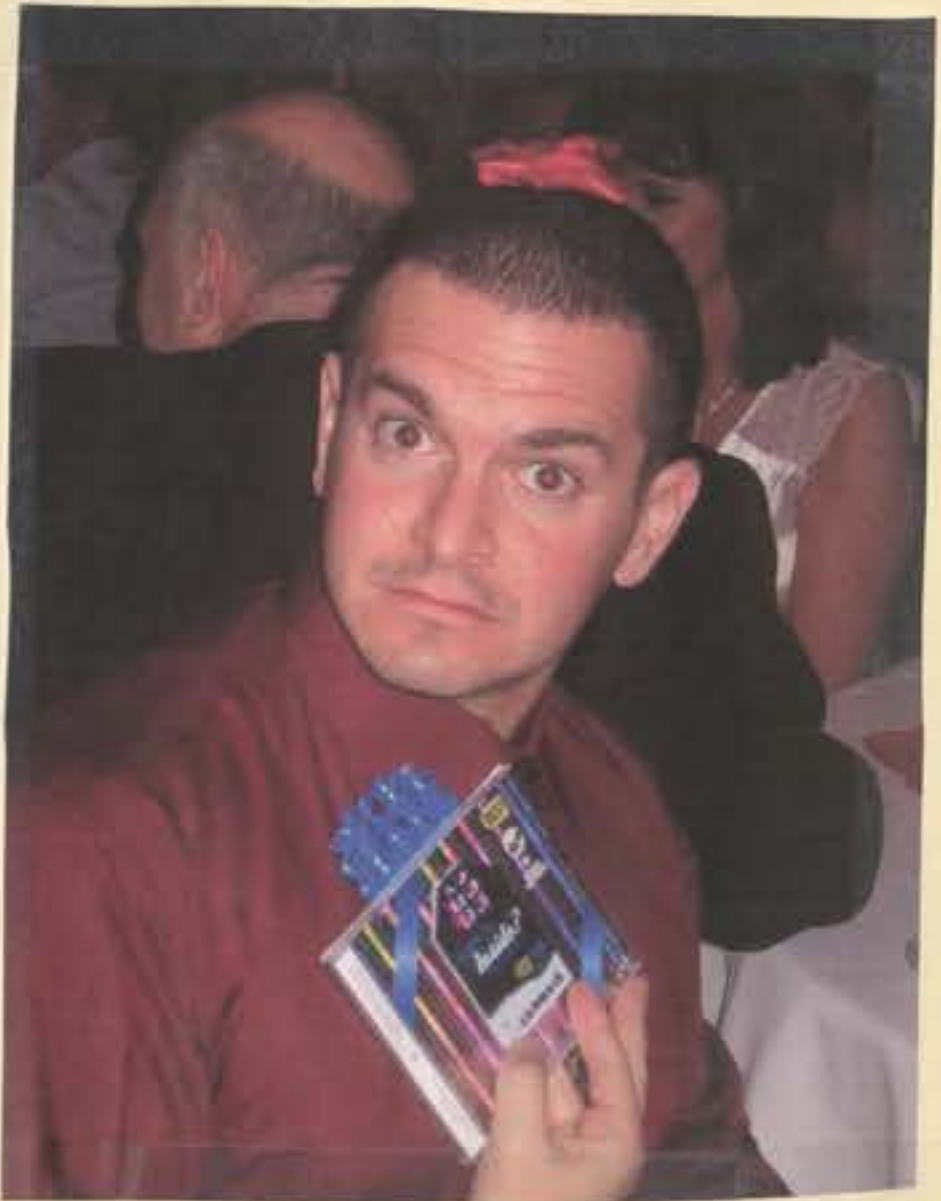
**GUARDIAN**

"In True Light"  
BTC '06



# Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas...

✦ AIRSTATION TRAVERSE CITY WINTER FORMAL 2006 ✦  
& CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY (OPPOSITE PAGE)









The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the **COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION** to:

**COAST GUARD AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY  
HH-65C 6530 RECOVERY TEAM**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For exceptionally meritorious service from 4 December 2006 to 8 December 2006 while serving as a member of Coast Guard helicopter 6530's aircrew and maintenance recovery team. Responding to a hard landing experienced by CGNR 6530 in blizzard conditions at the Mackinaw County airport in St. Ignace, Michigan, the aircraft crew and recovery team demonstrated an unmatched level of professionalism, perseverance and devotion to duty. The aircrew secured hangar space and coordinated all logistics for the anticipated maintenance effort. Additionally, they worked with Coast Guard Station St. Ignace personnel to acquire government vehicles, computer equipment and local support which proved instrumental to the overall success of the mission. Within minutes of initial notification of the incident, an Air Station maintenance recovery team was assembled and gathered all equipment necessary to conduct all on site repairs and aircraft inspections. With the maintenance trailer loaded, the five person recovery crew traveled for more than six hours on blizzard swept highways enroute to St. Ignace, a trip that normally takes only two hours. Arriving at night, the recovery team found the disabled helicopter covered with over a foot of snow. After assessing the aircraft's condition, the team repositioned it into a hangar to safely carry out additional inspections and maintenance. The entire team labored long hours over a demanding three-day period. The inspections and repairs were completed in austere field conditions hindered by sub-zero temperatures, inadequate lighting and limited supplies. With 30% of the inspections completed, multiple discrepancies were discovered that rendered the repairs too extensive for field repair. Priorities were shifted and the decision was made to trailer the aircraft back to Traverse City. In a superior display of interagency cooperation, members of the U.S. Army Reserve 182<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company joined the effort and were dispatched with an additional Coast Guard team to return the aircraft to Traverse City. Within two hours of arrival at the St. Ignace airport, aided by the first-rate preparations completed by the on-site recovery team, the damaged aircraft was loaded on a recovery trailer, secured and on the road back to Traverse City. Hindered by high winds and blinding snow, the convoy labored for two days on the icy roads before safely returning the aircraft to Air Station Traverse City, where final repairs were completed. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by the maintenance recovery team are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

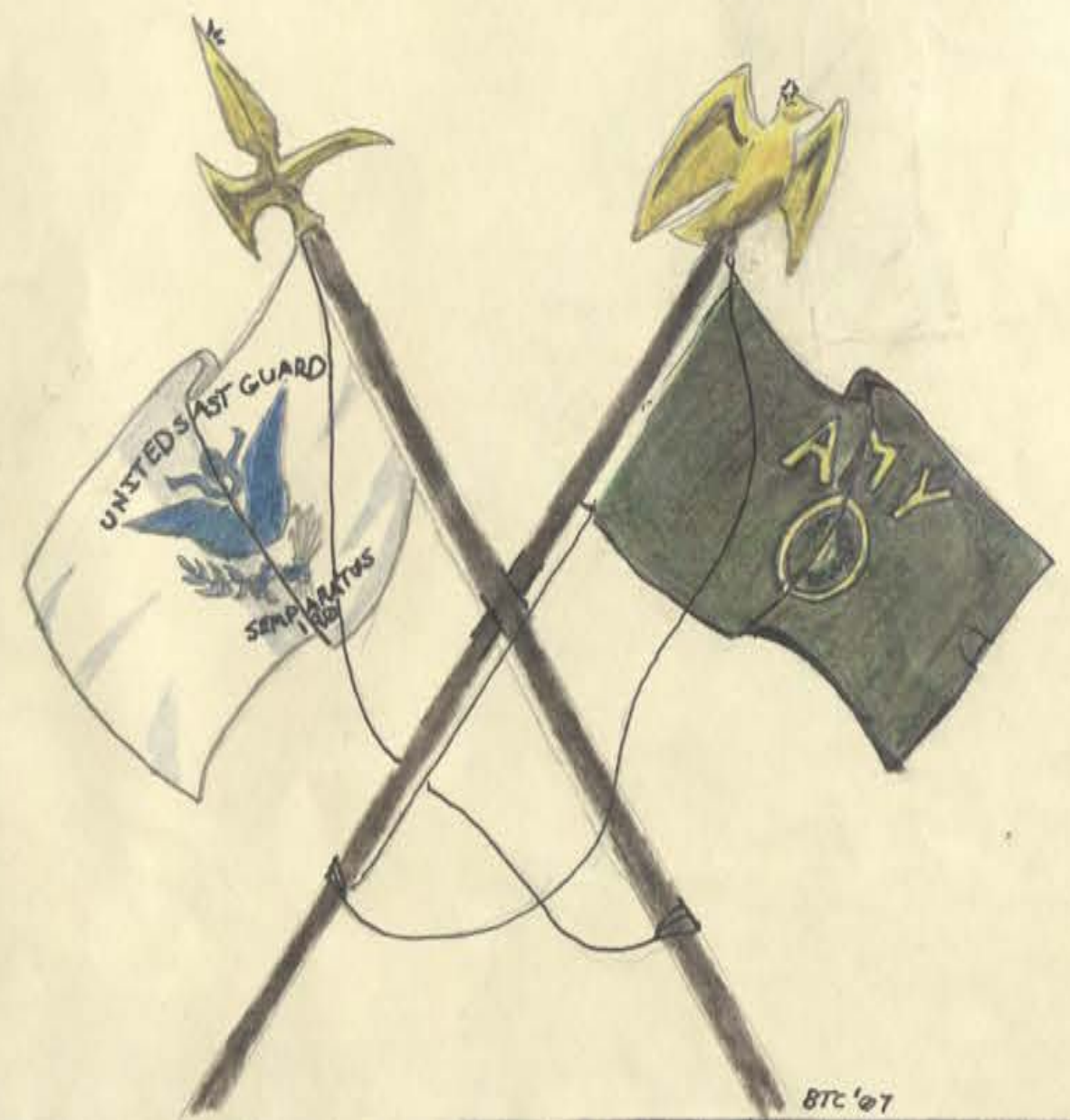
For the Commandant

J. R. Pasch  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard  
Acting Commanding Officer, Air Station Traverse City





# WHEN DUTY CALLS: THE RECOVERY OF HELO 6530





# Of Military



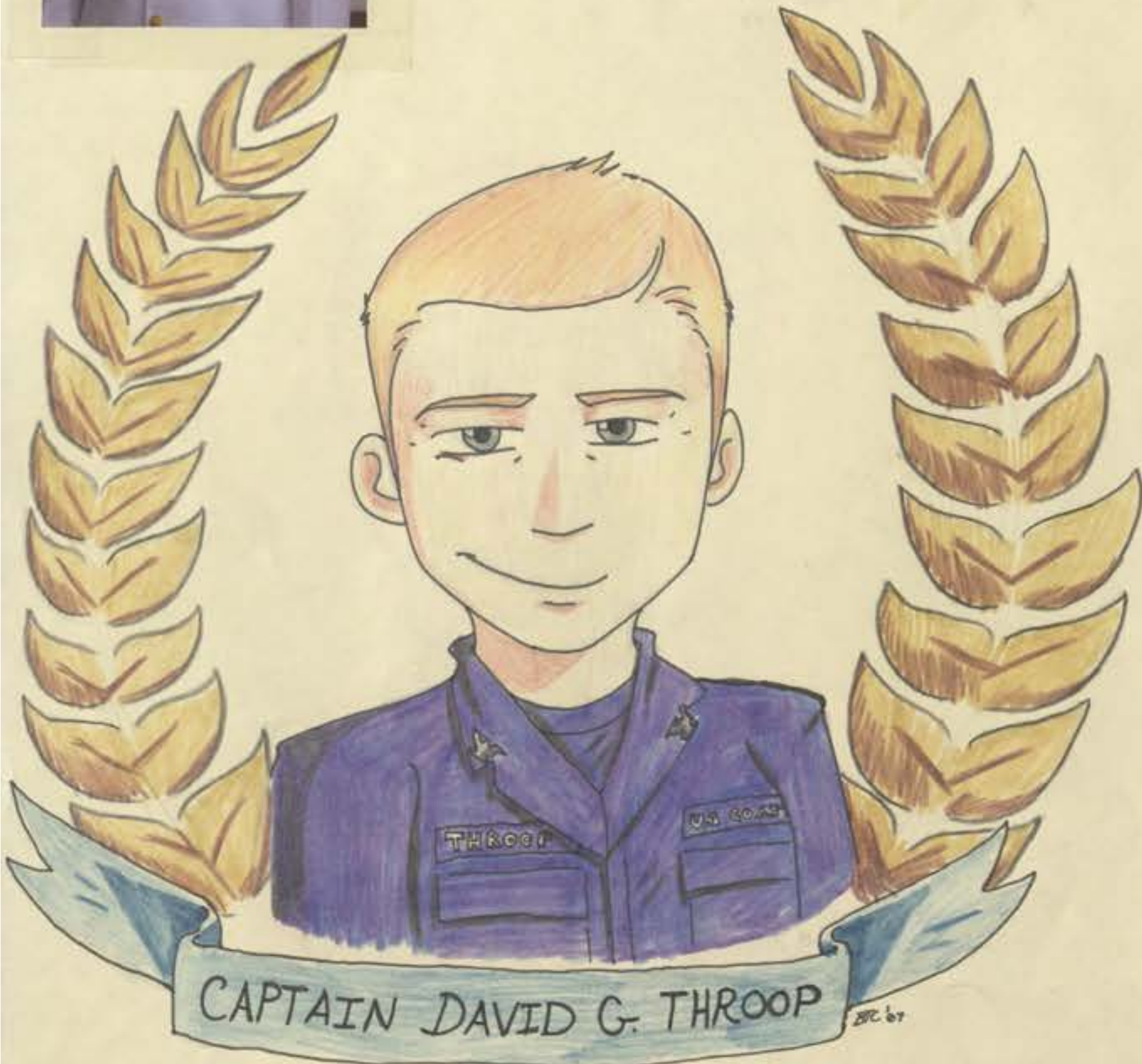


# Traditions





# CHANGE OF COMMAND



## CAPTAIN DAVID G. THROOP

Captain David Throop is a native of Burton, Michigan, a 1981 graduate of Bendle High School and a 1985 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Upon receiving his commission in 1985, Ensign Throop served as a Deck Watch Officer and Boarding Officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter VIGILANT (WMEC-617) in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He attended Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida, earning his wings in 1988, and was assigned to Coast Guard Air Station San Diego where he conducted Search and Rescue and law enforcement missions in the HH-65. In 1992, Lieutenant Throop was assigned to duty as a helicopter instructor pilot at the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama. In 1997 he was selected for graduate education in Public Administration. He received his Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Strategic Management from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1998.

After graduation, Lieutenant Commander Throop was assigned as a management analyst in the Office of Plans, Policy and Evaluation at CG Headquarters, and was responsible for developing and communicating the Regional Strategic Assessment process as well as evaluating and managing the field planning process for capital infrastructure. From July 2001 to July 2004 Commander Throop served as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer at Coast Guard Air Station Savannah, GA. In 2004, he attended the Naval War College and received a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Captain Throop assumed command of AIRSTA Traverse City in July of 2005.

CAPT Throop's decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and numerous unit and team commendations. He has accumulated over 3,300 flight hours and holds a FAA commercial pilot's license in both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. He is married to the former Marina Chamley of South Dartmouth, Massachusetts. They are the proud parents of four children: Rachel (18), Benjamin (16), Dominique (13), and Keegan (11).







**COMMANDER STUART M. MERRILL**

Commander Stuart Merrill is a native of Westwood, Massachusetts, a 1983 graduate of Westwood High School and a 1987 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelors of Science in Marine Engineering. Upon receiving his commission in 1987, Ensign Merrill served as a Student Engineering and Damage Control Assistant aboard Coast Guard Cutter VENTUROUS (WMEC 625), then stationed out of San Pedro, California. He attended Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida earning his wings in 1990, and was assigned to Air Station Barbers Point where he began his aviation career flying the HH-65 helicopter. In 1992, Lieutenant Merrill was selected for the Aviation Maintenance Officer Program and was assigned as the H-60 Maintenance Officer at Aviation Training Center Mobile. In 1996, Commander Merrill was selected for the Aviation Engineering Administration Post Graduate Training Program. He received his Masters of Science in Industrial Administration from the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University. In 1997, he went on to serve as the Aviation Engineering Officer at Air Station Sitka, Alaska.

From 2000-2004, Commander Merrill served as the Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Coordinator and Aeronautical Engineering Resources Chief at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC. In 2004, Commander Merrill was assigned as the Aviation Engineering Officer of Air Station Barbers Point before fleetting up to the position of Executive Officer in January of 2005.

Commander Merrill's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, three Coast Guard Achievement Medals, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and numerous unit and team awards. He has accumulated of nearly 3,000 flight hours and holds a fixed winged FAA rating. He is married to the former Karen Myrdal of Kailua, Hawaii. They are the proud parents of two children: Fin (9), and Lexi (7).







# COAST GUARD AIRMAN CHARLES J. KRAUSE

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1986 – August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007



TRAVERSE CITY RECORD-EAGLE

## REGION

NEWS FROM NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

Saturday, September 1, 2007

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR (231) 933-1472

### Drowning victim remembered

BY BRIAN MCGILLIVARY  
bmcgillivary@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — Members of the U.S. Coast Guard regularly risk their lives on the Great Lakes, but the loss of one of their own in an accidental drowning delivered an unexpected, emotional blow.

Airman Charles J. Krause, 21, who drowned Thursday afternoon while swimming in West Bay, was a true champion for the Coast Guard, said his commanding officer, Stu Merrill of Air Station Traverse City. The Coast Guard called in counselors and a chap-

lain to help Krause's many friends address their grief and regroup so they are prepared for the busy Labor Day weekend, Merrill said.

"We're in a very demanding and dangerous business and we prepare ourselves emotionally for events in that realm, but an accidental drowning just catches you off-guard," he said. "A death is really a rare occurrence for the Coast Guard."

Krause loved volleyball and was at the courts on West Bay near the Open Space with friends waiting for a game. He decided to

take a swim in the relatively calm bay.

Police said he swam out to a buoy that marks the outward edge of the swim area, located about 60 yards from shore and about 25 yards from the edge of the shallow, roped swim area.

It appeared Krause began having difficulty when he reached the far end and he slipped underwater, police said.

Occupants of nearby boats dove into the water to help Krause and pulled him up

from the six to seven-foot bay bottom.

The rescuers tried to resuscitate Krause until paramedics took over. Krause was transported to Munson Medical Center, but could not be revived.

"The Great Lakes are beautiful, but this is a tragic reminder of just how careful you must be," Merrill said.

Krause joined the Coast Guard in summer 2005 and previously was stationed aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Katmai Bay in Sault Ste. Marie. He came to Traverse City in May to train as

a helicopter mechanic. "I've got nearly 150 people here, but Charlie really stood out in a crowd," Merrill said.

Merrill said Krause was wonderfully bright, polite, and curious, with a love for both the Coast Guard and Traverse City community.

"He was a wonderful young man and we were honored to be able to serve with him in the Coast Guard," Merrill said.

Krause is survived by his parents, George and Mary Sue Krause of Neenah, Wis., and three sisters. Funeral arrangements are pending.

#### Airman Charles Joseph Krause United States Coast Guard

Airman Krause hails from Appleton, Wisconsin and is a 2004 graduate of Neenah High School in Neenah, Wisconsin. Airman Krause was sworn in as a Seaman Recruit in the United States Coast Guard on August 2, 2005, and entered Recruit Basic Training at Cape May, New Jersey. While receiving instruction in basic military structure, bearing and operations, Seaman Recruit Krause distinguished himself on the firing line and was awarded both the Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship Ribbons. After graduation on September 23, 2005, Seaman Recruit Krause was promoted to Fireman Apprentice and received orders to the United States Coast Cutter KATMAI BAY (WTGB-101), homeported in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Fireman Apprentice Krause served in the Engineering Department and was essential in the completion of numerous Ice Breaking, Aids to Navigation, and Law Enforcement missions. Displaying superior judgment and professionalism, he received a promotion to Fireman and was selected for KATMAI BAY's Maritime Law Enforcement Boarding Team. After qualification as a Boarding Team Member, he participated in numerous law enforcement boardings on the Great Lakes, ensuring the safety and security of recreational and merchant vessels. At the completion of his tour aboard the KATMAI BAY, Fireman Krause was awarded the Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon. In May of 2007, Fireman Krause changed his designation to Airman, and was transferred to Air Station Traverse City and began training for service as an Aviation Maintenance Technician. Airman Krause quickly excelled in the Airman Program and completed the syllabus ahead of schedule. Airman Krause's leadership and dedication to his shipmates thrived as he became a mentor to other Airman and assisted many in syllabus completion. Airman Krause served with excellence as a member in the Air Station's Honor Guard. In this capacity, he reverently represented the Air Station at numerous high profile events, carrying the colors of the Nation and U. S. Coast Guard with pride and honor.

Airman Krause's military awards include the Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon, Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon, and Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon.



*Doing for others  
just comes naturally  
to you.*

*Thank you*

*God Bless you!*

*Mary Sue George*

*Sarah*

*Betsy*

*Katie*

To all of "Our" Coasties,

We don't even know how to begin to express our sincere appreciation for all you have done to honor Charlie. First for all of you who comforted us in Neenah and then in Traverse City - for the wings, award, photo, chocolate milk, flowers, service, letter, fly by, flightsuit, shadow box and especially the dedication of the training room. Each wonderful in it's own right but taken together - overwhelming.

You have our deepest gratitude.

*Our door is always open - Please stop by any time 542 E Packham Neenah*





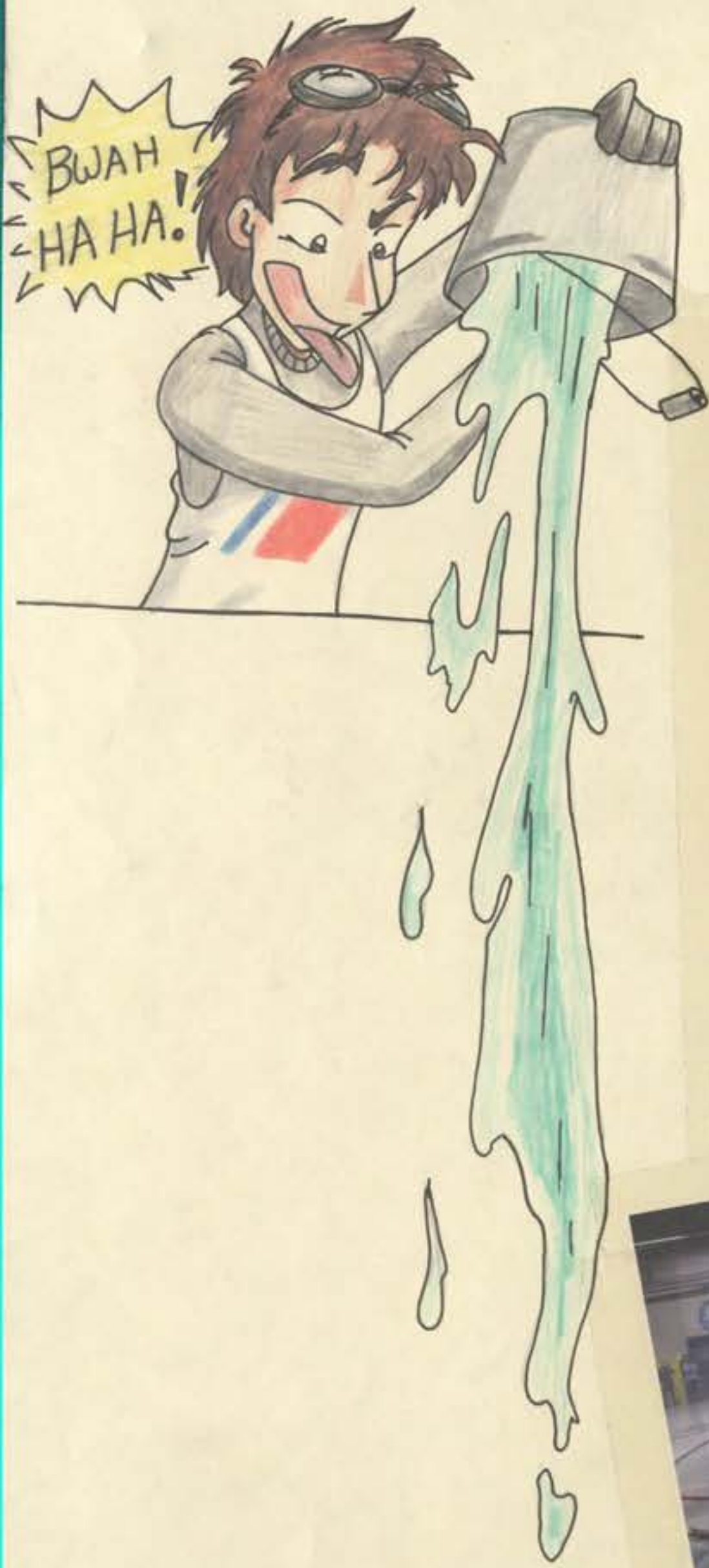
"There is a story of a man who lives beneath the sea..."  
-The Guardian-



AN Charles Krause  
1986 - 2007  
"Godspeed, my fellow Coastie!"



# MORALE





# BELLYWASH





MEMORIAL CELEBRATION  
OF THE INCREDIBLE LIFE  
OF

MICHAEL EDWARD BAKER

1 APR 1966-30 DEC 2007



Saturday, March 22, 2008

1300 hours to 1500 hours

For the rest of us....

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Followed by refreshments



A MEMORIAL SERVICE  
FOR THE  
CREW OF N109AE

*Pilot Mike Baker*

*Flight Nurse Tiffany Miles*

*Flight Paramedic Allan Bragwell*

*January 5, 2007*

*First Baptist Church • Muscle Shoals, Alabama*



Service

**"FEAR TO DO ILL AND YE NEED  
FEAR NAUGHT ELSE."**

1:00 pm	Assemble for Flyover by Lifelight
1:10 pm	Flyover by Lifelight
1:15 pm	Assemble in the Chapel
1:20 pm	Fire Department Honor Guard to post the colors
1:25 pm	Welcome and Opening Prayer
1:30 pm	Program Participants and Video Presentations
2:15 pm	Michael's Air Evac Crew Presentation to parents
2:20 pm	Closing Prayer
2:30 pm	Coast Guard Honor Guard Promotion and Flag Ceremony
2:35 pm Or Whenever finished...	Fire Department Honor Guard Removes the Colors
Refreshments	In Cultural Hall at Chapel



Light House

"DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP, I AM NOT THERE, I DO NOT SLEEP."  
THESE WORDS SO OFTEN HAVE BEEN READ  
WHEN LOVED ONES' EARTHLY BONDS ARE SHED.

MICHAEL EDWARD BAKER IS NOT SLEEPING IN A GRAVE. HE WAS A CHILD OF SEA AND SKY AND EVEN THOUGH WE DO WEEP, WE CAN TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING HIS SPIRIT IS FREE TO DANCE ACROSS THE CRESTS OF WAVES AND GLIDE HAPPILY AMONGST THE CLOUDS, TOTALLY UNFETTERED BY ANY MAN-MADE APPARATUS.

WE WERE SO PROUD THAT MIKE CHOSE THE COAST GUARD AND AIR EVAC TEAM. HE PERSONIFIED THE EMBLEM OF THE COAST GUARD, A LIGHT HOUSE. HE WAS A BEACON OF LIGHT IN SO MANY OF OUR LIVES. MICHAEL WAS A NATURAL TEACHER...OBSERVANT, KIND, PATIENT, AND SUPPORTIVE. HE LIVED A WONDERFULLY HAPPY LIFE. GUIDED BY HIS HUMAN COMPASSION, LOVE AND FAITH, MICHAEL FOLLOWED A PATH WHICH TOOK HIM ON JOURNEYS THAT NONE OF US WILL EVER KNOW IN FULL. MIKE'S PRESENCE WAS A GIFT, AND OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN TRULY ENRICHED BY KNOWING HIM. THIS ENRICHMENT WILL NEVER BE DIMINISHED BY HIS PHYSICAL ABSENCE. HIS ULTIMATE GIFT, HIS OWN LIFE, WAS GIVEN, ALONG WITH THOSE OF TWO OTHER SELFLESS SOULS, TIFFANY AND ALLAN, SAVING THE LIFE OF A STRANGER.

MIKE WAS UNFAILINGLY GENEROUS WITH HIS TIME, CHARITABLE IN HIS ACTIONS AND LEGENDARY FOR HIS THOUGHTFULNESS. HE APPRECIATED THE LIFE HE HAD AND THE LOVE HE RECEIVED. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR HIS TALENTS AND ALL THE ACHIEVEMENTS HE EARNED. WITH MICHAEL, NOTHING WAS TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

IN THE WORDS OF ELINOR DEWIRE, "STAND UP STRAIGHT AND BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE. LEAVE A LIGHT ON FOR THOSE WHO AREN'T HOME YET."  
MICHAEL HAS GONE BEFORE US. HE IS OUR LIGHTHOUSE AND WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE HIS LIGHT TO GUIDE US.



**A MEMORIAL SERVICE  
FOR THE  
CREW OF N109AE**

*Pilot Mike Baker  
Flight Nurse Tiffany Miles  
Flight Paramedic Allan Bragwell*

*January 5, 2007  
First Baptist Church • Muscle Shoals, Alabama*



MEMORIAL CELEBRATION  
OF THE INCREDIBLE LIFE  
OF

MICHAEL EDWARD BAKER

1 APR 1966-30 DEC 2007



Saturday, March 22, 2008

1300 hours to 1500 hours

For the rest of us....

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Followed by refreshments



*Air Evac Lifeteam: Air Medical Emergency  
Response for Rural Communities*

Aircraft Flyover

Music

Andrea Terry, Flight Nurse, AE 37, Waverly, Tennessee

Honor Guard Processional

Underwood-Petersville VFD and U.S. Coast Guard

Welcome

Colin Collins, CEO, Air Evac Lifeteam

Eulogies

Family Presentations

Seth Myers, President, Air Evac Lifeteam

U.S. Coast Guard Memorial

Prayer

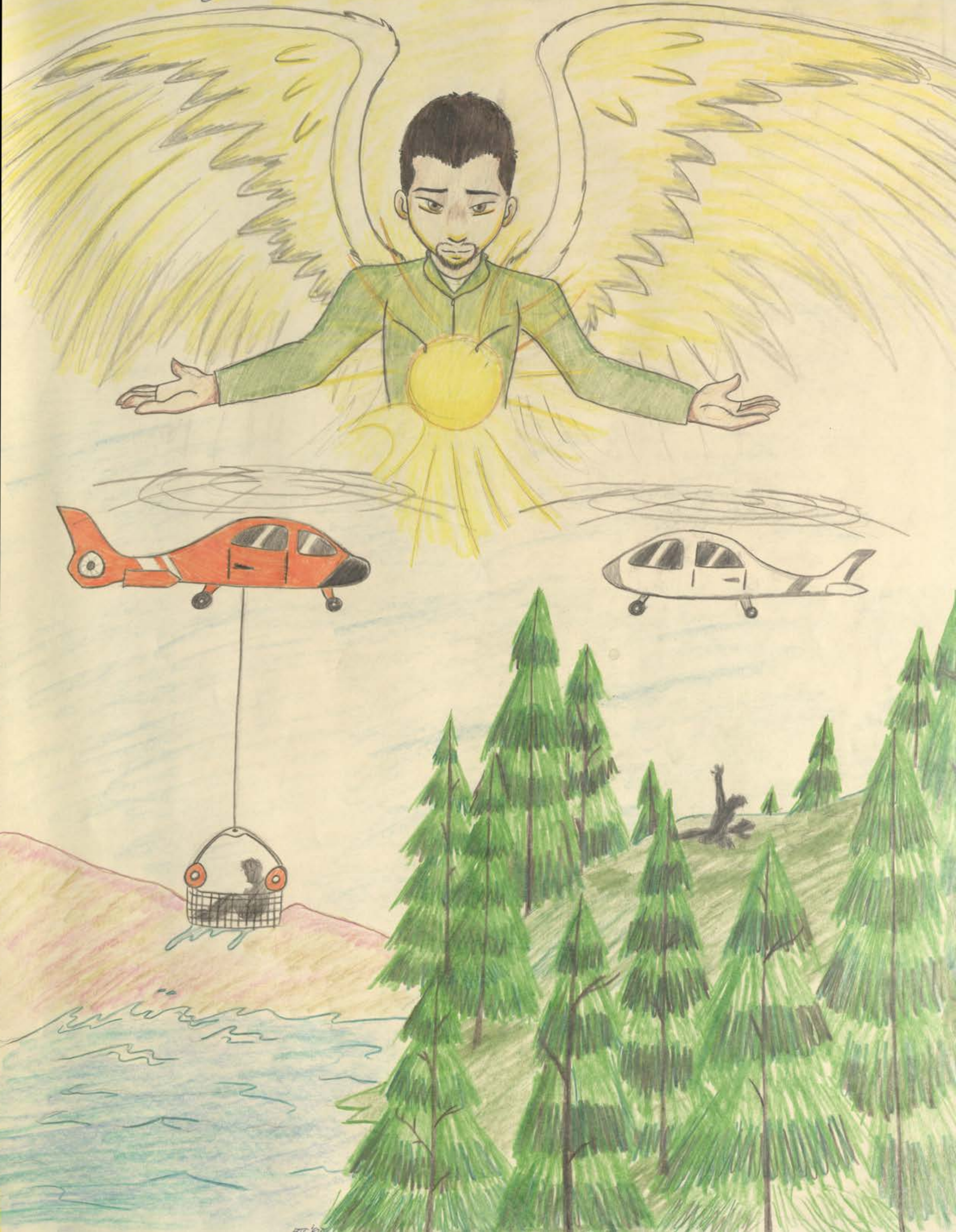
Jeff Davis, Regional Director of Base Operations,  
Air Evac Lifeteam

Last Call

Honor Guard Recessional



"If by sea or by lands, so others may love."





Captain Stuart M. Merrill, Commanding Officer  
United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City  
1175 Airport Access Road  
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

July 25, 2008

Dear Capt. Merrill:

Your folks put on a fine rescue swimmer demo for us in Omena last Wednesday. With this letter we send to you and to all your command our appreciation for that demo. The bravery and dedication of your men and women is striking. Lt. Yane was most effective in helping me set this up. Many of our young people were present and all of us continue to appreciate your work and find it inspiring.

It was a special treat for us to host swimmer Monville and his young family. Chris is (distantly) related to one of our members. He took a few moments after dinner to explain your mission and capabilities. He represents you well and we were glad to have him.

To your entire command we send our heartfelt thanks for their service to the country and our community.

*Tom Brucke*  
Commodore



Traverse City Police Department  
Grand Traverse Sheriff's Office  
851 Woodmere Avenue  
Traverse City Michigan 49686



August 13, 2008

Mr. Stuart M. Merrill, Commanding Officer  
United States Coast Guard  
Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City  
1175 Airport Access Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686-3586

Dear Commander Merrill:

On behalf of the Traverse City Police Department and the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office, we would like to thank you and Air Station Traverse City for the assistance you provided us on Friday, August 8, 2008. As you know, your staff transported Detective Sergeant Joseph McCarthy, Traverse City Police Department and Detective Nathan Ritter, Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office to Brainerd, Minnesota for a breaking and entering investigation both of our Departments are working on.

Detective Sergeant McCarthy and Detective Nathan Ritter relayed to us how much they appreciated being flown to Brainerd. They said the trip was exceptional and it saved them many hours of driving. Please extend a personal thank you for a job well done to the following members of your air crew:

Lt. Commander Scott Jones (LCDR)  
LTJG Nathan Noyes  
AMT2 Bill Morrow

The assistance provided by you and your staff not only made this trip possible, it saved time and helped us "take care of business" not only for our Departments, but for the community we protect and serve. Please know we sincerely appreciate your help and your support.

Sincerely,

*Michael K. Warren*  
Michael K. Warren, Chief

*Scott C. Fewins*  
Scott C. Fewins, Sheriff





Schooner "Fleetwing"

Jim Nelson  
412 East Saint Joseph Street  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301  
Phone: 920-430-3734

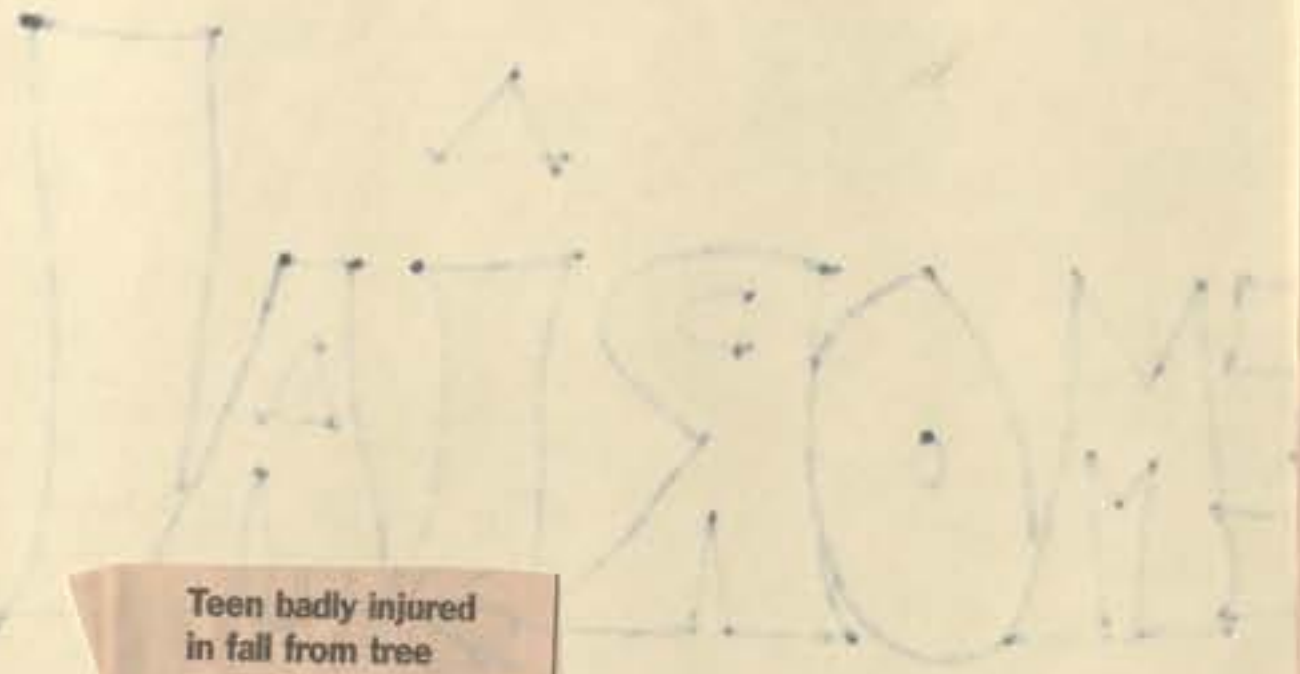
20 Aug. 08

DEAR CHRIS -  
ENCLOSED ARE YOUR COVERALLS, WASHEO BUT NOT PRESSED, A PAIR OF WASHEO SOCKS, ALL OF THE ITEMS IN THE POCKETS, AND A PAIR OF SPIT-SHINED BOOTS. I DID THE BEST I COULD WITH THEM, SHINING THEM 3 TIMES - THEY OBVIOUSLY HAD BEEN NEGLECTED!  
CHRIS, AGAIN, I CAN NEVER THANK YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR CREW ENOUGH FOR SAVING MY LIFE. THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE THAT NEED MY THANKS, AND WILL GET IT SOMEHOW, BUT YOU, YOUR CREW AND THAT WONDERFUL HELICOPTER DESERVE IT MOST OF ALL.  
THE BEAM FROM THE SEARCHLIGHT THAT HIT ME WAS ALMOST LIKE THE HAND OF GOD.  
PLEASE PASS MY UNDYING THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO THE REST OF YOUR CREW, AND I PROMISE, NEXT TIME WE MEET, I'LL BE DRESSED! GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR CREW. SEMPER PARATUS.

WITH MUCH RESPECT,

Jim Nelson

P.S. THE LABEL IN THE COVERALLS SAID DO NOT PRESS. DIDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK I WAS A SLACKER!



### Teen badly injured in fall from tree

**GAYLORD** - A teenager was badly hurt after falling from a tall tree in a state forest in eastern Otsego County.

Rescuers had to hike miles into the Pigeon River County State Forest in Corwith Township Wednesday night to reach the 17-year-old Gaylord man. He was airlifted out with serious head and neck injuries, said Jon Deming, Otsego County EMS Rescue chief.

Deming said a group of four teens were camping in the forest. They used a cell phone to call for help after one of them fell from near the top of a 100-foot tall pine tree.

"We came in about four miles ... to get to where they were at," Deming said.

The Coast Guard in Traverse City airlifted the man out by lowering a basket around 11 p.m. Thursday, Deming said.

The injured man, whose name was not released, was taken first to Otsego Memorial Hospital, but transferred Thursday to a hospital in Saginaw.

"He was severely injured," Deming said. "I believe he's classified as critical."

6B

### Rescue drills



Record-Eagle photo/Jon-Michael Stump

Above, Shawn Sullivan, a Coast Guard aviation survival technician, is lowered into West Grand Traverse Bay during cold weather survival training drills near the Open Space on Wednesday morning. Crew members from the Coast Guard Air Station in Traverse City practiced working in dry suits and survival vests with survival rafts. They also practiced hoist rescues using the station's HH65C Dolphin helicopter. Below, Sullivan signals for the rescue basket to be taken up with a fellow crew member during training.



2008 AUGUST 20



ONE

AN KRAUSE TRAINING ROOM  
In Memory of Charles J. Krause  
Airman USCG Air Station Traverse City MI  
Dedicated On  
05 September 2007



YEAR

AIRMAN CHARLES KRAUSE  
MEMORIAL SERVICE



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
AIRSTATION TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

September 5, 2007

MEMORIAL

2nd Place.....



volleyball tournament 2008

If only you were here  
to place them in first.....

We Miss You!



# ONE



### Airman Charles Joseph Krause United States Coast Guard

Airman Krause hails from Appleton, Wisconsin and is a 2004 graduate of Neenah High School in Neenah, Wisconsin. Airman Krause was sworn in as a Seaman Recruit in the United States Coast Guard on August 2, 2005, and entered Recruit Basic Training at Cape May, New Jersey. While receiving instruction in basic military structure, bearing and operations, Seaman Recruit Krause distinguished himself on the firing line and was awarded both the Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship Ribbons. After graduation on September 23, 2005, Seaman Recruit Krause was promoted to Fireman Apprentice and received orders to the United States Coast Cutter KATMAI BAY (WTGB-101), homeported in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Fireman Apprentice Krause served in the Engineering Department and was essential in the completion of numerous Ice Breaking, Aids to Navigation, and Law Enforcement missions. Displaying superior judgment and professionalism, he received a promotion to Fireman and was selected for KATMAI BAY's Maritime Law Enforcement Boarding Team. After qualification as a Boarding Team Member, he participated in numerous law enforcement boardings on the Great Lakes, ensuring the safety and security of recreational and merchant vessels. At the completion of his tour aboard the KATMAI BAY, Fireman Krause was awarded the Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon. In May of 2007, Fireman Krause changed his designation to Airman, and was transferred to Air Station Traverse City and began training for service as an Aviation Maintenance Technician. Airman Krause quickly excelled in the Airman Program and completed the syllabus ahead of schedule. Airman Krause's leadership and dedication to his shipmates thrived as he became a mentor to other Airman and assisted many in syllabus completion. Airman Krause served with excellence as a member in the Air Station's Honor Guard. In this capacity, he reverently represented the Air Station at numerous high profile events, carrying the colors of the Nation and U. S. Coast Guard with pride and honor.

Airman Krause's military awards include the Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon, Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon, and Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon.



### Order of Service

- Presentation of Colors and National Anthem
- Introduction - CDR Samuel Creech, AIRSTA Traverse City Executive Officer
- Invocation - LCDR Michael Sneath, USCG Sector Lake Michigan Chaplain
- Commanding Officer's Remarks - CDR Stuart Merrill  
Presentation of Commandant's Letter of Commendation
- Remarks by AMTCS Richard Schultz, Leading Chief Petty Officer  
Presentation of Shadow Box
- Hymn - Eternal Father Strong to Save (Navy Hymn)
  - Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who biddest the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!
  - Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,  
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts,  
Protect them from the raging seas  
And give them light and life and peace,  
Grant them from Thy great throne above  
The shield and shelter of Thy love.
- Benediction - Chaplain Michael Sneath
- Taps - LT Brendan Evans
- Retire Colors



# MEMORIAL

## 2nd Place.....



volleyball tournament 2008

If only you were here  
to place them in first.....

We Miss You!



# OPINION

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR (231) 933-1441

### Ongoing support

On the recent one-year anniversary of our son's drowning after playing volleyball in Traverse City, his Coast Guard commander, Stuart Merrill, called and told us that they were planning a memorial service.

I would just like everyone to know how well everyone in the U.S. Coast Guard has treated us since Charlie's death. I cannot begin to tell you the support we've received from them, but it has been way beyond our expectations. If you see a member of the U.S.C.G., maybe just offer a "thanks" for what they do.

Our lives are better just from knowing some of them. You're lucky that they are part of your com-

munity.

George Krause  
Waupaca, Wis.







Michigan Heritage & Research Foundation

P.O. Box 1157 Kalkaska, MI 49646 231.258.0682  
www.michiganfallenheroes.org

Captain Stuart Merrill  
United States Coast Guard  
Traverse City Station

August 21, 2008

On behalf of the Michigan Heritage and Research Foundation I would like to thank and commend the members of the Traverse City U. S. Coast Guard Station for their participation in our August 10<sup>th</sup> Ceremony at the Vietnam Moving Memorial Wall in Kalkaska.

Upon our request Lieutenant Christopher T. Yane and Lieutenant Jeremy Loeb worked diligently to seek approval for a helicopter flyover, and the U.S. Coast Guard Honor Guard to take part in our Ceremony. I was immediately put in contact with Brian Ford who met with me and reviewed the details of our event and request, and guided us through the correct military protocol for our ceremony. Brian Ford detailed the commands ("Present Arms") that he would give his honor guard prior to the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem, and talked us through the lowering and folding of the U.S. Flag and its presentation to the podium. In his quest to do the best job possible, Brian Ford visited the event site three days prior to the ceremony to finalize his mission. Lieutenant Yane took the time to write up a brief History of the United States Coast Guard, and a list of the seven United States Coast Guardsmen that courageously gave their lives in the Vietnam War.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> Brian Ford and the members of the U.S. Coast Guard Honor Guard performed their ceremonial presentation with precision. The Honor Guard brought great honor to the 58,256 soldiers etched on the Vietnam Wall as they marched in perfect synchronization and performed in the highest degree of military perfection. They performed at a level of proficiency that you would expect to see at a Presidential Event. The ceremony was ended with an impressive flyover by your U.S. Coast Guard helicopter flown by Lieutenant Yane and Lieutenant McMillen, with flight Mechanic Max Bergeron secured to the side of the helicopter rendering a military salute to our spectators below.

Having served as a U. S. Army Sergeant in Vietnam, and a 25 year career with the Michigan State Police I have a great appreciation for the military role, and the law enforcement role of the U. S. Coast Guard. Your agency effectively conducts patrol and rescue missions on the great lakes, and at sea saving lives on a daily basis. The U.S. Coast Guard plays a major role in the war on terrorism, and has saved our nation on many occasions in peacetime and at war.

With all of your daily responsibilities we are honored that your U.S. Coast Guardsmen placed such a high priority for our ceremony, bringing great honor upon themselves and the United States Coast Guard. AET2 Brian Ford was key in coordinating the efforts of his Honor Guard, immediately answering my e-mails and phone calls both on and off duty. He made sure that every detail was covered prior to the event, and reviewed the elements of the program with the Master of Ceremony just prior to the Program. Brian Ford is a true professional that carries with him the true spirit, and the excellent image of the United States Coast Guard. He has a command presence with a courteous, polite and respectful approach with people. It was an honor to have worked with him. Traverse City is fortunate to have the members of the U.S. Coast Guard and such an elite Honor Guard in our midst.

We thank and commend;

Lieutenant Christopher Yane  
AET2 Brian Ford - Honor Guard  
AMT2 Chris Mix - Honor Guard

Lieutenant Jeremy Loeb  
AET2 Brad Bucklew - Honor Guard  
AMT3 Troy Campbell - Honor Guard

Lieutenant Shawn McMillen  
AMT3 Max Bergeron

Respectfully Yours,

John T. Korzek Sr.

Ms. Kathy Kreykes - Chairperson Mr. Ron Kea - Vice Chairperson Mr. John T. Korzek Sr. - Member of the Board (Home # 1-231-223-7622)

The mission of the Michigan Heritage and Research Foundation is to recognize and memorialize the Michigan men and women who have served in the Armed Forces and in Law Enforcement and who have devoted their lives to the citizens of this Great State, and our Nation. "Our Michigan Heroes"



The meaning of the pink carnation: "we will never forget you"



May the  
blessings  
of love be upon you  
May its peace  
abide with you  
May its essence  
illuminate  
your heart  
Now and forever more.

-Sufi Blessing

# THE COAST GUARD RULES!

Thank you for a great tour. You taught us so much!

We sincerely extend our gratitude and appreciation.

Mesick Middle School 7th Grade

Thank you  
Todd Schultz

Thanks,  
Chuck Jensen 😊

Special thanks to  
Senior chief of you  
were so kind.  
Cathy Trainor



In deepest sympathy...

AND OUR CONDOLENCES  
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF U.S.  
COAST GUARD AIR STATION TRAVERSE  
CITY - OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH  
YOU & YOUR LOST SHIPMATES -

HOWARD KING  
+  
LIZ SAARE-KING





*Created just for you, by me.*

*Card Studio*

Copyright © 2006, Creative Home. All rights reserved.







Thank you  
Letheris  
2008

Boy Scout Troop 36  
Central Methodist Church  
Traverse City Michigan

October 17, 2008

United States Coast Guard  
Air Station Traverse City  
1175 Airport Access Road  
Traverse City, MI. 49686  
Attention: Lt. Chris Yane  
(231) 922-8273

Dear Lt Yane,

I thank you for arranging our visit to the Air Station Thursday Oct. 9. Lt. Chad Thompson and AST-3 Chris Wheeler did an excellent job in touring the Scouts through your facility, and informing them about the important mission that you have. Your helicopters are certainly a daily part of our lives in Traverse, but we are mostly uniformed about the many important duties that you perform. The adult leaders of the Troop are very pleased that our Scouts had the opportunity to learn about the Coast Guard.

Lord Baden Powell (a General in the British Military) devised the Boy Scouts as a way to turn fine young boys into men - with the ability to act independently. I think that complies very well with our own military tradition in this country.

The boys were taken by everything that they saw and heard. We were on base over 2 hours, and the Scouts would have stayed longer if we hadn't said we had to go. The real draw for the boys is the helicopters, of course. They asked hundreds of good questions about every button, switch, bracket, buckle, and appendage on the inside and outside of the craft. Chad and Chris were very patient in answering all those questions. Chris did a wonderful job explaining the job of a rescue swimmer and about the training and equipment. The boys were very interested in that job, as well as wanting to be a pilot and fly a helicopter.

The Scouts constructed and signed Thank You notes for Chad and Chris at our meeting last night. We also include a picture that was taken with Chad and Chris lined up with the boys in front of a helicopter, and some Boy Scout Popcorn for each of them. We can't thank you enough.

Sincerely,

*Carl E. Van Conant*  
Carl Van Conant  
Ast. Scoutmaster

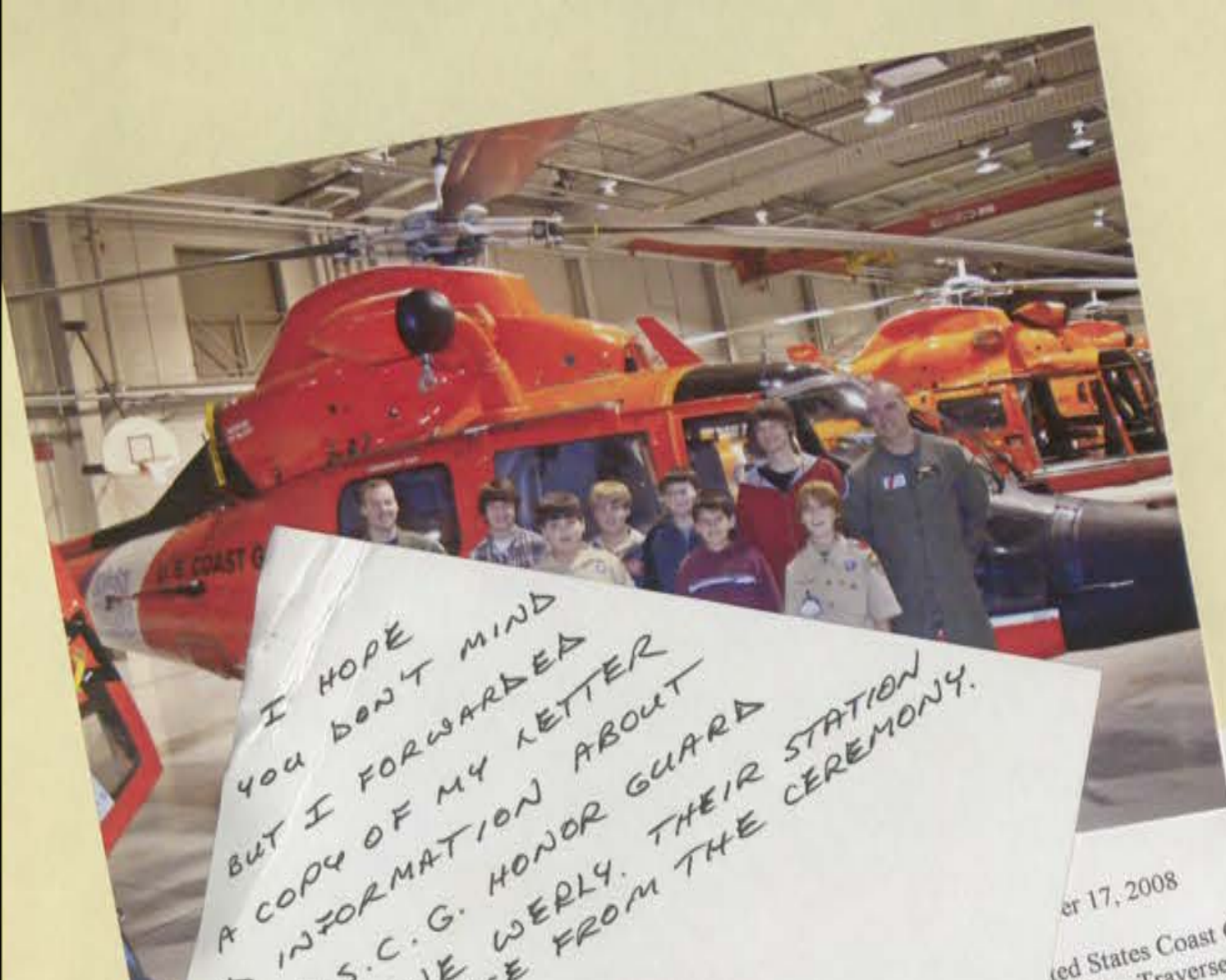
Cc. Al Hatch Scoutmaster  
Michigan Senator Jason Allen Troop Committee Member



Thank you  
Coast Guard

Lt. Chad Thompson  
Ast-3 Chris Wheeler





I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND BUT I FORWARDED A COPY OF MY LETTER AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE U.S.C.G. HONOR GUARD TO ROXANNE WERLY. THEIR STATION HAS FOOTAGE FROM THE CEREMONY.

JOHN & SANDY KORZEK  
13458 Hudson Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686

8/20/08

CAPTAIN MERRILL:

I HAVE ENCLOSED AN ORIGINAL LETTER FOR EACH COAST GUARDSMAN AND FOR YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND.

YOU HAVE A GREAT ORGANIZATION THAT TRULY SERVES OUR CITIZENS. IF I CAN EVER BE OF SERVICE, PLEASE CONTACT ME.

SINCERELY *[Signature]*

Boy Scout Troop 36  
Central Methodist Church  
Traverse City Michigan

er 17, 2008

United States Coast Guard  
Air Station Traverse City  
175 Airport Access Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
Attention: Lt. Chris Yane  
(231) 922-8273

Dear Lt Yane,

I thank you for arranging our visit to the Air Station Thursday Oct. 9. Lt. Chad Thompson and AST-3 Chris Wheeler did an excellent job in touring the Scouts through your facility, and informing them about the important mission that you have. Your helicopters are certainly a daily part of our lives in Traverse, but we are mostly uninformed about the many important duties that you perform. The adult leaders of the Troop are very pleased that our Scouts had the opportunity to learn about the Coast Guard.

Lord Baden Powell (a General in the British Military) devised the Boy Scouts as a way to turn fine young boys into men - with the ability to act independently. I think that complies very well with our own military tradition in this country.

The boys were taken by everything that they saw and heard. We were on base over 2 hours, and the Scouts would have stayed longer if we hadn't said we had to go. The real draw for the boys is the helicopters, of course. They asked hundreds of good questions about every button, switch, bracket, buckle, and appendage on the inside and outside of the craft. Chad and Chris were very patient in answering all those questions. Chris did a high explaining the job of a rescue swimmer and about the training and how the boys were very interested in that job, as well as wanting to be a pilot and

Your notes for Chad and Chris at our meeting with Chad and Chris lined up with them for each of them

Thank you  
your letter is  
2008

Thanks-Rory

AWESOME  
MICHAEL

It was Awsome!  
-Zadary  
Walton

It was tons  
o-fun  
-COURT

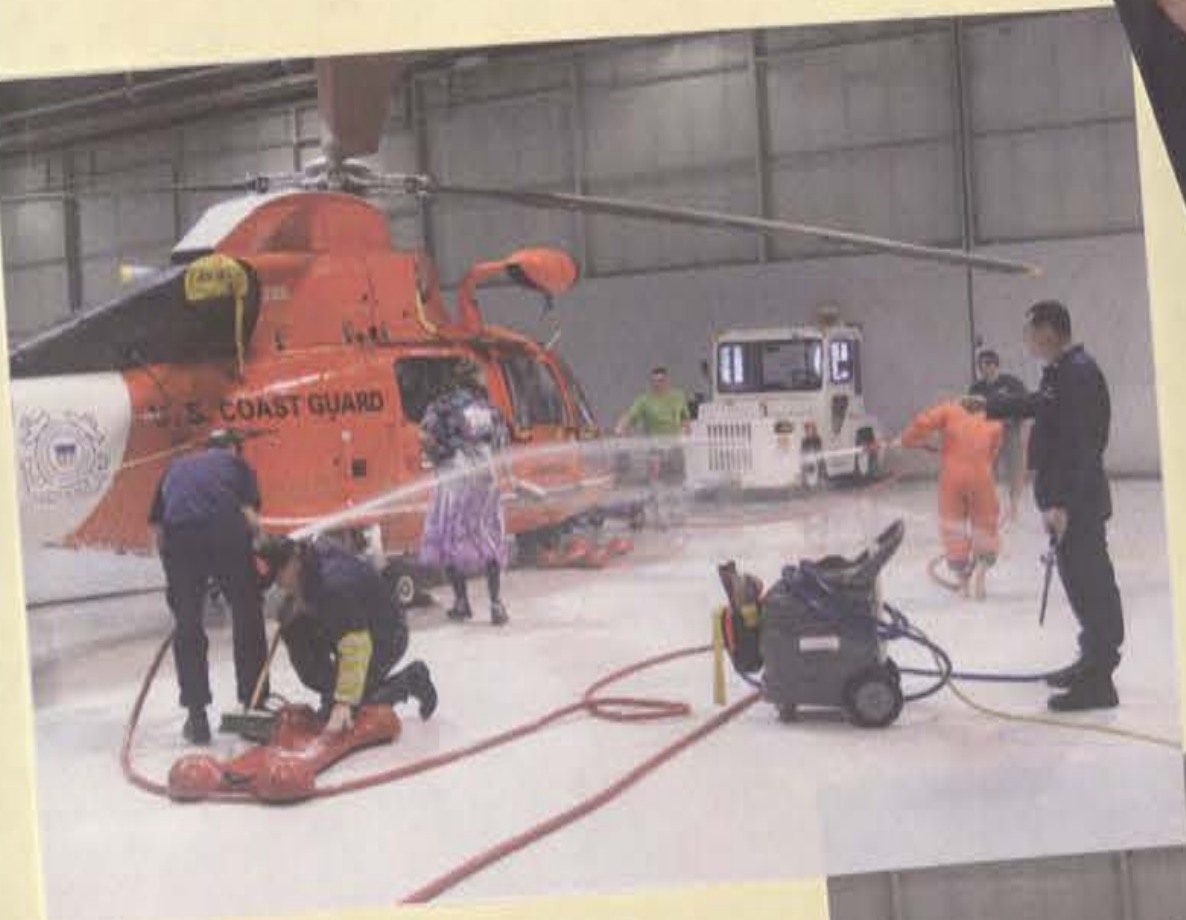
Had fun  
-Evan

yo yo yo  
it was fun  
Nathan  
thinkle

Thank you,  
Chad and Chris!

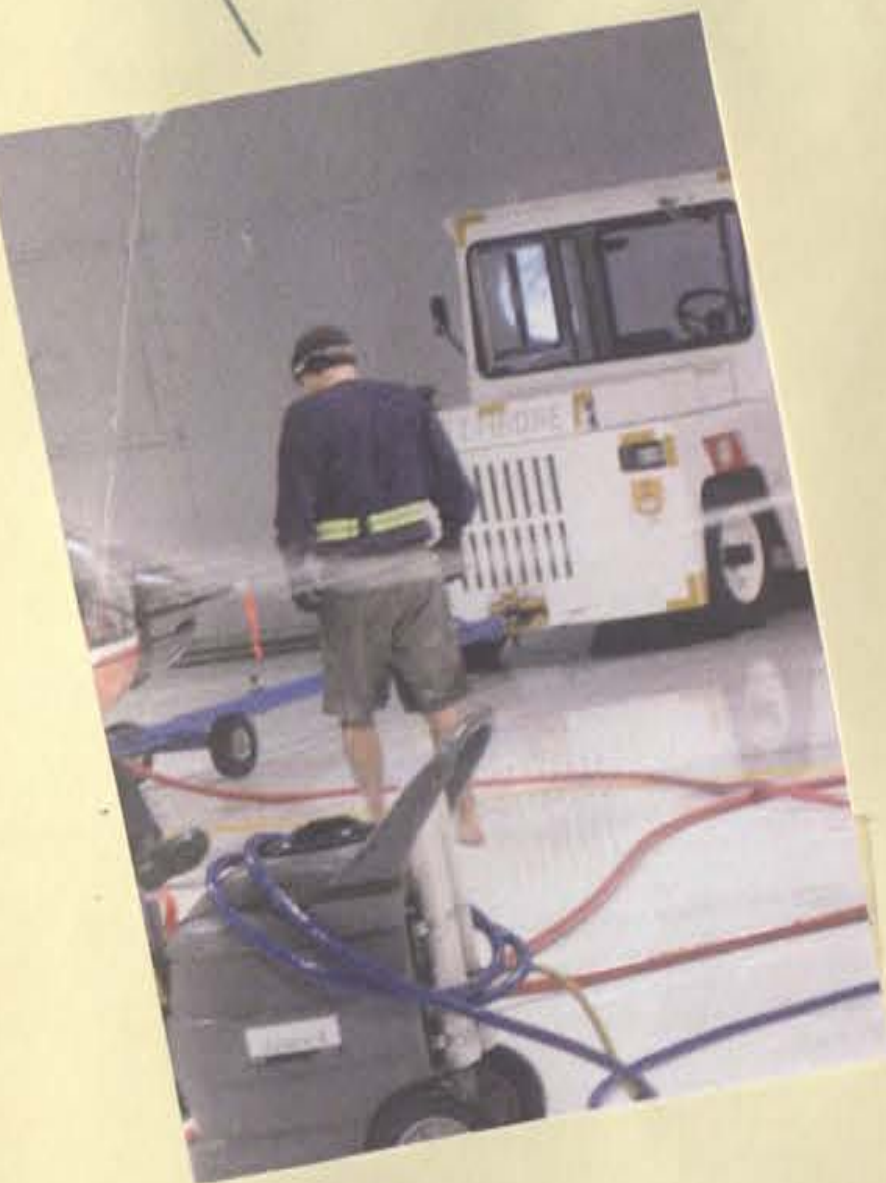


# Belly Wash





Dec 10, 2008





Yeoman First Class Tripp's  
Retirement Ceremony  
November 21<sup>st</sup> 2008



YNZ Crawford & YN1 Tripp Holding Blanket



left - right  
AMTZ MIX  
AETZ FORD  
BMS TOWEY  
AMT3 HIRSH



33 years worth of Coast Guard uniforms Tripp's table for her Retirement.







**Coast Guard  
Air Station  
Traverse City**

Air Station Traverse City  
U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



## News Release

Date: January 26, 2009

Contact: Lt. Christopher  
Yane  
(231) 922-8273

### Local Coast Guard crew receives award for rescue

GLENVIEW, Ill. - A helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., was honored, Sunday, by the Glenview Council of the Navy League.

The crew, Lt. John McWilliams, Lt. Jeremy Loeb, Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Petre, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris Bemis received the Past Presidents' Award for rescuing seven people from a charter boat that sank in Lake Michigan.

On May 30, 2008, the 36-foot charter vessel, *Fin Seeker*, sank more than three miles east of Waukegan, Ill.

All seven people aboard were safely rescued from the frigid water by an Air Facility Waukegan, Ill., HH-65C helicopter and a Coast Guard Station Kenosha, Wis., 41-foot utility boat.

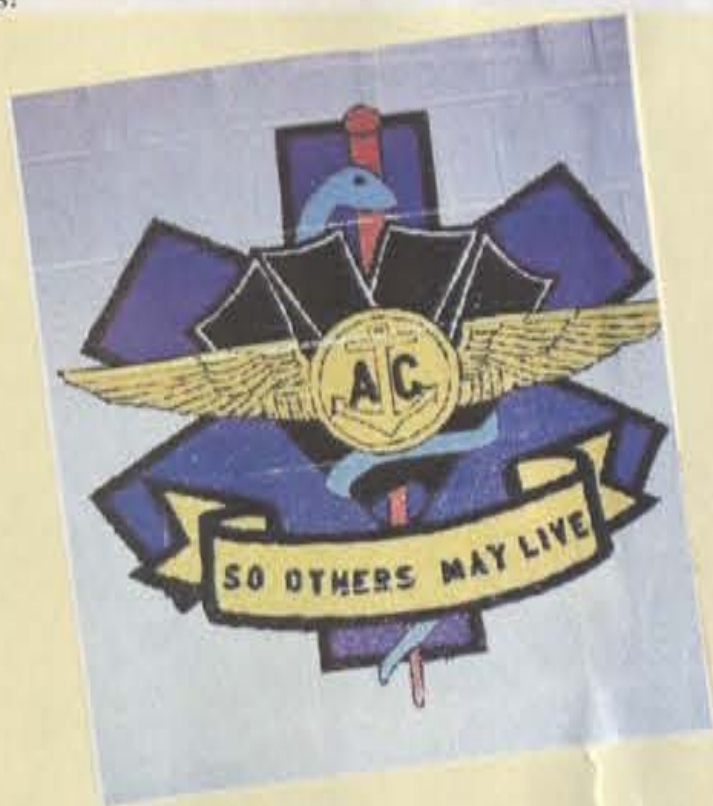
The survivors were transported to area hospitals where they were treated for hypothermia and subsequently released.

The crew was presented a trophy, that accompanied the award, at the Navy League's annual meeting and awards dinner at the Glenview Park Center. The Navy League of the United States is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating citizens about the importance of sea power to U.S. national security.



### Past President's Award Citation

The Glenview Council of the Navy League of the United States notes with pride and is pleased to commend the crew of Coast Guard Rescue 6503 for particularly meritorious service in the promotion, preservation, and performance of the sea services mission of U.S. Coast Guard Air Facility Waukegan and Air Station Traverse City. You have displayed superior leadership and judgment in all facets of your personal and professional life. On the morning of 30 May 2008, you displayed exemplary performance as part of a lifesaving team off Waukegan harbor. At approximately 1130, the crew of CG 6503 received word of a 36 ft charter fishing vessel taking on water amidst an unforecasted severe squall. Your quick response, coupled with your prior preparation enabled the crew to be airborne within 12 minutes and arrive on scene in minimal time. Upon arriving to the last known position of the F/V *Fin Seeker*, and discovering the boat had already sunk, you were instrumental in finding the seven survivors clinging to debris floating in the water. Facing 40-50 knot winds, seas in excess of 6 ft, and 49 degree water temps, you utilized prior training and experience to come up with a plan of recovery involving a free fall of the rescue swimmer and hoist of the survivors. Through exceptional communication using mostly hand signals, you successfully hoisted 5 survivors into the helicopter and led the other 2 survivors to the CG 41' utility boat arriving on scene. All survivors were examined at the hospital and responded positively to treatment for hypothermia. Your actions made it possible for 7 individuals to survive a terrifying ordeal and live to see their families again. Your diligence and devotion have brought great credit to all of the sea services and have earned recognition and appreciation of the continued professionalism of the United States Coast Guard. Semper paratus!



2. The crew of CGNR 6503 displayed outstanding efforts which resulted in the rescue of seven people from the waters of Lake Michigan on the afternoon of May 30, 2008. The operator of the 36-foot charter vessel *Fin Seeker*, with seven people on board, had reported that his boat was rapidly taking on water 2.3 miles east of Waukegan, Illinois, in seas exceeding six feet, wind gusts to 50 miles per hour, and deadly 49 degree water. The vessel sank within minutes of the distress call, ceasing communications with the Coast Guard and forcing all seven people into the frigid water. The combination of the helicopter crew's experience and diligence and the pilot's expert search and rescue planning enabled them to get airborne within 12 minutes and safely navigate through hazardous conditions to the last known position of the *Fin Seeker*. Arriving on scene in minimal time, they quickly located the victims and came up with a plan of rescue. After a freefall deployment into the water, the rescue swimmer, PO Bemis, prepared five of the survivors for hoist to the helicopter and guided the remaining two survivors to the CG 41376 small boat that had just arrived. The flight mechanic, PO Petre, was critical in communicating between PO Bemis and the pilots, as well as managing the hoist and the 5 survivors on board. Both pilots, LT McWilliams and LT Loeb, skillfully manipulated the helicopter at the flight controls and managed the radio communications in difficult conditions. Once on board the aircraft and small boat, the survivors were treated for hypothermia and safely transported to awaiting emergency medical services at Waukegan Airport. They were subsequently transferred to a local hospital and made full recoveries.



THE COAST GUARD INVADERS MT. HOLIDAY!!



# COASTING

Crew and families mark Coast Guard Appreciation Day on skis, snowboards



Robert Eagle-Jay/Alford Stone  
Above, Levi Antrim, 2, gets picked up by his mother, Rachel Antrim, after sliding downhill near a rope tow at Mt. Holiday. About 100 United States Coast Guard crew and their families skied, snowboarded and had lunch at Mt. Holiday Thursday for Coast Guard Appreciation Day. Levi and Rachel were there with Lt. J.G. Aaron Antrim and brothers Eden, 4, and Asher, 6. Left, Captain Stu Merrill.





# THE Great Lake Guardians

## FLOOD

TC Coast Guardsmen aid in flood relief

FROM PAGE 1C

J.E. Aaron Antrim, his first deployment with the Coast Guard is one he will not soon forget.

The veteran United States Marine Corps combat pilot, with 10 years of experience and three tours in Iraq, was uncertain of what to expect when he was called to assist in the flood response.

"I was expecting it to be complete chaos, but it was not," Antrim said.

"The residents are very well-organized, which makes our job very easy," said Antrim, who spent hours going over maps to familiarize himself with the terrain.

"You sort of lose track of time while in a response like this. All the days just melt together, but we focus on the mission and accomplish the tasks at hand," Antrim said.



Special to the Record-Eagle/U.S. Coast Guard  
Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Wheeler, a U.S. Coast Guard rescue swimmer from the Traverse City Air Station, assists a child into a hoist basket before she is lifted into the Coast Guard HH-6575 Dolphin helicopter. The girl had become stranded by the Red River flood waters.



Special to the Record-Eagle/U.S. Coast Guard  
Petty Officer 1st Class Matt High, from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, observes the damages left in the wake of the Red River floods while conducting an over-flight of the area in an HH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopter. During the over-flight, the helicopter crew searched for people in distress and was available to respond immediately, in case of an emergency.

# TC TO THE RESCUE

Traverse City Coast Guardsmen aid in flood relief

**T**RAVERSE CITY — The sound of helicopters hovering overhead has been a welcome sign of relief for stranded residents of flood ravaged North Dakota.

United States Coast Guard HH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopters and crew members have been on the ground — and in the air — since being dispatched to the record setting Red River flood area last Wednesday.

After a week of conducting precision rescues, including extracting stranded Abercrombie, N.D., residents from the roof of their flooded home, five helicopters, including three based in Traverse City, remain in the area.

"They will be there as long as it takes for the situation to get better, as long as lives are at stake we will be there," said Lt. Christopher Yane, public affairs officer at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, noting that 95 rescues, 27 by helicopter and 68 by airboat, have been completed. More than 20 dogs, cats and other vari-



**MORE TO THE STORY**  
[www.gthermal.com](http://www.gthermal.com)

Footage of Traverse City Coast Guardsmen during the flood mission is available online.

Special to the Record-Eagle/  
U.S. Coast Guard

**A U.S. Coast Guard HH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopter out of the Traverse City Air Station flies over the Red River flood area.**

ous pets have also been rescued.

Coast Guard units from Sault Ste. Marie, St. Clair Shores and throughout the Midwest, along with FEMA, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and numerous other agencies and

volunteers are working together to save and protect the lives of those affected by the flooding.

For Air Station Traverse City pilot Lt.

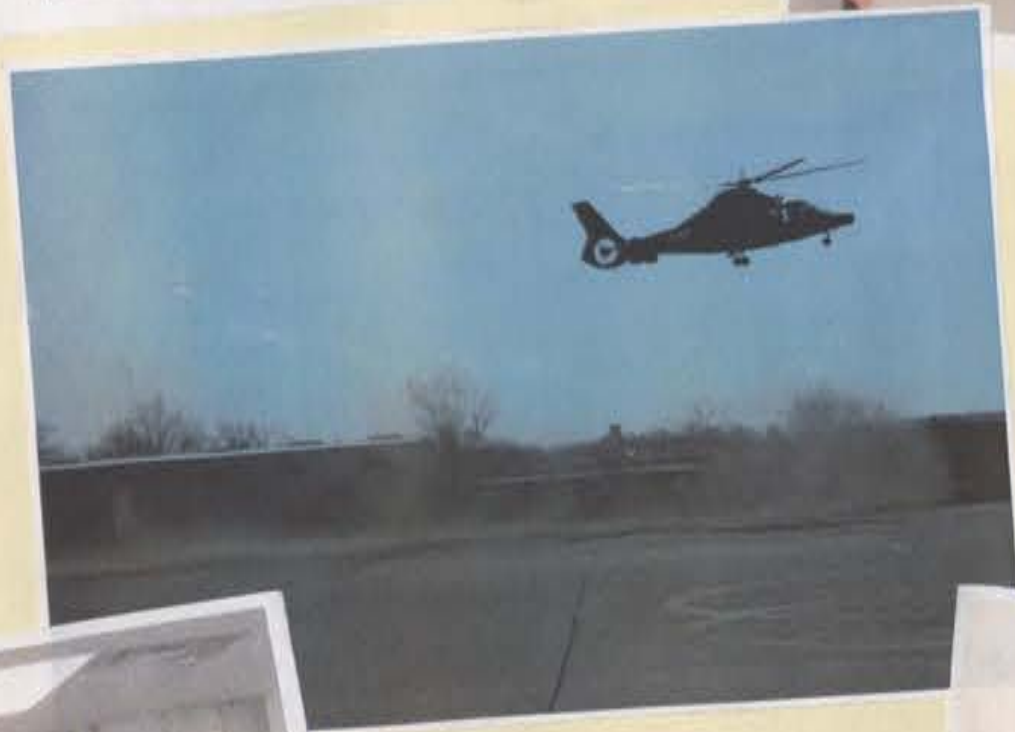
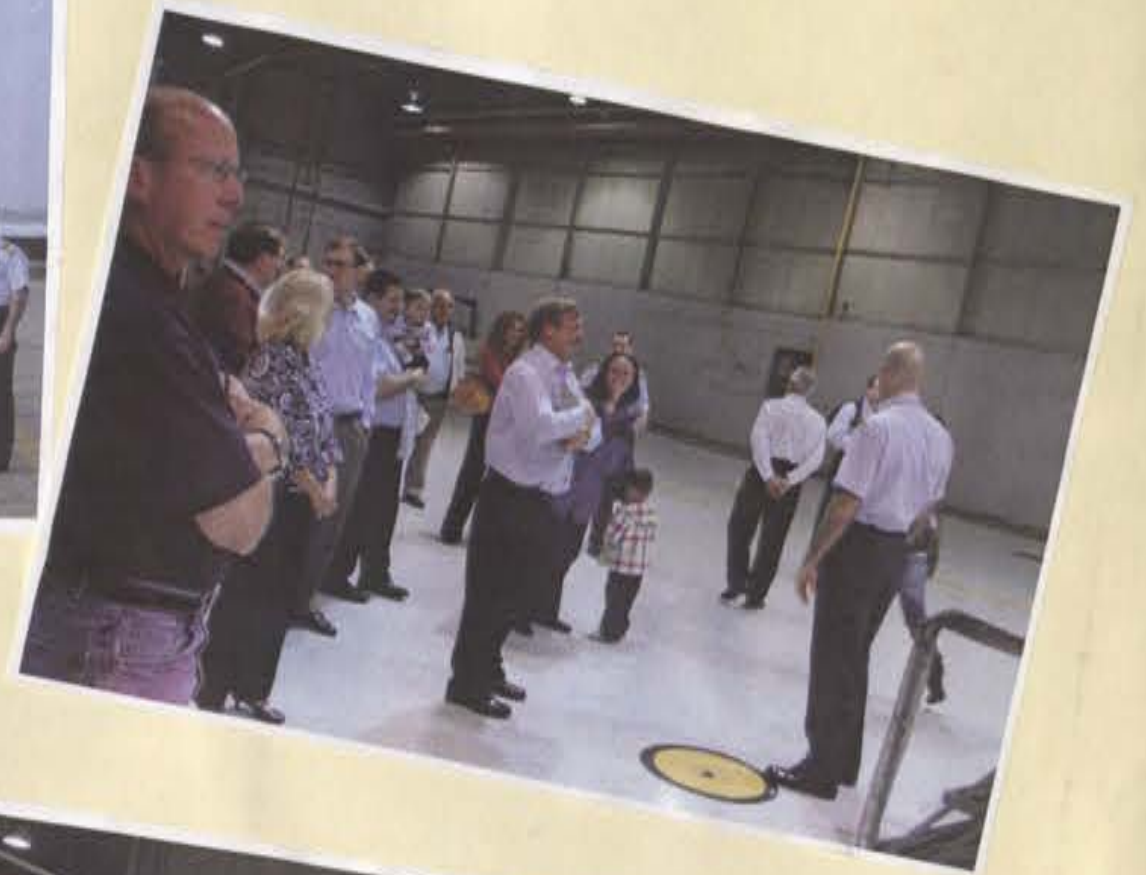
**PLEASE SEE PAGE 5C**

By LISA PERKINS

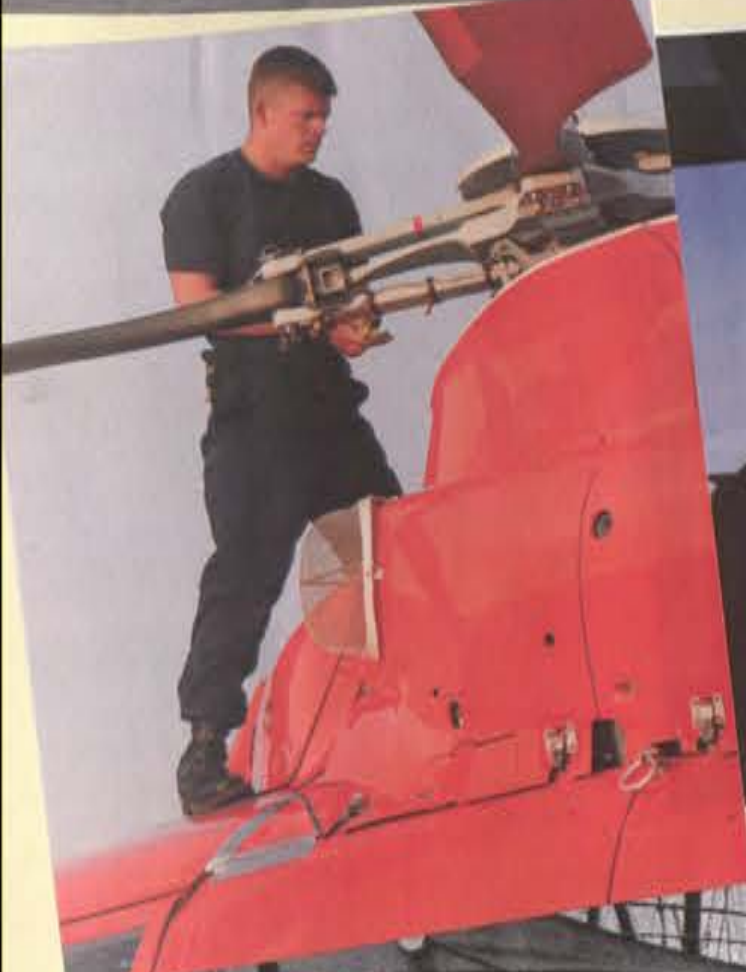
[lperkins@record-eagle.com](mailto:lperkins@record-eagle.com)



*The Rotary Club Invades  
Air Station Traverse City!*



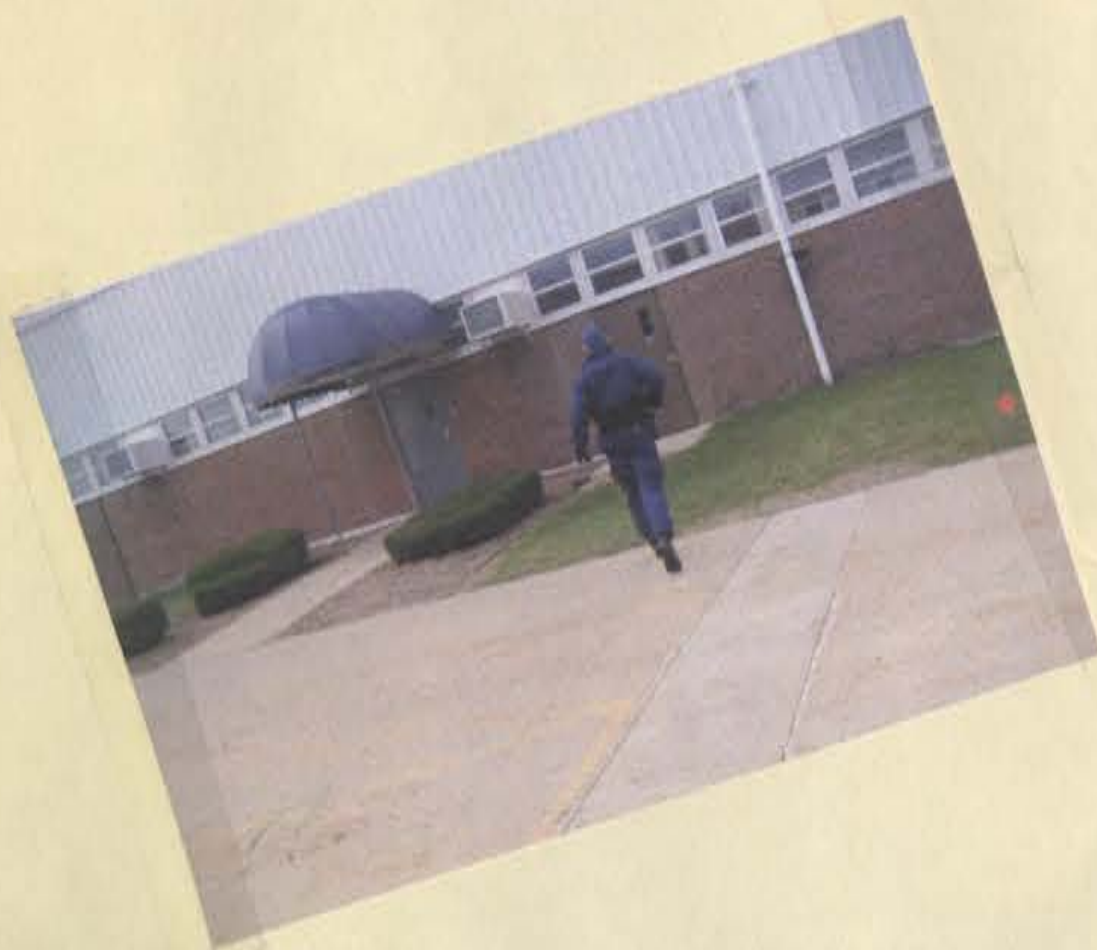
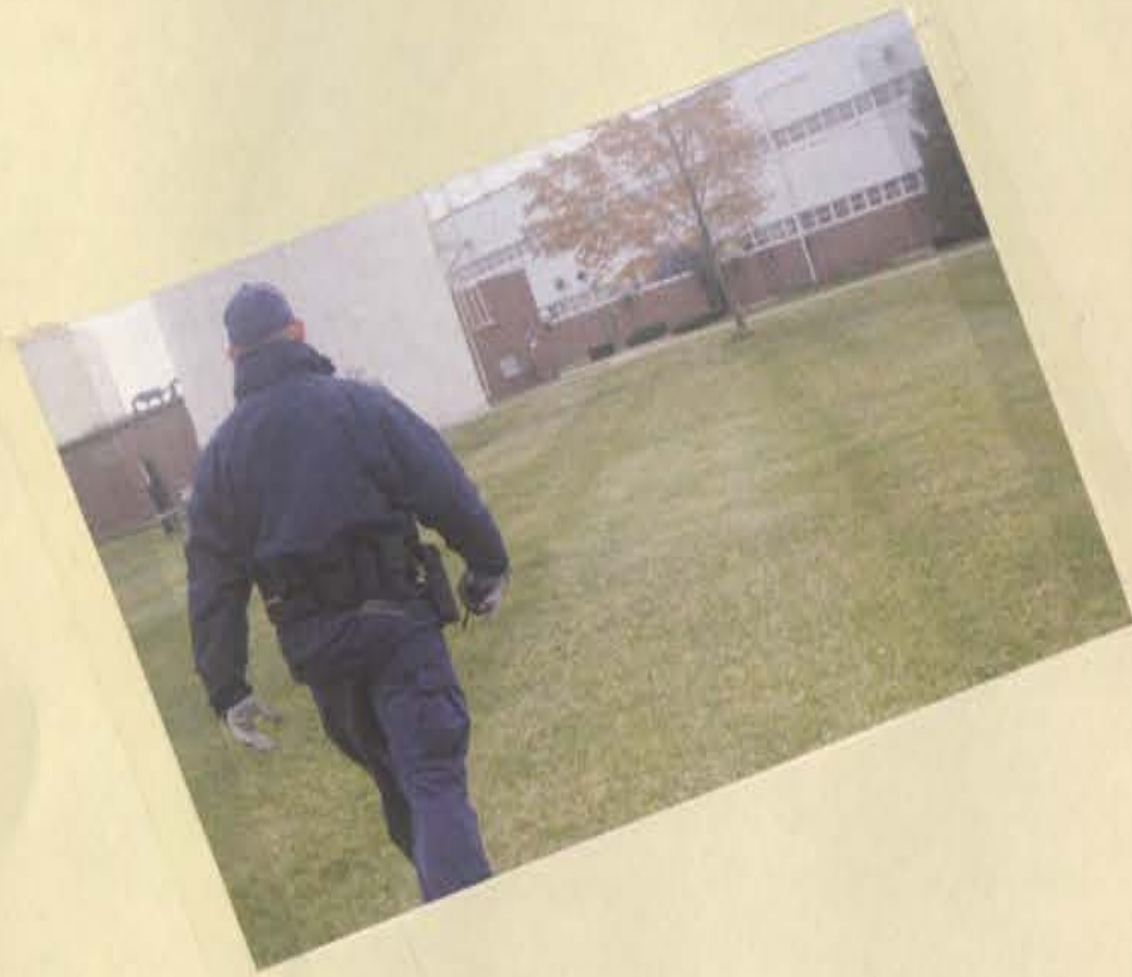
















Associated Press photo  
Jeremy Sergey, right, and Dan Farley of the U.S. Coast Guard pilot their airboat to shore with evacuees as the Red River continued to rise, Friday in Briarwood, N.D.

RIVER REACHES RECORD HIGH IN FARGO, REGION BRACES

# RED RIVER RAGES

Nate Jenkins & Dave Kolpack  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - FARGO, N.D.

The Red River broke a 112-year record early Friday as the still-rising water threatened to overwhelm dikes fortifying this city of 92,000, while the mayor pledged to "go down swinging" as he called for more evacuations and additional National Guard troops to prevent a devastating flood.

Across the river in Moorhead, Minn., city officials asked about one-third of the households in the town of 35,000 to voluntarily evacuate because of the flooding threat.

The river swelled to 12.3 metres — 6.7 metres above flood stage — and slightly higher than the previous high water mark of 12.2 metres set in 1897. The U.S. National Weather Service said it could crest as high as 43 feet or 13 metres on Saturday. Fargo's main dike protects the city at the 13-metre level.

Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker said the city had no plans to build the dike any higher. Officials believe the Red River will crest at between 12.6 and 12.8 metres. In any case, there wasn't time to raise the dike again, they said.

"We're not going to proceed to take it to 44 (feet)," Walaker said. "Is that a gamble? We don't think so."

Walaker said officials were adding 800 members of the National Guard from North Dakota and South Dakota to patrol dikes for breaches, on top of the 900 troops already in place. They worked in harsh conditions, with scattered flurries and wind chills in the -18 C range for most of the morning.

But officials said the cold weather actually helped. The river was rising more slowly because the freezing temperatures prevented snow from melting.

Officials also asked people to stay off roads to keep streets clear for sandbag trucks and avoid traffic jams that have been plaguing the area. Some of the roads were covered with snow.

Officials said 400 people had been evacuated in Fargo. Senator Byron Dorgan also said that Northwest Airlines was sending two jetliners to move patients from hospitals to safer areas.

In one flood-threatened neighbourhood of Fargo, residents placed pumps in their soggy yards in hopes of keeping water out of their homes.

"Last time we said we'd never go through this mess again. But here we are," Karen Whieland said as she toiled in her soaked front yard, the hum of levee-making backhoes nearby.

Tina Kraft took everything of value or importance in her basement and first floor and moved it upstairs. "We've prepared for it as best we can," Kraft said. "We really just have to be ready for our house to be

flooded."

Just after 2 a.m. Friday, residents in one neighbourhood were roused and ordered to evacuate after authorities found a leak in a dike. The leak left the integrity of the dike in question, police Capt. Tod Dahle said, but crews worked hard to repair it.

"We want to go down swinging if we go down," Walaker said.

The American Red Cross planned to send another 150 people to the North Dakota flood zone to operate emergency shelters. They will join the 85 volunteers already working in Grand Forks, Bismarck, Fargo and Moorhead, Minn.

At a shelter in Fargo set up in a school's basement gymnasium, Baifa James and her four children ages 11 months to 10 years were taking advantage of the games and colouring books Red Cross volunteers had set up along with cots. "One of my sons is calling it his new home," said James, a native of Sudan.

James' house hadn't yet taken on water, but she was worried about getting stranded and spent Thursday night at the shelter. "It is very hard to be out of my home with kids. But I have no choice," she said.

Residents of Fargo had been scrambling in subfreezing temperatures to pile sandbags along the river and spent much of Thursday preparing for a crest of 12.5 metres, only to have forecasters late in the day add up to 60 centimetres to their estimate.

## MANITOBA FLOOD FORECASTERS SAY DON'T BE ALARMED BY FLOODING IN DAKOTA

### Manitoba in better shape

Chinta Puxley  
THE CANADIAN PRESS - WINNIPEG

Manitoba flood forecasters say people in the province should not be overly concerned by the dramatic flooding in North Dakota.

Senior flood forecaster Alf Warkentin says even though places such as Fargo are being deluged by water from the swollen Red River, that doesn't mean Manitobans are in for the same.

Warkentin predicted Friday that the crest of the river will get smaller as it heads north toward Lake Winnipeg.

He said chances of a flood like the one in 1997 that swamped large swaths of southern Manitoba have diminished to "well below" 10 per cent.

The more-optimistic forecast came the same day Premier Gary Doer said the province was ready to withstand the flood waters threatening North Dakota.

The province has made huge



A line of sandbaggers works under clear skies Friday on the Red River side home of Lyle Thompson at Lockport, Minn., on Friday, March 27, 2009. Manitoba is ready to withstand the flood waters that are threatening North Dakota but ice jams along the Red River continue to pose a threat. Premier Gary Doer said Friday.

investments since the so-called "flood of the century" in 1997 and is in better shape than its neighbours to the south, Doer said.

Ring dikes around vulnerable towns in southern Manitoba have been raised, while the floodway protecting Winnipeg has also been expanded, he said.

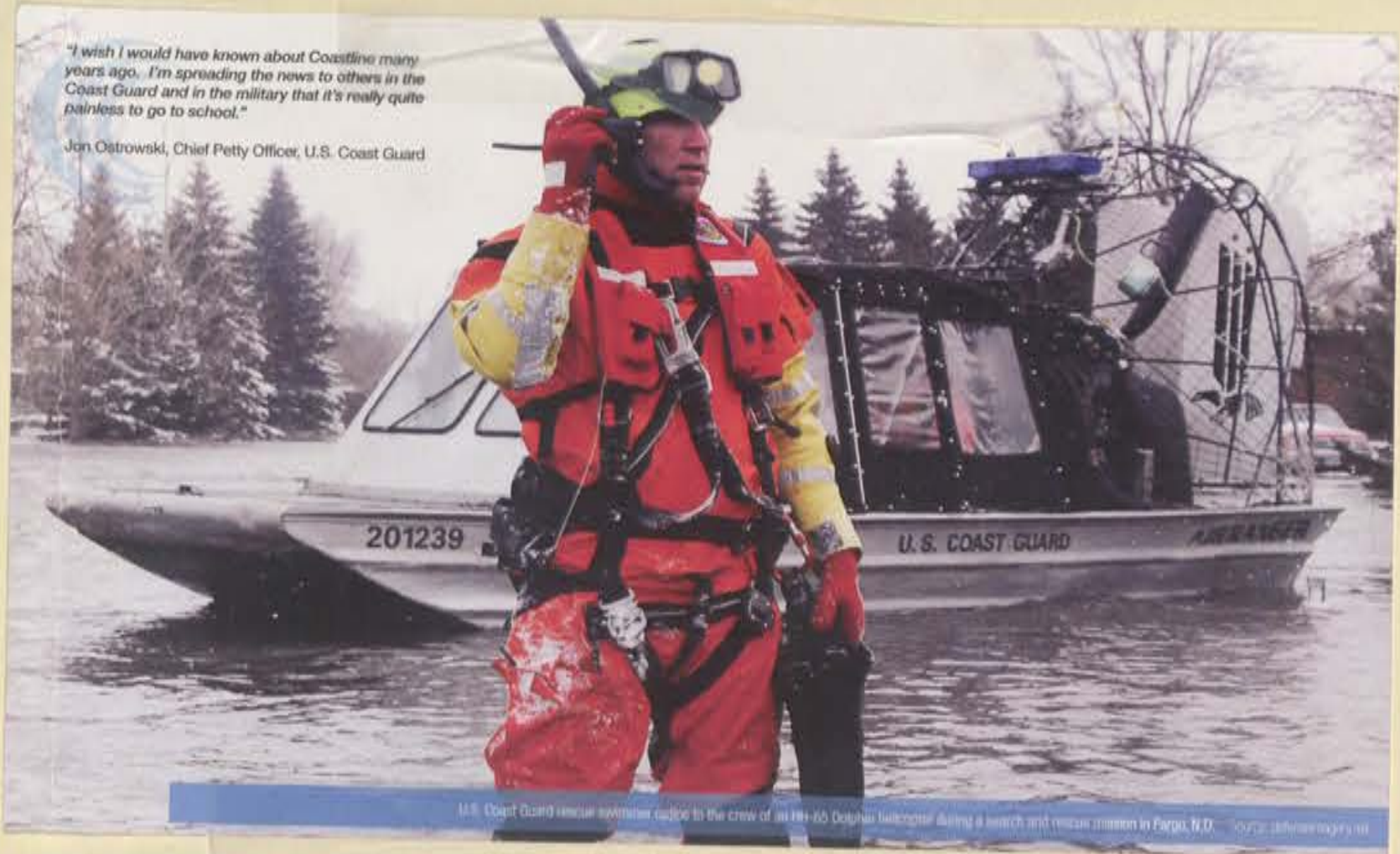
"Fargo and Grand Forks don't have a floodway," the premier said. "We do. That makes a lot of difference."

Since 1997, the province has spent \$790

million on expanding the floodway and flood-proofing homes, farms and businesses in the Red River Valley. The dikes and other measures are now prepared to withstand the water levels that were reached in 1997 — plus more than half a metre.

He said the real threat at the moment is coming from ice jams along the river, which have already caused overland flooding north of Winnipeg and will continue to cause problems.





This aerial photo provided by the U.S. Coast Guard and made from a Coast Guard rescue helicopter shows a small boat, center, used by the Coast Guard to transport six people and two dogs to a platform after the Red River flooded the Fargo area Wednesday March 25, 2009. The Coast Guard later hoisted the flood victims via helicopter to safety. (AP Photo/U.S. Coast Guard, Lt. Brendan Evans) #





U.S. Coast Guard Station Traverse City aviation survival technician Stephen Gonzalez lifts Petty Officer 3rd Class Jessica Combs, from the Coast Guard Station in Two Rivers, into a helicopter during Saturday's Thunder on the Lakeshore air show at the county airport. Jaslyn Gilbert/HTR For more photos from the event, go to [www.htnews.com](http://www.htnews.com).

## Fighter jets roar while balloons fly silently

Thunder on the Lakeshore air show features variety of acts

BY CHARLIE MATHEWS  
Herald Times Reporter

**MANITOWOC** — From jet fighters' ultra-loud wall of sound to the quiet of hot air balloons flying over farm fields, the air show at the county airport has something for almost everyone.

Brooke Welsh, 25, got up Saturday before dawn — “when the stars were still out” — hoping, she said, to have the coolest experience of her life.

Welsh and her boyfriend, Bill Stahl, had just that after lift-



The Helier family of Cleveland, from left, Kristine, Matthew, 2, Nathan, 6, and Steve watch Saturday's Thunder on the Lakeshore air show at the Manitowoc County Airport. Jaslyn Gilbert/HTR

► For more photos, see A-9

ing off at 6:30 a.m. and landing about 10 miles later in a field near Valders.

Hayden Brandt, 9, can't take the flight of his dreams, yet. “I'd like to go up in an F-16

... it looks cool,” said the Two Rivers third-grader of the Air Force plane that costs some \$30 million and can fly at twice the speed of sound, about 1,500 mph. The 2009 edition of

► See SHOW, A-9



### On the Net

For Thunder on the Lakeshore air show videos, visit the HTR online at [www.htnews.com](http://www.htnews.com).

## SLEEPING BEAR BAY

# Sailboats capsize

Coast Guardsmen, others rescue students

BY ART BUKOWSKI  
[abukowski@record-eagle.com](mailto:abukowski@record-eagle.com)

**GLEN ARBOR** — No one was injured when two small sailboats capsized in Sleeping Bear Bay.

The U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies responded Friday morning after a woman on shore called 911 to report the incident. A group of boats from Camps Leelanau & Kohanna on Pyramid Point were out when the weather took a nasty turn.

“They were out and it was relatively calm when this front raced in on them,” Glen Lake Fire Chief John Dodson said.

Stiff breezes whipped the lake into a frenzy, and two boats containing a handful of campers tipped about 200 yards from shore. All were wearing life jackets, and they clung to or sat on the boats while awaiting rescue crews.

A crewman from a Coast Guard helicopter jumped in and helped load the campers onto nearby fishing boats. The seas were too rough to deploy one of the fire department's boats, Dodson said, so rescuers relied on other watercraft coming in from the lake.

Six campers were examined for hypothermia or other injuries, Dodson said, and all were fine. Both boats were recovered.

A director at camps Leelanau & Kohanna did not return a call for comment.



Record-Eagle/Douglas Teener  
A United States Coast Guard helicopter from Air Station Traverse City hovers near an overturned boat in Sleeping Bear Bay Friday morning.



## Coast Guard city



Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Stump

U.S. Coast Guard AET1 Dave Hinds, left, and AMT2 Ted Mace conduct a post-flight inspection of one of Air Station Traverse City's five HH-65C helicopters on Friday afternoon. Traverse City applied to be designated the tenth Coast Guard city in the country.

# TC applies for designation

*Coast Guard has served the area for nearly 7 decades*

BY SHERI McWHIRTER  
smcwhirter@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — Local officials intend to tout the U.S. Coast Guard's presence in Traverse City. City commissioners this

week applied to the Coast Guard's commandant, Adm. Thad Allen in Washington, D.C., to receive designation as a Coast Guard city. There are only nine such cities in the United States, including Grand Haven on Lake Michigan's shoreline, the nation's first Coast Guard city.

A city's special effort to acknowledge the Coast Guard is considered a major requirement for such a designation, said Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner, top officer at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. The community does that well, he said.

Coast Guard members receive military discounts at most local businesses, appreciation days at baseball games and a local ski facility, and heroes night at the National Cherry Festival. Traverse City Area Public Schools also held a panel

just for Coast Guard families to discuss education options while they are stationed here, Spaner said. "They add up to remarkable support for the Coast Guard and our veterans," Spaner said. "I think it makes a very compelling application."

There are about 150 active duty Coast Guard members

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6A

TC

## Coast Guard station to have new leader

BY SHERI McWHIRTER  
smcwhirter@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — There will be a changing of the guard.

Well, at least a change of command at the local U.S. Coast Guard air station.

Capt. Stuart Merrill will transfer command of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City to Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner today at 11 a.m. in the station's main hangar. Rear Adm. Peter Neffenger, commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District, will preside over the ceremony.

Merrill served as commander of the local air station for two years, time he and his family enjoyed here, he said.

"The station in Traverse City is the absolute jewel. It's everything people said it would be," Merrill said.

Merrill, from Westwood, Mass., is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and now is on his way to the Ivy League. Merrill will serve as the Coast Guard's 2009-2010 National Security Fellow at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Merrill will complete a broad study of international safety and security during his one-year fellowship, a "wonderful opportunity," he said.

Spaner, from Brookfield, Conn., graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., and recently served as the deputy chief of the Coast Guard Office of Budget and Programs in Washington, D.C. He's anxious to return to the field and Traverse City was his first choice, he said.

"I'm a pilot by nature, so



Merrill Spaner

I'm excited to be back to this," Spaner said.

Traverse City will be Spaner's first command position and he spent the last several weeks exploring the area, he said.

There are 140 active duty crew members at the air station in Traverse City, where five rescue helicopters are stationed. The unit protects more than 6,700 miles of Great Lakes coastline and 1,500 miles of international border, annually responding to about 250 search and rescue calls.

One particularly memorable rescue involved a man knocked from his sailboat last fall near Green Bay, Wis., Merrill said.

Coast Guard members from Traverse City flew to western Lake Michigan waters to search for the man. They used night-vision goggles and scoured the region again and again, refueling twice in Green Bay, Merrill said.

The crew found the mildly hypothermic man after he'd been swimming for more than 12 hours.

"It was the dedication of the crew to carry out their duties. I was so proud of them," Merrill said.

Coast Guard members saved or assisted 64 people during Merrill's tenure in Traverse City.



## Sense of pride

Record-Eagle/  
Jan-Michael Stump

Coast Guard AMT2 Ted Mace conducts a post-flight inspection on one of Air Station Traverse City's five HH-65C helicopters on Friday afternoon.



Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Stump

Coast Guard AET1 Dave Hinds helps direct one of Air Station Traverse City's five HH-65C helicopters into the hangar for a post-flight inspection on Friday afternoon. Traverse City is applying to be designated the tenth U.S. Coast Guard City in the country.

## COAST TC applies for Coast Guard city designation

FROM PAGE 1A

in Traverse City and when combined with veterans and family members, they number more than 500. The air station opened in 1946 after the Coast Guard operated from the airport for five years.

Spaner said the greatest

advantage of city designation would be to officially memorialize nearly seven decades of Coast Guard service to the community in the heart of the Great Lakes. Additionally, Traverse City could include Coast Guard insignia on signs and documents, he said.

Local Coast Guard members and their families are an integral part of Traverse City and earning such a designation would underscore that, said Mayor Michael Estes.

"This is something Traverse City can be proud of. People love the Coast Guard here," Estes said. "I think there's an added sense of security for our boating community. The

Coast Guard is right here."

Grand Haven became the first Coast Guard city in November 1998. Others followed, including Eureka, Calif., Morgan City, La., Mobile, Ala., Wilmington, N.C., Newport, Ore., Alameda, Calif., Kodiak, Alaska; and Rockland, Maine.

A host of politicians, agencies and nonprofit organizations lined up to support Traverse City's application and more are expected, Spaner said.

Allen and other Coast Guard officials will review the application and if approved, forward it to Congress for final authorization.





Air Station Traverse City  
U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



## News Release

Date: June 1, 2010

Contact: Lt. Nate Noyes  
(231) 922-8273

### Air Station Traverse City to assist with Gulf oil spill

Traverse City, Mich. - U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City deployed one HH-65C Dolphin helicopter and aircrew to the Gulf Coast region to assist with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill clean-up efforts. The air station's crew will provide aerial reconnaissance to assist incident management teams track the spread of oil and help guide employment of surface assets.

"Our crew is on task and engaged in the important work of responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. They are based in New Orleans and working alongside scores of Federal, state, local and private partners. Our unit is prepared to do everything possible to assist with the spill response while remaining fully capable on the Great Lakes," explains CDR Jonathan Spanner, Air Station Commanding Officer.

Air Station Traverse City is assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District and has 5 HH-65C helicopters which mainly support Search and Rescue operations on Lake Michigan, Superior and the Northern portion of Lake Huron. Deploying aircraft and crews to other districts around the country is quite normal and can be expected when a large scale operation, like the Deepwater Horizon spill, occurs. Traverse City's aircrew join thousands currently devoted to the response efforts. Deployment of this aircraft and crew will not degrade the Coast Guard's Search and Rescue or maritime safety capabilities on the Great Lakes.

For more information on this story, contact the Public Affairs Officer at Air Station Traverse City, LT. Nate Noyes, at 231-922-8273. During non-business hours, please contact the Air Station Operations Center at 231-922-8212.

###

Saving Lives and Guarding the Coast Since 1790.  
The United States Coast Guard: Proud History. Powerful Future







## Traverse City Record-Eagle

June 10, 2010

### TC Coast Guard sends crew to oil spill in Gulf

Pilot Lt. John Kirk: 'We're happy to do it'

BY SHERI MAWHIRTER  
smcwhirter@record-eagle.com

— Traverse City — A helicopter crew from Traverse City's Coast Guard station is patrolling the Gulf of Mexico to help provide information on BP's deepwater oil well spill and various cleanup efforts.

A Traverse City air crew is flying each day in a HH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopter and working to provide aerial reconnaissance in tracking the spread of oil across the Gulf.

The crew will stay until month's end, when a flight crew from Detroit will change places with them, said Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner, commanding officer at the U.S. Coast Guard's Air Station Traverse City.

"We go out and look at the beaches, look for wildlife, boom placement and oil on the beach," said Lt. John Kirk, a helicopter pilot from Traverse City. "Mostly, we've been working in the area from New Orleans south and west, the Grand Isle vicinity and also at the source of the leak."

Kirk described a starkly visible oil slick on the Gulf's surface near the leak, but said it's not as thick in areas further away and looks like discolored water. The response effort is enormous, whether by sea, sky or on the ground, he said.

"I've never seen so many boats in one location in my entire life," Kirk said. "This is my first experience with an oil leak. I don't have anything to compare it to. The biggest oil leak I've seen before is a puddle under a car in the driveway."

Ground crews pepper the shoreline and work in hot, humid, sun-soaked conditions to clean up tar balls and oil that come ashore, he said.

But Kirk said he's seen more struggling wildlife on television news than with his own eyes. The crew spotted just one oil-covered pelican on Grand Isle and called it in for rescue, he said.

The three-man crew also includes co-pilot Lt. j.g. Skylar Swenson and flight mechanic Petty Officer 3rd Class Nick Trojanek. The Traverse City and Detroit crews will exchange places, two weeks on and two weeks off, for the "foreseeable future," Spaner said.

The air crew begins flying early each morning and wraps in the evening, and has little time or energy to do much but eat and go to sleep, Kirk said.

"We're happy to do it. It's nice to go out there and make a difference. We're the eyes and ears of the ones

making the decisions. We don't make the decisions, but we help them make the right decisions with good information," he said. "We all understand the significance and the seriousness of what's going on here."

Adm. Thad Allen remains the national incident commander for the oil leak, following his four-year stint as Coast Guard commandant that ended last month.

The Traverse City air crew flew out of New Orleans last week, but since moved to the Coast Guard's aviation training center in Mobile, Ala.

One missing helicopter and flight crew will not negatively impact the Traverse City air station's ability to respond to emergencies on the Great Lakes, Spaner said.

Four helicopters remain for search and rescue missions in Lakes Michigan and Superior, as well as northern Lake Huron.





Ninth District External Affairs  
U.S. Coast Guard



## News Release

Date: July 6, 2010  
Contact: Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office  
(216) 902-6020

### Traverse City to be named Coast Guard City

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. - A proclamation ceremony, to celebrate Traverse City's official designation as a Coast Guard City, is scheduled to be held at Traverse City's Open Space (Cherry Blast Stage) during the National Cherry Festival, at 4 p.m., July 9, 2010.

U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Adm. Michael N. Parks, commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District, will preside over the ceremony.

Many cities have made extraordinary efforts to support U.S. Coast Guard families. Helping Coast Guard families feel at home in their "home away from home" is an invaluable contribution to morale, service excellence and mission execution. The Coast Guard City program recognizes those communities that show long-term exceptional support to the Coast Guard team.

"Traverse City does a remarkable job supporting Coast Guard families, and we are honored to host Adm. Parks for the ceremony, an official unit visit, and other public engagements," said Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner, commanding officer of Air Station Traverse City. "Designation as a Coast Guard City officially memorializes over 60 years of community support to our air station team. We are very fortunate to call Traverse City our home."

Parks will present the Coast Guard City Proclamation to Traverse City Mayor Chris Bzdok. Other distinguished guest speakers include Sen. Carl Levin, Congressman David Camp, Rep. Wayne Schmidt, Chairman Derek Bailey of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Mary Rogers from "Mary in the Morning," Terri Ray from WKLT, Jack O'Malley from WTCM, and Tino Breithaupt, Traverse City Chamber of Commerce. There will also be special performances by musicians from the Northwestern Michigan College Community Concert Band, Traverse City Area Public Schools and Interlochen. Additionally, Sen. Levin is providing a special message for the ceremony.

To learn more about Coast Guard City designation, click [HERE](#).

For more information about this event please contact Lt. Nate Noyes, public affairs officer at Air Station Traverse City, at 231-922-8273. During non-business hours, please contact the duty desk at 231-922-8212.

###

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The United States Coast Guard - Proud History. Powerful Future.*



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street, S.W.  
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5728  
18 December 2009

## MEMORANDUM

From: CG-092 *Paul [Signature] [Signature]* Reply to: CG-09223  
Attn of: D. Claiborne  
2-4620

To: CG-001  
Thru: CG-09 *Rec approval vkr, dit/10*

Subj: COAST GUARD CITY DESIGNATION FOR TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

Ref: (a) Coast Guard Public Affairs Manual, COMDTINST 5728.2  
(b) P.L. 105-383, Section 409

1. ISSUE: Recommendation to approve naming Traverse City, MI, "A Coast Guard City."
2. DISCUSSION: A board, comprised of representatives from CG-092, CG-00B, CG-0921, CG-0922, CG-11, CG-12 and CG-0944, reviewed the application from Traverse City, MI, and considered numerous recommendations from appropriate field commands. Traverse City has maintained a close relationship with the Coast Guard and continues to strengthen that relationship through support of MWR events, sponsoring of scholarships, sponsoring Sailor of the Quarter events, and many other community programs. Local commands relish this close relationship and expressed outstanding support for granting Traverse City's request to be named "A Coast Guard City."
3. RECOMMENDATION: The board unanimously recommends that you approve Traverse City's request.
4. NOTIFICATION: Should you concur with the board's recommendation, I have enclosed letters of notification to our two authorizing committees and letters to the Mayor of the City of Traverse City informing them of your decision.

#

- Enclosures: (1) Letters for signature to Congressional committees  
(2) Letters for signature to Traverse City Mayor and City Manager

## Welcome to Traverse City's Coast Guard City Proclamation Ceremony

July 9, 2010

Prelude Music	NMC Band
Master of Ceremonies	Jack O'Mally
Opening Remarks	Ross Biederman
Introduction of Singers	Mary Rogers & Terri Ray
National Anthems	Sage DeAgro-Roupp & Madison Hertel
Presentation of the Colors & Helicopter Flyover	USCG Air Station Traverse City
Vocal Performances by	Watermusic & The Medicine Lodge Singers
Reading of the Coast Guard City Proclamation	LT. Nate Noyes
Distinguished Guests	Rear Admiral Parks Congressman Camp Chairman Bailey Mayor Bzdok Representative Schmidt Tino Breithaupt Commander Spaner

### Special Thanks to:

Tim Hinkley & Susan Wilcox from the National Cherry Festival, Angela Saylor, National Cherry Queen, John Beery, NMC Band Director, Adam Begley, Watermusic, Ceremony Co-Chairs Alison Arnold & TCAPS, Kate Schmadeke, Bobbie Jo Dipierro, Jenny Smith, April Caverly, & Laura Spaner



# Coast Guard City, USA

## Traverse City receives national designation

**T**Raverse City — There's an exclusive club comprised of notable shoreline cities in the United States with prominent military connections and a deep maritime history.

Traverse City is now a member.

U.S. Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen this year declared Traverse City the 10th Coast Guard city in the nation and the second in Michigan. Grand Haven became the first Coast Guard city in November 1998.

"It's another reason to brag about Traverse City and we shouldn't be shy about doing that," said Chris Bzdok, mayor. "You see the helicopters out there over the bay every once in a while and I know the appreciation is always there."

A city's special effort to acknowledge the Coast Guard is a key requirement for the designation.



United States Coast Guard Lt. Nate Noyes, far left, reads the Coast Guard City proclamation at an Open Space ceremony during the National Cherry Festival. Others participating were, from center, Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner, 2009-2010 Queen Angela Saylor, Traverse City Mayor Chris Bzdok and Rear Adm. Michael Parks.

Record-Eagle/Keith King

someplace I felt really appreciated and my crew felt really appreciated."

Ostebo said he still has friends in Traverse City and sometimes returns to the area for visits. His wife would love to retire here, he said, something he'll consider when he's "ready to retire."

Grand Haven Mayor Roger Bergman said Traverse City should be proud of its new designation and strive to celebrate the honor.

"Not every place gets to be a Coast Guard city," he said. "The Coast Guard city designation for us means more than just the name. It's about the relationship with the Coast Guard personnel and them being an integral part of our community."

Portsmouth, Va., became the ninth Coast Guard city, receiving the namesake last year in November. That city is planning an August celebration — intended to become an annual event — of the Coast Guard there, said Terry Danaher, a Portsmouth city volunteer who worked on the designation application.

We have a lot of Coast Guard presence here. People really appreciate what they do for us here, at home, protecting our shorelines," he said. "Congratulations Traverse on following us to the fold."

Other Coast Guard cities include Eureka, Calif., Mobile, Ala., Wilmington, N.C., Newport, Ore., Alameda, Calif., Kodiak, Alaska, and Oakland, Maine.



*We love the Coast Guard. Thank you! Angela Saylor National Cherry Queen*

Queen Angela Saylor







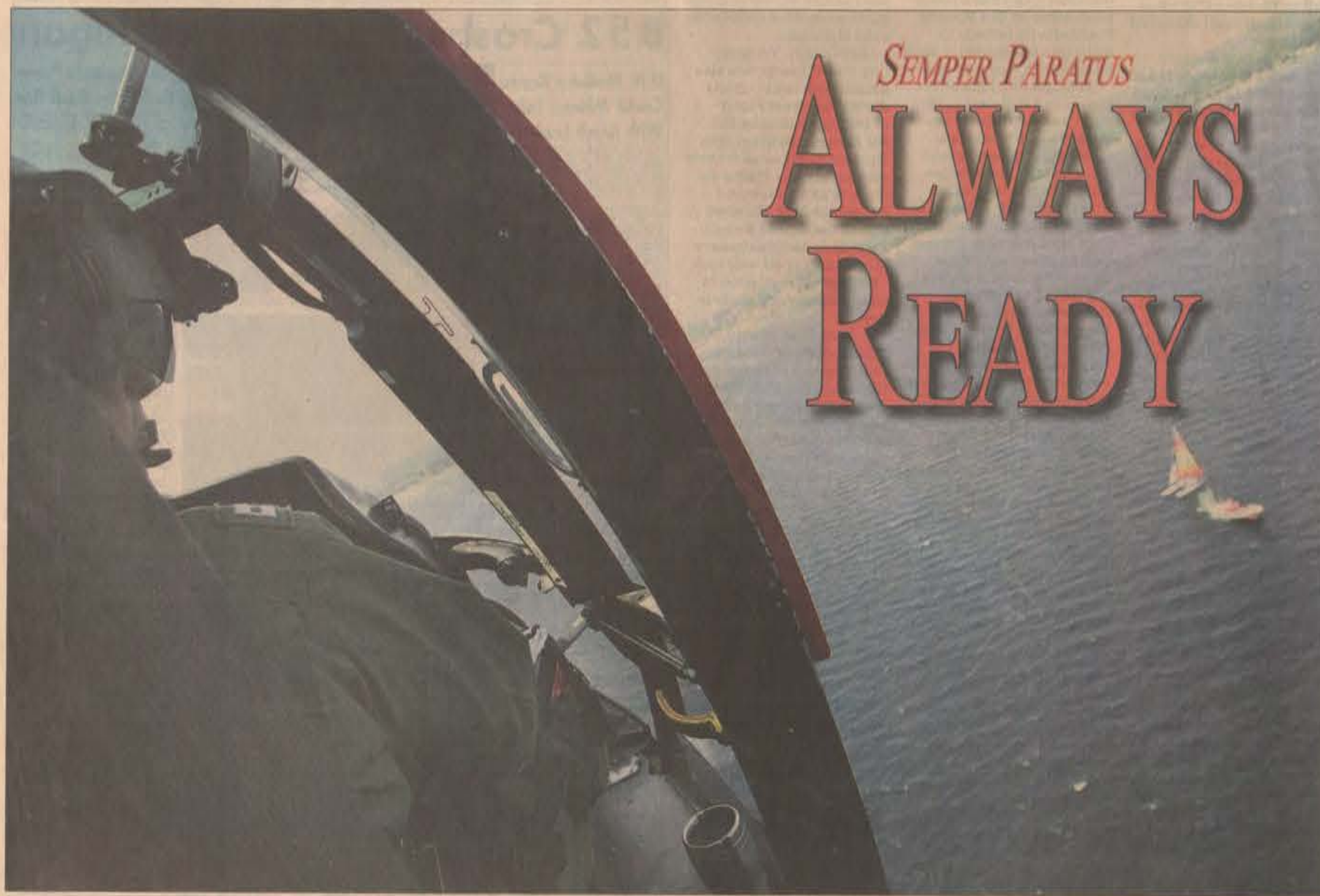
# ON GUARD



Sunday, July 25, 2010

SUPPLEMENT TO THE RECORD-EAGLE

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*SEMPER PARATUS*  
**ALWAYS  
READY**

Pilot Lt. Mike Myers circles a capsized sailboat in Grand Traverse Bay, making sure a rescue isn't needed, during a routine flight.

Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Stump



Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Stump

Pamela Perez and daughter Autumn, 1½, wait for her husband Noel, a petty officer first class mechanic, to return from his two-week deployment at the Waukegan, Ill., air station. The two met as flight mechanics stationed in Kodiak, Alaska.



Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Stump

Courtney Gonzalez, a loan assistant and marketing coordinator at First Place Bank, is married to Steve Gonzalez, a Coast Guard rescue swimmer currently stationed at Air Station Traverse City.

## Coast Guard spouse a demanding job

*It's a lifestyle that is an adjustment*

BY SHERI McWHIRTER  
smcwhirter@record-eagle.com

**T**Raverse City — Pamela Perez is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and a Coast Guard spouse. It's not an easy job. "A big point is you're not near family, so you have to get used to doing things on your own," said Perez, 31. She is among dozens of Coast Guard spouses living in the Traverse City area, a popular spot to be stationed among Coast Guard families. The role is a demanding one — something all the spouses know — living a military lifestyle along America's many coastlines. In Traverse City, many Coast Guard spouses say they've found a welcoming home, one they aren't anx-

ious to leave. "We first of all feel so fortunate to be stationed in such a beautiful place. If it weren't for the Coast Guard, we probably never would have come to Traverse City," said Tammy Graboski. "It's going to be very hard to leave, but there's always a new adventure waiting. We don't know what it will be. It's all about the attitude you go into it with." Both Graboski, 40, and Perez are stay-at-home mothers. Perez has her 18-month-old daughter, Autumn, while Graboski has four children: Sean, 13; Cam, 10; Audrey, 6; and Aly, nearly 2 years. "When you move somewhere and you have no family, I hate to say it's a lonely feeling, but thankfully we have each other and we depend on each other," Graboski said. Her husband is Lt. Cmdr.

Mark Graboski, 43. Cathy Rauch, 36, is a Coast Guard spouse and the volunteer ombudsman for Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. That means she provides a link between the base's command operations and local Coast Guard families. "I thought it would be a good way to give back to the Coast Guard and help out," Rauch said. She plans to organize a "meet-and-greet" event when new transfers arrive in Traverse City, and strives to provide support to other Coast Guard spouses when needed. That can include tips about fun activities in the area, or where to find the handiest grocery store with the best produce. "When you're all spread out, it's harder to connect and it gets lonely. You really

SEE SPOUSE PAGE 6

## SPOUSE Being married to a Coastie is a demanding job

FROM PAGE 3

have to stay connected with the other spouses so they know you're there," Rauch said. Perez said she tries to fill the "alone times" with projects around her East Bay Township home. She and her flight mechanic husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Noel Perez, 37, have been in Traverse City for three years and are preparing for their next assignment. That brings about projects like painting doors and trim, mowing the lawn and getting the property ready for the real estate market, she said. The couple met while both were stationed in Kodiak, Alaska. Rauch stays busy with her two children: Courtney, 13, and Wesley, 5. He takes tea

kwon do lessons and she plays both the flute and the organ. "You have to manage everything yourself. You have to be mom and dad and taxi driver," she said. Coast Guard families must be prepared for quick changes, just as Coast Guardsmen are, Rauch said. "Mission readiness is through family readiness. We have to support our spouses so they can go on a dime. We have to be ready, just like they are," she said. "I have to do my part so he can do his job." Her husband, Chief Petty Officer David Rauch, 41, aviation maintenance technician, said that sentiment is a comfort. "It's great to know that if I get a phone call to transfer and we have to go now, this family will get through it, persevere and go on our merry way. Last year I had to go away for five weeks, which was difficult. But everything was OK here at the house," he said. Many times Coast Guard families will help take care of each other, he said, like



Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Stump

Audrey Graboski, 6, talks to her friend Megan Mead, 8, about a Coast Guard rescue demonstration in West Grand Traverse Bay involving her father, Lt. Cmdr. Mark Graboski, a pilot. In back, from left, Sean Graboski, 13, Cam Graboski, 10, and the children's mother Tammi Graboski.

how he's mowing the lawn for a pilot who's currently deployed. "We're all Coasties. We take care of each other," he said. But not all Coast Guard spouses juggle kids and housework. Some throw a full-time job into the mix

— or two. Courtney Gonzalez, 28, is a Coast Guard spouse who works full time as a loan assistant at mortgage company First Place Bank in Traverse City. She also runs her own professional photography business, often working weddings in the area.

It's a challenge, she said. "There's a lot of time management involved," Gonzalez said. She's not a mother yet, though she hopes to start a family after another several years, she said. The hardest part of being a Coast Guard wife is the

frequent relocations, Gonzalez said, but the best part is being among the "Coastie family." "It's also nice to have that job security, especially during the last couple of years," she said. Her husband is Petty Officer 3rd Class Stephen Gonzalez, 28, a rescue swimmer,



# ALWAYS READY — EVERY DAY

*A day in the life of the lifesavers*

BY SHERI McWHIRTER  
smcwhirter@record-eagle.com

**T**RAVERSE CITY — It's snug inside Traverse City's U.S. Coast Guard HH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopters, airborne lifelines for stranded swimmers and boaters in danger anywhere on Lakes Michigan, Superior and northern Lake Huron.

Lt. Michael Myers, 34, a helicopter pilot, and Lt. Chad Eckhardt, 34, co-pilot, run down a safety check list and release the parking brake, flipping switches and pulling levers. The blades begin to turn slowly, then increasingly faster as the whole vehicle rapidly shakes as shadows flicker on the ground.

"Boost pumps are on, good pressure," Myers said.

They check the complicated panel of gauges in the cockpit and begin to push forward for a rolling take-off. The tail end lifts into the air first and then the nose swings upward as the helicopter climbs above Traverse City's Boardman Lake.

It's a daily experience at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, where pilots, rescue swimmers, flight mechanics and others remain on constant stand-by, ready to respond to on-the-water emergencies at a moment's notice. They also make regular patrol flights, like this one, to monitor the area and ensure safety on the Great Lakes and inland lake waters.

"It's just such a beautiful neck of the woods here that we get to fly in and this vantage point is great," Myers said.

#### Pre-flight

Myers sat at a polished wooden table in the officer's lounge near the base's galley — military jargon for cafeteria — for a breakfast of eggs, hash browns and bacon. Eckhardt was there, too, along with Lt. j.g. Skylar Swenson, who is recently home from the Gulf of Mexico as part of the federal response to the ongoing oil well leak in offshore waters.

"It's a lot of oil," Swenson said between mouthfuls of scrambled eggs. "You see people's reality change right before your eyes."

The trio joked and laughed about former missions, local hockey league games and other amusements, gearing up for a day of military service in northwest Lower Michigan.

Back at the helicopter hangar, Myers checked a map and plotted a route before looking at local weather radar and satellite images in a room full of computers and other high-tech equipment. The radar showed rain in the Upper Peninsula, but that's not a concern for a patrol flight along the shorelines in Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Benzie counties.

Eckhardt busied himself double-checking equipment on the helicopter before flying: safety harnesses, seats, engine oil levels, hydraulic fluid and much more.

"There's a zillion circuit breakers in there. So I've got to lean in and check all this, making sure everything is safety-wired up," he said.

The Coast Guardsmen wear fire retardant flight suits and heavy safety helmets, all wired for radio communication inside the helicopter and with authorities on the ground. Then they strap on life jackets and climb inside, where safety straps hold them in place inside the helicopter that's able to fly faster than 180 mph.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Troy Campbell, 23, a flight



Lt. Chad Eckhardt gets breakfast in the commissary at Air Station Traverse City.

Record-Eagle photos/Jan-Michael Stump



AMTS Troy Campbell works on one of the Air Station Traverse City's five HH-65C Dolphin helicopters.



Lt. Mike Myers, left, and flight mechanic Petty Officer 3rd Class Troy Campbell walk out to one of Air Station Traverse City's HH-65C Dolphin helicopters for a routine flight over Leelanau County.

mechanic, calculates fuel and weight ratios to balance power needs and estimated travel distance. He rides behind the pilot and co-pilot, frequently relaying their position, heading and speed back to the operations center at the base.

That's to help out emergency responders, should the military helicopter go missing or crash, Campbell said.

"It gives them an idea of where to start looking," he said.

#### In the sky

The bright orange heli-

copter swooped low over downtown Traverse City and skirted along West Grand Traverse Bay's western shore before flying out over Leelanau Peninsula and up the full length of Lake Leelanau. It's a path the crew knows well, as they traveled the low visibility route that leads them to Lake Michigan and a straight shot to Escanaba.

"A lot of times we practice these routes and become very familiar with any obstacles," Myers said. "Sometimes people will say 'wow, you fly pretty low over my house,' but we don't do

that for fun. We're practicing these routes. See this church steeple? If we're not on our direct path in low visibility conditions, we'd be in trouble."

Leelanau County residents didn't seem to mind the low-level fly by, nearly all tilting their heads toward the sky and waving at the passing crew.

"Got a bird coming up, moving left," Eckhardt said.

They explained how most birds fly out of the way of the helicopters, save for American bald eagles. Those they tend to steer clear of, instead.

"And that's not just for our reverence for our national bird. It's also for self preservation," Myers said, laughing.

At the Lake Michigan shoreline, the helicopter banked left and flew along the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, where the occasional beach-goer tanned on the sand or walked in the surf. In the distance, a small, red one-person sailboat floundered in the water.

"There's a little sailboat on it's end and he's trying to get it back up, so we'll stop and take a closer look," Myers

said, as the helicopter circled above.

It wasn't long before the boater — who was in shallow, near-shore waters — righted his vessel and climbed back onboard, quickly catching a breeze and picking up speed.

"He's got his sailboat back up and is making way. It's got to make him feel good that we just happened to be here," Myers said.

The crew flew south nearly to where the Platte River spills into Lake Michigan in Benzie County, at one point spotting a coyote running in circles in a wind-blown sand bowl in the dunes area. It's a spot frequented by recreational boaters and charter fishermen, particularly in the water around Leelanau County's Pyramid Point.

"We pay particular attention to the dunes. There's a lot of tourists. We get some hang gliders out here and people climbing the dunes and sometimes there's injuries. So we come along here and make sure everyone is OK," Eckhardt said.

As the helicopter soared back across Leelanau Peninsula and out over West Bay, the pilots spotted another potentially dangerous situation.

A catamaran sailboat capsized off Clinch Park Marina and a Grand Traverse County Sheriff's marine unit responded by boat.

The Coast Guard helicopter hovered over the scene and relayed information to crews on the ground who had lost radio contact with their rescue boat.

"Just being the eyes in the sky for them," Myers said.

Eventually the catamaran turned upright and the boaters sailed away.

#### On the ground

Being a helicopter pilot may be the most commonly thought-of job at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, but it takes a lot of other work to keep the base running smoothly. Just ask Chief Petty Officer Dale Ashley, 41, shore facilities manager.

"You may be cleaning or mowing the lawns, but really we're with the guys on rescues. All the little stuff we do lets them do their job," Ashley said.

A crew of new Coast Guard recruits works with Ashley to keep the base up, both grounds and buildings. They paint stairwells, plant flowers and repair the volleyball net at the on-base park, among a host of other jobs.

"Anything that's not a helicopter facilities management fixes," said Seaman Josh Lipsey, 22.

Fireman Eugene Sapelli, 19, worked with Ashley to repair the concrete tarmac at the base, last-minute repairs just two days before the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron arrived for the National Cherry Festival. He's relatively new to Traverse City from his home in Massachusetts, spending the recent winter on the base's snow removal crew.

"I like it here a lot. It reminds me of back home: Small town, lots to do and it's on the water," Sapelli said.

He hopes to attend the Coast Guard's marine law enforcement school during his tenure in the military.

Sapelli and Ashley worked under the warm sun to mix concrete and fill holes in the tarmac, an effort to keep foreign debris from being sucked inside helicopter engines.

"What I'm doing here is basically civil engineering. We're busy in the summer here because we've only got that short window to get things done outside," Ashley said. "We're concentrating on the hangar, getting ready for all the visitors. The Blue Angels will be here soon."





Lt. Chad Eckhardt checks all the systems prior to takeoff from Air Station Traverse City.



An HH-65C Dolphin flies over Traverse City during a routine flight.



Lt. Mike Myers prepares for takeoff from Air Station Traverse City.

# ALWAYS READY EVERY DAY

Record-Eagle photos  
■  
Jan-Michael Stump



Airman Brian Johnson, front, AET2 Nick Thomas, center, and AET1 Jorge McCormick wash an HH-65C Dolphin in the hangar following a flight.



Fireman Eugene Sapelli, left, and Chief Petty Officer Dale Ashley repair cracks in the tarmac outside the hangar at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City.



# ON GUARD

Sunday, July 25, 2010

www.record-eagle.com

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

### Coast Guard Station began with 12 men

BY LORRAINE ANDERSON  
Record-Eagle associate editor

The world map meant nothing by March 1941 when the first U.S. Coast Guard detachment of 12 men arrived in Traverse City to set up a temporary Great Lakes air patrol and determine the feasibility of a permanent air station here.

Nazi troops had gobbled up much of Europe, while Japan chomped at China and the South Pacific. The question in many American minds by 1941 wasn't whether the United States would go to war, but when and how.

The Great Lakes region, an important shipbuilding and inland manufacturing center, soared in importance.

Eyes in Washington turned toward the vast freshwater seas and saw an unprotected major waterway woefully lacking communication and alarm systems. Ice breaking, too, grabbed federal attention because of the importance of keeping channels open later in the fall and earlier in spring.

Changing electronic technology, too, played midwife to the Coast Guard's first air station on the Great Lakes, and strong lobbying by the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce didn't hurt, either.

By 1939, 45 radio beacon stations existed around the Great Lakes. Many light stations and more than 2,000 navigation aids were automated, and the most remote light stations had telephone service. Fifteen of the 58 Coast Guard stations in the region had radio telephone transmitters. The U.S. Weather Service operated 76 observation stations.

Coast Guard planes and helicopters were one more improvement, and good pilot training grounds, too.

Paging through the scrapbooks at the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City is a voyage into violent storms that ripped ships apart and swallowed them, winter flights to the Manitou and Beaver Islands to deliver food, ship collisions, air-planes crashes, searches, rescues, mercy missions around the Great Lakes.

In recent years, the pictures document reconnaissance duty to faraway



A twin-engine propeller plane is parked in front of the new Traverse City Airport in the late 1930s. It was built by Work Progress Administration crews and was home of the first Coast Guard detachment that came in 1941 for a year to do Great Lakes air patrols and determine the feasibility of a permanent air station here.

places along the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico to assist with hurricane, flooding, and environmental disasters.

A lot has changed between the 1940s and today, but one thing remains constant at the air station.

"As the nation and national priorities have changed, so has the Coast Guard, but search and rescue is and always will be our priority," Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner said.

The air station's development as a search and rescue center for the Great Lakes system is an important and continuing chapter in the Grand Traverse region's history. Estimates of its economic impact today range from \$5 million to \$8 million a year, Spaner said.

#### 1941-1945

The city's location was an important factor in 1941 when it was being considered as the site for the Coast Guard's first air station on the Great Lakes. The lakes have a surface area of 95,000 square miles and 9,600 miles of shoreline. Traverse City lies 185 miles from the center of Lake Superior, 150 miles from



The front page of the Record-Eagle on March 3, 1941, heralded the new air base in Traverse City with a headline and photo below the big news of the day, the German army threatening to invade Greece.

SEE BASE PAGE 10

### In command

Three dozen commanding officers have led the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City since the Navy returned it to the Coast Guard in late 1945 after World War II. The air station was officially commissioned in January 1946. The commanders are:

J.S. Spaner	2009 - present	O.J. Jahnson	1970 - 1972
S.M. Merrill	2007 - 2009	R.W. Lentner	1968 - 1970
D.G. Throop	2005 - 2007	H.H. Mulvany	May 1968 - Aug. 1968
P.S. Ratte	2003 - 2005	J.J. Fehrenbacher	1966 - 1968
L.O. Benton	2001 - 2003	J.L. Harrison	1965 - 1966
T.P. Ostebo	1999 - 2001	D.H. Lutzus	1963 - 1965
B.A. Harner	1997 - 1999	W.E. Chapline	1960 - 1963
E.N. Fagerholm	1995 - 1997	W.E. Raab	June 1960 - Oct. 1960
T.J. Allard	1993 - 1995	R.E. Emerson	1958 - 1960
G.B. Brinson	1991 - 1993	J.A. Palmer	Jan. 1958 - July 1958
A.L. Gerfin	1989 - 1991	R.E. Emerson	1957 - 1958
M.F. McCormack	1987 - 1989	B.F. Engel	1955 - 1957
C.H. Pearce	1985 - 1987	C.R. Berner	1953 - 1955
F.J. Wright	1983 - 1985	A.W. Wuerker	1952 - 1953
G.T. Morgan	1981 - 1983	W.J. Lawrence	1949 - 1952
P. Resnick	1979 - 1981	R.L. Mellen	1948 - 1949
K.M. Roughgarden	1977 - 1979	W.J. Smith	1946 - 1948
C.A. Biondo	1975 - 1977	J.W. Kincaid	1945 - 1946
B.A. Hoyland	1972 - 1975		

### A career of distinction: Willard Smith

No history of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City would be complete without Suttons Bay-born Willard Smith, the son of an area Coast Guard captain, who grew up to become the air station's first commander after it was officially commissioned in 1946 and eventually a four-star admiral and commandant of the Coast Guard from 1966 to 1970.



Smith

Commandant is the highest office in the Coast Guard, and Smith was the first aviator to serve in that post. During his tenure, he oversaw the Coast Guard's transition from the Treasury Department to the Department of Transportation in 1967.

Born May 14, 1910 to Oscar and Emma (Bequist) Smith, young Willard grew up in the

unautomated time of staffed lighthouses and lifesaving stations along northwestern Lower Michigan's shoreline, South Fox Island, the Manitou and Sleeping Bear Point to guide and protect vessels as they maneuvered around dangerous shoals in the Manitou Passage and around the islands. Smith graduated from Charlevoix High School in 1927 and attended the University of Michigan for two years to study engineering. He then entered the Coast Guard Academy and graduated second in his class in 1933.

His first assignment was a Coast Guard cutter based in Galveston, Texas. From 1936-1939, he served as aide to Commandant Russell R. Woesche and then went to flight training at the Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida and received his wings in 1940.

During World War II until 1946, he was as-

SEE SMITH PAGE 10



# Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City: A timeline

■ **1936:** A Grumman V-118 twin-engine amphibian airplane is assigned to the Great Lakes Air Patrol Detachment established at the Traverse City airport during navigation season. It operates only one season.

■ **1939:** War comes to Europe on Sept. 1 when Nazi Germany invades Poland. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issues an executive order on Sept. 18 to prepare the Coast Guard for war by repairing, enlarging and equipping Guard facilities.

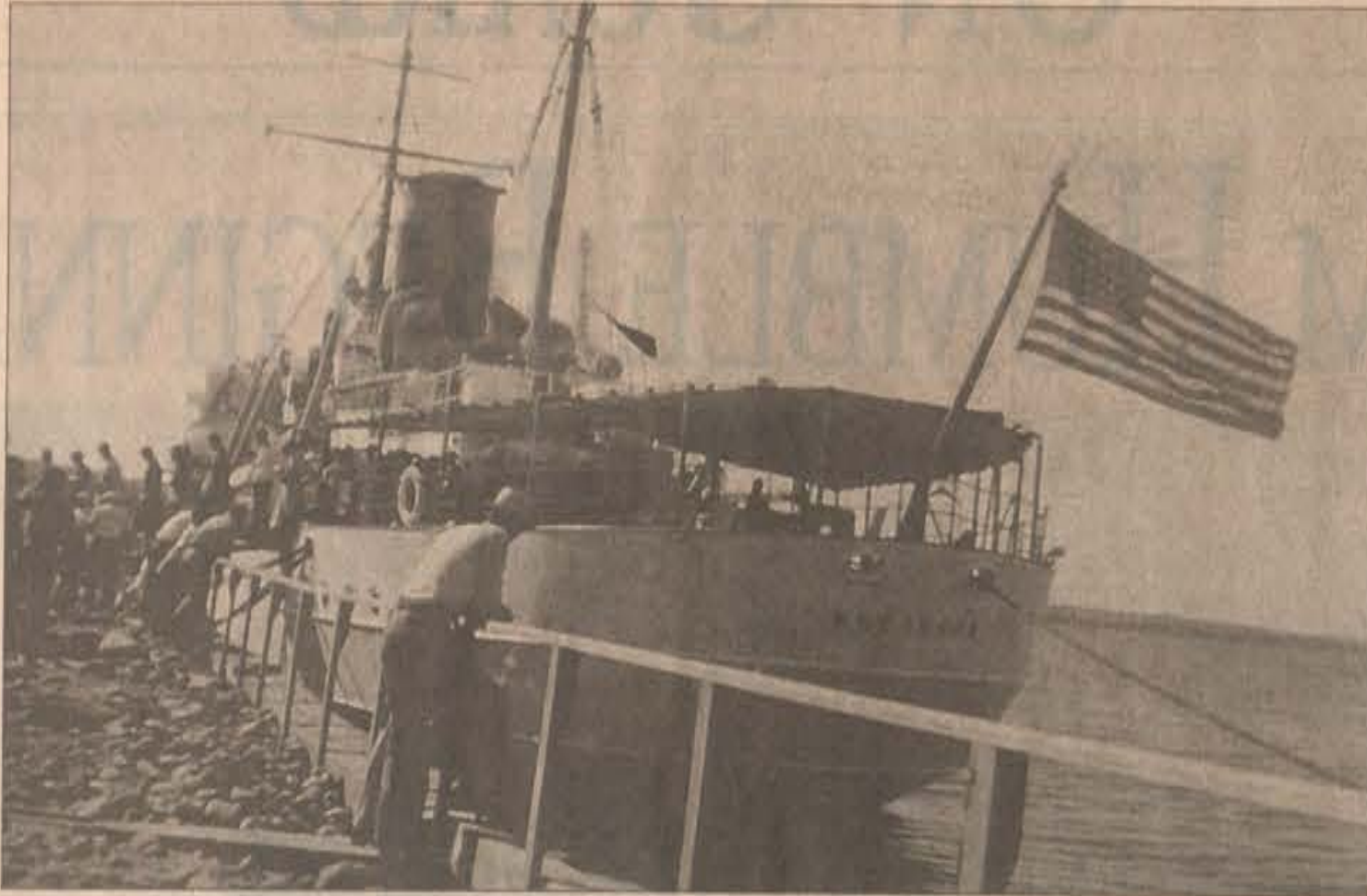
■ **1941:** A Coast Guard detachment arrives in early March to operate a seasonal Great Lakes air patrol station at the city airport and to determine the feasibility of a permanent base here. It is the Guard's only inland air station nationwide.

■ **1942:** Coast Guard leaves Air Station Traverse City in April for active duty on the east and west coasts. Navy arrives at the base in July for secret experimental research on remotely controlled aircraft, or drones.

■ **1943:** U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Escanaba* (home port Grand Haven) is part of a convoy departing for Greenland in June, explodes and sinks near St. John's, Newfoundland. Only two survive of 103 men aboard survive. Probable explanations for the explosion are mine, German U-boat torpedo, internal magazine and depth charge explosions, but no conclusive evidence is ever found.

■ **1944:** The *Mackinaw* arrives at Cheboygan on New Year's Eve, the "most powerful, most modern and most capable icebreaker in the world for her designed purposes," according to T. Michael O'Brien, author of "Guardians of the Eighth Sea: A History of the U.S. Coast Guard on the Great Lakes."

■ **1945:** Navy leaves Air Station Traverse City after the war and transfers it on Nov. 15 to the Coast Guard. The air station now includes administrative buildings, machine shops, barracks, warehouses and a



The Coast Guard cutter *Escanaba* docked in Traverse City in 1938 for the Cherry Festival. It was converted into a convoy ship during World War II and sunk with 101 men aboard near St. John's, Newfoundland, after an explosion ripped it in two. Cause of the explosion — mine, German U-boat torpedo or internal explosion — was never determined.

large hangar. The landing field has four runways, the shortest nearly 5,000 feet long. The station housed 2,000 personnel at the peak of Navy use. Three amphibian planes and two Sikorsky

are assigned to the station before Christmas, and Coast Guard personnel is expected to total 80.

■ **1946:** Coast Guard is returned to the Treasury



Quonset huts and Navy planes sit at the Naval Air Station, later to become the home of U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. This photo was taken in 1942.

Department on Jan. 1, resuming peacetime activities and full responsibility for civilian search and rescue on American's waterways.

■ **1964:** The Ninth District operates 160 floating and shore units, including the Traverse City air station, icebreaker *Mackinaw*, seven 180-foot buoy tenders, five harbor tugs, 51 stations, 80 manned lights.

■ **1978:** Air Station Traverse City becomes a fixed-wing facility and receives three C-131 search aircraft in September. The last Grumman HU-16E "Albatross," a Coast Guard workhorse affectionately called "The Goat," is retired and flown to Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix to become part of a

museum exhibit.

■ **1978-1982:** Air station was used as a Coast Guard pilot program as the Educational Enrichment Program (EEP), managed by Ninth District office in Cleveland. During the mid-1970s, Coast Guard embarked on a series of outreach programs to support the increase of diversity in service for minorities and women in the enlisted ranks.

■ **1980:** New 50,000 square-foot hangar is completed, providing more administrative and maintenance room for workshops and offices. Types of aircraft assigned over the years change several times in coming years from the original Albatross seaplanes and Sikorsky helicop-

ters.

■ **1983:** Two HU-25A Falcon jets are assigned to air station.

■ **1986:** An HH-3F Pelican helicopter is added and the air station becomes a Pelican-only facility with three helicopters. It combines the rescue capabilities of the helicopter and patrol capabilities of the Falcon jet.

■ **1987:** Coast Guard aviator Bruce Melnick is selected by NASA for astronaut training. He is the first from the Coast Guard to be chosen and the first to travel into space in 1988.

■ **1991:** 3 HH-60 Jayhawk helicopters are brought in to replace the aging Pelicans.

■ **1995:** 5 HH-65A Dolphin helicopters replace Jayhawks.

■ **2000:** Chicago Air Station closed in May and Air Station Traverse City gains responsibility for Coast Guard Air Facility Waukegan, Ill., just north of Chicago.

■ **2003:** The U.S. Coast Guard is transferred to the new federal Department of Homeland Security. Five HH-65B Dolphins are placed into service.

■ **2006:** Dolphin helicopters are upgraded to HH-65 "Charlie" Model. New icebreaker *Mackinaw* goes into service, home port is Cheboygan.

■ **2010:** A helicopter crew from the Traverse City air station is assigned in June on a two-week rotating basis with a Detroit crew to provide aerial tracking and other assistance in cleanup efforts as BP's deepwater well spews millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

— Sources: U.S. Coast Guard, Traverse City Record-Eagle, "Guardians of the Eighth Sea: A History of the U.S. Coast Guard on the Great Lakes," T. Michael O'Brien.



Melnick

## Congratulations Traverse City!

And Congratulations to the men & women of OUR United States Coast Guard Air Station!

For many years, our local chapter of the Air Force Association held its most popular meeting of the year at the Traverse City Coast Guard facility, hosted by its then current Commander, and always highlighted by a tour of the rescue choppers ... So

**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!**



Submitted by **Jon Dayton**, LtCol, USAF (Retired)  
(third from the left & then Pres, PeToSeGa Chap, AFA, 1999 ... recognize anyone else?)  
Assoc Broker, Real Estate One, Inc; Traverse City  
[www.jondayton.net](http://www.jondayton.net)



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## CONGRATULATIONS

to Traverse City and the United States Coast Guard for 54 years of mutual respect, cooperation and admiration!

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## BASE

*Air Station grew from humble beginnings*

FROM PAGE 7

the middle of Lake Huron, 250 miles from central Lake Erie and 450 to eastern Lake Ontario.

A front-page Record-Eagle photo marks the Coast Guard's arrival on March 1, 1941. A row of men stand in front of a Grumman amphibian plane. A radio communications truck and an emergency vehicle are parked nearby on the snowy runway not far from the small Traverse City Municipal Airport terminal. Lt. Roger Johnson, who headed the detachment, was formerly from Frankfort, the story noted.

The detachment lost no time, and neither did the federal government.

Within days, the Coast Guard plane already was searching for a lost tug and checking the ice break-up.

On March 22, the Record-Eagle announced that a five-man Civil Aeronautics Commission crew was coming to operate a new federal airway communication system being built atop the hangar building at Traverse City Municipal Airport. The communications office was scheduled to open April 1 and would permanently offer teletype service and broadcasts on weather and flying conditions to pilots within a 250-mile radius.

Teletype services from Cleveland also were expanded to include airports in Flint, Saginaw, Cadillac, Pellston and Sault Ste. Marie. Until then, only Detroit and Selfridge Field in Michigan had been linked to Cleveland.

In early June, the newspaper ran a photograph of Coast Guard officers from the Sleeping Bear, South



A Coast Guard amphibian plane and USS Woodrush stand by as a disabled freighter is towed to port in the 1960s or early 1970s. Courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard

Manitou, Beaver Island, and Charlevoix stations along Lake Michigan who had been called under "secret orders" for duty along the East Coast.

"It is the largest group transfer outside of flood emergency work since the World War," the Record-Eagle reported, referring to World War I and adding that 14 men still remained at the Sleeping Bear station.

War was in the air. The Coast Guard was transferred from the U.S. Treasury Department Guard to the Navy on Nov. 1.

Then came Dec. 7, 1941, the day that shoved the United States into war. The Japanese attacked the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The United States declared war on Japan the next day and three days later on Germany and Italy.

German U-boats immediately launched devastating attacks on allied shipping along the Eastern seaboard and concern grew that Detroit could become a bombing target.

Congress approved \$3 million for construction of the most powerful icebreaker of its time, the Mackinaw. German U-boats moved into the Gulf of Mexico in mid-1942.

The local air station stepped up aerial ice patrols, mercy flights and regular guard routine of freighters docked in Traverse City.

Then, in mid-April 1942, the Coast Guard simply left. The base wasn't empty long.

The U.S. Navy arrived two months later to conduct "secret" research on remotely controlled aircraft, or drones, which were the beginning of guided missile research.

"Mum" was the official word on the tests, but drones are hard to miss and so were the front-page "Notices!" published by the Navy in the Record-Eagle warning people that the Navy would conduct night operations over Grand Traverse Bay and flares would be dropped to provide artificial light for the area. Local residents were requested to "not become alarmed or flood

the telephone bureau with requests for information or participate in the spreading of erroneous rumors."

The Navy stayed for almost four years. At its peak, the air station had about 2,000 personnel here.

1946-2010

The federal government lost little time in transferring the station to peacetime use.

World War II was over by September. The air station's new chapter began Nov. 15 when the Navy officially transferred the station to the Coast Guard for use as a permanent base and headquarters for Great Lakes aerial patrols.

The initial eight officers, 20 enlisted aviation crew members and additional personnel came with three amphibian planes and a helicopter. Within a year, it had two more helicopters and 80 personnel, including eight commissioned officers, 20 enlisted crew with aviation ratings and a number of storekeepers, yeomen and

non-rated enlisted personnel.

Today, search and rescue is still a big job, comprising 41 percent of the air station's workload while training accounts for another 21 percent. The 135 men and women on active-duty at the air station include 29 commissioned officers, 2 warrant officers, 3 civilians and 101 enlisted men and women. The station operates five HH-65C Dolphin helicopters and also oversees operations at two seasonal Guard facilities at Muskegon and Waukegan.

The Traverse City air station is in line to receive four used HH-60 Jayhawk helicopters to replace its five Dolphins under President Barack Obama's 2011 budget, pending congressional approval. The Jayhawks have a greater capability of operating in cold weather and icing conditions and double flight time endurance, which will enable the closure of the Muskegon and Waukegan air facilities.

## SMITH

*A career of distinction: Willard Smith*

FROM PAGE 7

signed to the Coast Guard's aviation branch and was responsible for the construction and commissioning of the Coast Guard Air Station at San Francisco.

He became Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City's first commander in 1946, serving until 1948 and then became assistant chief of the Coast Guard's aviation division until 1950. He attended the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va., from 1950 to 1951.

In 1952, Smith returned to the Great Lakes for two years to command the icebreaker Mackinaw, based at Cheboygan. In 1960, he became chief of the operations division of the 13th Coast Guard District based in Seattle. He was superintendent of Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., from 1962-1965.

Smith served as commander of the 9th Coast Guard District in Cleveland from 1965 to 1966, directing operations in the Great Lakes. He was the Coast Guard's 13th commandant from 1966 to 1970. In 1966, he received the Distinguished Service Medal for meritorious achievement for his work in the formation of the newly created Department of Transportation. He retired from the Coast Guard in June 1970 and moved to Traverse City.

Smith died in April 2000 in Atlantic Beach, Fla., at age 89 and was at the time the oldest-living former Coast Guard commandant. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery alongside his wife, Harriet (Lary) Smith, who died two months before him.

—Lorraine Anderson





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He became Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City's

\*Thank You for the GREAT time at the Coast Guard! We learned a lot!

\*Thank You for saving people's lives!!



\* Thank You for keeping us safe!

♥ We will be praying for all of you!

Love, Mrs. Mazljakovich's Kindergarten Friends  
Holy Angels



# A MAN WITH A MISSION

*Spaner stresses relationship with the community*

BY SHERI McWHIRTER  
smcwhirter@record-eagle.com

**T**RAVERSE CITY — Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner has a personal mission — very personal. Spaner, 39, is the top officer at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, where he's strived to encourage as many Coast Guardsmen as possible to take up his community involvement challenge. He wants area residents to depend on the local Coast Guard for more than just Great Lakes rescues.

"We have a responsibility collectively as a base, in my opinion, to be involved in causes and help the community," Spaner said.

His drive to connect with the community in socially supportive ways is seeded in Spaner's own childhood.

Spaner grew up in Connecticut as the son of a single mother. She did the best she could and a great job of it, he said, but couldn't provide what a male role model could.

That's why she sought out such influences for Spaner and he remains in contact with two mentors from his childhood, both retired U.S. Air Force pilots.

"I have doubts that I would have had the opportunities I've had without those great role models. I owe a lot to those guys," Spaner said.

So now Spaner tries to give back by being a Big Brother, part of the Big Brother Big Sister program. He mentors a local fifth-grader and did the same for children in Washington, D.C., and both



United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner

Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Stump

Pensacola and Tampa, Fla.

Patrick Roberts, 10, of Traverse City, said having Spaner as a Big Brother mentor is "awesome" because they play soccer, sometimes eat lunch together and Spaner helps him with his math homework.

"He's nice and he helps me cheer up when I'm feeling sad. It's good to have someone to talk to," Patrick said.

And others see Spaner's influence, too.

"All that he does in his outreach is true testimony to the leader he is and the person he is. It really reflects his character," said Derek Bailey, both a friend

and tribal chairman for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Bailey said he hopes the tribe and the Coast Guard can find ways to partner, perhaps with shared patrols of Great Lakes waters and tribal land.

The local Coast Guard also is heavily involved with Special Olympics Michigan and is working on an emerging partnership with the Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative, a state program designed to assist children as they age out of foster care.

Additionally, this year the air station adopted Traverse Heights Elementary,

where a high percentage of students are considered at-risk. It's a major component in Spaner's community outreach mission.

"Tuesdays and Thursdays we sent over recess buddies, or lunchtime volunteers. The kids really respond well to our uniforms," Spaner said. "We play kickball with them and if one kid is having a rough day, we'll spend time talking to them."

The students always look forward to the Coast Guard visits and they provided positive adult interactions, said Jenny Smith, a behavioral interventionist at the school.

"That's what we really

Spaner graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1993, where he returned this summer to speak at the graduation ceremony. During the service he commissioned 14 graduates as Coast Guard officers.

"It meant a lot to be asked to come back," he said.

Spaner's first assignment took him to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C. He then attended flight school and was stationed in Astoria, Ore., Clearwater, Fla., Sacramento, Calif., and finally, Traverse City.

"It's been my favorite. I love it here," Spaner said.

Spaner and his wife, Laura, have two children: son Theodore "Teddy," 6, and daughter Madeleine, 3.

Spaner also participated in the Hurricane Katrina response in 2005, flying a C-130 transport aircraft into New Orleans to deliver food, water, medicine, body bags and other supplies. He then turned around and delivered rescued citizens to Texas.

"When we started our descent, it was devastating how bad the damage was. For the Coast Guard, it was an all hands on deck evolution and it's the same for Deepwater Horizon," he said.

A helicopter crew from Traverse City is currently flying in the Gulf of Mexico, helping make observations as an underwater oil well leak spews millions of gallons of oil into the water.

A fresh Traverse City crew will for the foreseeable future rotate to the Gulf for two-week missions, taking turns with an air crew from Detroit.

wanted to provide the students. It put a face on those helicopters and introduced them to the military," she said.

Spaner said it's a program he's proud of and doesn't want to see end when his tenure as commander in Traverse City comes to a close next year.

"A theme of my last year here is sustainability of these programs. They will not die when I go," Spaner said.

Spaner expects to learn this summer where his next assignment will be. He arrived last year in Traverse City for a two-year stint as base commander.



U.S. Coast Guard Air Station  
1175 Airport Access Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686-3586

August 12, 2010

Dear U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Commanding Officer:

In the wake of our recent drowning recovery efforts, I wanted to thank you and the members of your department for the assistance that was afforded to us during this operation.

On July 26, the Sheboygan County Law Enforcement Dive Team was notified of a missing 19-year-old male. He had been swimming in Lake Michigan with friends when he stepped off a sand bar into deeper water and was pulled further from shore by strong currents. A friend attempted to rescue the man, yet he was unsuccessful and the man drowned. We spent the next several days attempting to recover the victim.

The use of your aircraft, equipment and personnel were instrumental in the search efforts. The support afforded to us was a huge asset and necessary to conduct this major operation. I can't thank you enough for all the assistance that you provided.

Also, the victim's parents greatly appreciated your empathetic attitude and efforts. They were so appreciative of your search efforts that lasted late into the night and the next day as they realized that these were critical hours. In addition, they thank you for coordinating the use of the Coast Guard's Helicopter to assist in the search for their daughter.

Thank you, again for the generous use of your agency's equipment and personnel! We truly appreciated your efforts and willingness to do what ever it takes to get the job done.

Sincerely,

*Lt. Brad Riddiough*  
Lt. Brad Riddiough

Supervisor-Sheboygan County Law Enforcement Dive Team

## Our Adventure

When I got out of work on Wednesday July 14, 2010 I called Josh and asked him if he wanted to go kayaking and go swimming and stuff. We went to Sturgeon Bay with really no plan. After we put the kayaks in the water and started cruising around, we figured going out to the island would be sweet and it would be a good work out with enough time to go there and back by dark. So after about an hour of kayaking we arrived on the island and walked around and checked out that huge rock that is out there. After only about 20 minutes the wind started to pick up. So we got back in our kayaks trying to beat the storm. After about 15 minutes on the water the waves were getting bigger and it was scary, and we figured the biggest waves were ahead of us. So we decided the best option was to turn back and stay the night and try the lake in the morning. We had about an hour of day light left so we found a good place, started a small fire and instantly got as much fire wood as we could so we wouldn't run out. The wind that night was brutal so we made a wall out of our kayaks and some of the big pieces of wood and slept behind them with the fire right in front of us. The bugs were also really brutal, there were so many. They got so bad we rubbed mud on our legs and arms and it worked pretty good. So we sat around for a while and cooked some frogs and tried to get energy for the adventure home. Sleeping was pretty horrible; I don't even think I slept. The next morning we were up at the first crack of light and we were just walking around waiting for the lake to calm out. We saw a bright light off in the distance and in a matter of

seconds we saw it was the Coast Guard and we realized it was for us. They landed and we hoped in and we went to Pellston Airport. Our families came hugged us and took us to breakfast. A few days later the two of us got my little 15 feet fishing boat and tried to go get the kayaks. We finally got to explore that island and that trip went perfectly. And thank you again for all your efforts!

Sincerely

*Jeff Parson*

Jeff Parson

The Jeff Parson Family would like to send a special "THANK YOU" to you for your wonderful support and help.

We are very grateful to have the men and women to come to our rescue. We also count our blessings to of have such a wonderful and joyful outcome.

Each and every one of you will be very special to us forever.

God Bless You and Thank You

Respectfully

Rob, Maureen, Kristine, & Jeff Parson

*Jeff*  
*Maureen*

*Kristine*

*Rob*







# Currents

AUTUMN 2010 • A PUBLICATION OF THE COAST GUARD FOUNDATION • WWW.COASTGUARDFOUNDATION.ORG

## The Coast Guard Foundation Celebrates Scholars

...AND 20 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Mackenzie Donohue, third from right, was awarded a \$20,000 Sobel Scholarship from the Coast Guard Foundation. The Sobel Scholarship is granted each year to four high school students whose parents are active-duty, reserve, or retired Coast Guard members. Mackenzie is currently enrolled at Michigan State University. Pictured with her at Air Station Traverse City are, from left, dad ASTJ John Donohue, mom Samantha Donohue, sisters Jennifer and Emily Donohue, Senator Carl Levin of Michigan and CDR Jonathan Spaner.

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE ON THIS YEAR'S IMPRESSIVE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ▶



MACKENZIE DONOHUE

### SPOTLIGHT ON SOBEL SCHOLAR MACKENZIE DONOHUE

Air Station Traverse City conducted an awards ceremony on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 to formally present a 2010 Sobel Scholarship to Mackenzie Donohue. Donohue is the daughter of ASTJ John P. Donohue, who was recently transferred from Air Station Traverse City to Air Station Elizabeth City. She is currently enrolled at Michigan State University. Senator Carl Levin attended and made closing remarks to the unit.

"This national scholarship is granted to the most deserving high school student whose parent is an active-duty, reserve or retired Coast Guard member. It is an extremely competitive scholarship and the Foundation is pleased and honored to give it this year to Traverse City's first Coast Guard Foundation scholarship recipient, Mackenzie Donohue," said Anne Brengle, Coast Guard Foundation President.



Mackenzie Donohue, of Traverse City, Mich., was awarded the Arnold Sobel Scholarship for \$5,000 for four years. She is attending Michigan State University and will major in Biology/Pre-Med. Her father is ASTJ John Donohue.





VOLUNTEERS  
**Coast Guard recognizes Trish Fiebing**

BY SHERI McWHIRTER  
 smcwhirter@record-eagle.com

**TRAVERSE CITY —** Trish Fiebing has long been a voracious volunteer.

She retired this year from Traverse City Area Public Schools as its volunteer coordinator and this week received an award from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City for her efforts. Fiebing helped create a partnership between the military base and the local school district, including the station's association with Traverse Heights Elementary.

Fiebing, of Traverse City, received a Coast Guard Certificate of Appreciation this week to recognize her contributions, said Lt. Karyn Forsyth, public affairs officer at the base.

"They are such an asset in our community that quite often we don't get to meet or get to know them," Fiebing said.

Forsyth and Fiebing worked together to expand outreach efforts to Coast Guard families — families that often spend just two years here before transferring to another base. It began with informational sessions to help them learn about educational options



Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Sturm

Trish Fiebing received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City for her work to create a partnership between the base and TCAPS.

with TCAPS.

"It's helping folks who are here temporarily," Fiebing said.

The program expanded to a volunteer effort at Traverse Heights where Coast Guard members spend time with students on Tuesdays and Thursdays during recess and lunch periods. The base even landed a helicopter at the school and allowed the students to inspect the aircraft.

"One of the sweetest moments of my life was that day when a little fifth-grader was there watching the helicopter land, and he didn't say it to me, but he

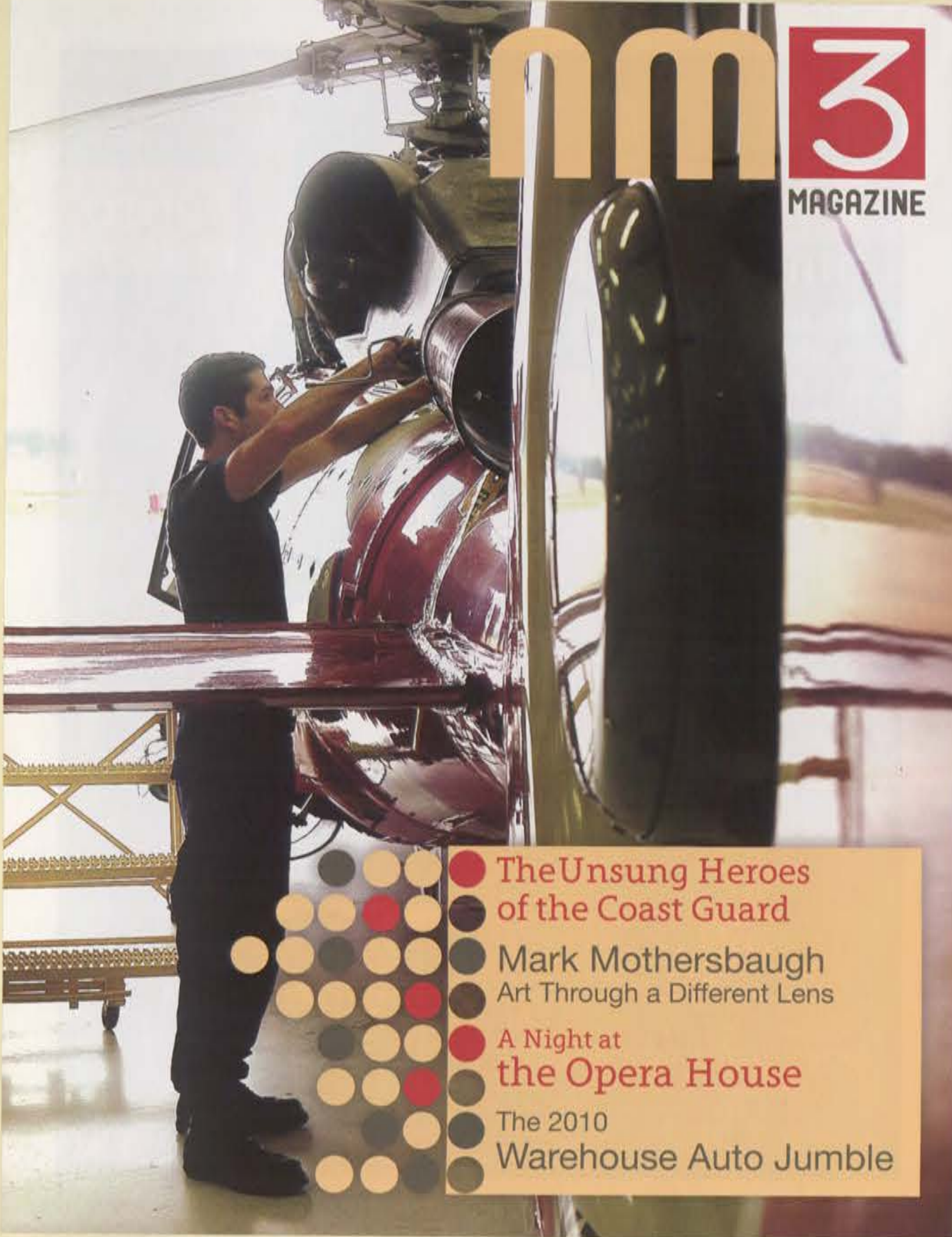
muttered, 'This is the best day of my life,'" Fiebing said.

Fiebing helped make that moment possible, said Cmdr. Tom McDevitt, the base's executive officer, who values his volunteer time at the school.

"It's a chance to interact," he said. "They have a lot of questions when you show up in uniform or in a flight suit."

Fiebing also worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Grand Traverse and United Way of Northwest Michigan. She lives on Old Mission Peninsula with her husband, Gregory Fiebing.





- The Unsung Heroes of the Coast Guard
- Mark Mothersbaugh  
Art Through a Different Lens
- A Night at the Opera House
- The 2010 Warehouse Auto Jumble



The Unsung Heroes of the Coast Guard

By Brett Gourdie  
Do you ever wonder what it takes to keep those ever-present orange Coast Guard helicopters in the air? We have all seen them cruising over the Northern Michigan sky on a regular basis. As you stop and admire them from a distance, have you ever asked yourself what it takes to keep those aircraft at the ready? We met up with Commander Jonathan Spaner of Traverse City's Coast Guard base to find out what goes on behind the scenes in the hangers.

As we talked to Cdr. Spaner, it was obvious the pride he has in what has become one of the most sought after bases in the Coast Guard system. "The Traverse City base is a high point of interest," boasted Cdr. Spaner regarding the base, which originated in 1941.

The base houses five HH-65C Dolphins which are used for Homeland Security patrols, cargo and drug interdiction, ice breaking, military readiness, pollution control, and search and rescue missions. A crew with a Dolphin was deployed to work on the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on a rotation from May to August. Many long-distance missions have been undertaken over the years from the Traverse City base from drug smuggling to search and rescue after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

"It's unusual to have all five of our planes at the base at one time," said Cdr. Spaner. "A few of them are typically on missions elsewhere but return to the base when their assignments are completed."

One such aircraft was being prepared for a long-term mission out of the area. As the boating season winds down on the Great Lakes, the crews and their equipment are sometimes pressed into duty elsewhere. The Traverse City base is a highly strategic location to the Coast Guard, so sufficient crews will always be here.

In 2003, Coast Guard operations were transferred to the newly formed Department of Homeland Security. That move added more crews, aircraft, and missions for the base. The men who

maintain these magnificent pieces of equipment, now more than ever, have to keep the HH-65C's ready to go at a moment's notice.

There are 140 to 150 personnel assigned to Traverse City. We met up with the eight men of the night shift. They are the unsung heroes doing the day in and day out work of maintaining the five HH-65C aircraft. To give you some idea of the work it takes to keep the HH-65C's safe and reliable on a daily basis, imagine spending sixteen man hours of upkeep to every one hour of operation time on your car. That is roughly the time spent for each hour of fly time.

As the helicopter known as 6544 finished its day's mission, the pilot and crew debriefed the ground crew of any issues. The plane backed into its spot in the hanger and the AMTs (Aviation Mechanical Technicians) and AETs (Aviation Electronic Technicians) jumped into action like a finely tuned machine. It's obvious they are well trained and highly motivated, every action performed with efficiency and safety in mind. A level of expertise, calmness, and quiet confidence exudes from each of the

young men, typically in their 20s, as they attack the helicopter.

Before we knew it the cowling, or "turtle deck" as the men call it, was removed and carefully placed on a rack to protect the carbon fiber pieces that cover the jet engines and transmission areas of the copter. Plane 6544 was due for its seven and fourteen day inspection, a more in depth maintenance than the daily routine. There is a real sense of teamwork among the men as they check and recheck each other's work. Each seems to learn from the other and they all strive to live up to the Coast Guard's core values- Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

Earlier in the day, Cdr. Spaner used the term "point of pride" when it comes to the men maintaining these important pieces of equipment. AMT3 David Lheureux explained, "Our typical shift is 4pm to midnight, but we work until the job is done and the aircraft is ready to fly. Sometimes, it's two or three o'clock in the morning before we are done. Our priority is having the aircraft ready and safe at all times."

The Coast Guard uses a unique program the crew calls "fixers and flyers". All of the maintenance crew also fly on the aircraft they maintain. A typical crew consists of the Pilot, Co-Pilot, an in-flight mechanic, and a Rescue Swimmer for a search and rescue mission. The other branches of the service either have "flyers" or "fixers", but both as are assigned to the HH65C here. The "fixers",



The Unsung Heroes of the Coast Guard



as they call themselves, are not only trained in the upkeep and repair of the aircraft, but are trained for rescue and security missions as well. This adds another level of confidence in the maintenance of the equipment.

The next time you see one of the bright orange helicopters hovering in the Northern Michigan sky, just remember all the hard work it takes to keep it up there safely. The USCG motto is *Semper Paratus*, Latin for "Always Ready" or "Always Prepared"- that rings very true indeed.

A level of expertise, calmness, and quiet confidence exudes from each of the young men, typically in their 20s, as they attack the helicopter.



## COAST GUARD Great Lakes

Official Blog of the 9th Coast Guard District

### Air Station Traverse City air crews get wet during training

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Posted by: PAC Kyle Niemi

>

Guest post by Lt. Karyn Forsyth, Air Station Traverse City public affairs officer

Today, aircrew members from Air Station Traverse City, Mich., conducted their annual wet drills in Grand Traverse Bay, Mich., with the new LRU-25 life raft, which will soon replace the LRU-20/A life raft.

Members reported to the training area in their orange Aircrew Dry Coveralls (ADC) with neoprene hood and gloves and were placed in small groups, which rotated through various stations throughout the day. Members at each training station received information from unit rescue swimmers on land and water survival.

"It's our shop's chance to show what we know" said Chief Petty Officer Douglas Lathrop, aviation survival technician at Air Station Traverse City. "It's also timely training before winter to identify any problems in your ADC."

Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Ott, who transferred from Kodiak, Alaska, brings a wealth of cold weather experience from his seven years in Alaska and what he learned in Survival Instructor School.

"We're not just training Coast Guard survival; the training is applicable during every member's own personal, off-duty time," said Ott. "We're teaching them the seven steps of survival and showing them how to survive in those situations in and outside of work."

The rescue swimmers provided realistic and fun training. There were many new members participating in wet drills this year, including Petty Officer 3rd Class Chad Whetsel.

"I feel the experience thoroughly prepared me for an emergency situation," said Whetsel. "It was also a lot of fun."

All the members at the unit enjoyed the training and immediately noticed the enhanced capabilities of the new LRU-25 raft.

"There is more space available – you can potentially fit your entire crew with a few survivors in there comfortably compared to the old one, in which you were pretty crammed for space," said Lt. Edward Dipierro.





IN BRIEF

From staff reports

**U.S.C.G. air station to open up to public**

TRAVERSE CITY — The U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City will be opened to the public for an open house event.

Coast Guard Appreciation Day at the station will be Oct. 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. The station is on Airport Access Road, off Parsons Road in Traverse City.

Tours of the facility will be available, along with explanations of rescue equipment and a search-and-rescue demonstration with a helicopter crew.

Traverse City Rotary Club will sponsor refreshments and help with the event.

# REGION/OPINION

NEWS FROM NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

Sunday, December 26, 2010

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR (231) 933-1472

ON DUTY IN TC

## 'Year of the Coast Guard'

*City proud to serve as base for operations*

**Editor's note:** Another in a series of people, places and events that made headlines in northern Michigan in 2010.

BY LINDSAY VANHULLE  
lvanhulle@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — Jonathan Spaner will leave Traverse City in 2011 for a new assignment with the U.S. Coast Guard.

He won't be commander of the Traverse City Air Station anymore, but he knows one thing: His successor, whoever it is, will maintain the unit's historical tradition of community involvement.

It's one of the tenets, after all, that earned the city the 10th "Coast Guard City" designation in the country this year.

"It's important that we be consistent with the community, just like the community's consistent with us," Spaner said.

"It's going to be long-standing. I don't have any question."

Coast Guard and city leaders worked together on an application for the honorary designation. Traverse City is the second such recipient in Michigan.

In 1988, Grand Haven became first in the nation to receive the title.

The honor was presented during the National Cherry Festival in July. That was Mayor Chris Bzdok's idea.

Crowds of people are around

during the festival, which spends a week celebrating Traverse City. Bzdok said it seemed like the perfect time.

The guard's service members provide essential public safety and contribute to the region's economy, he said.

"They're another source of community pride," he said. "It's been the year of the Coast Guard in Traverse City. That's really

**"We're out there looking out for the folks. We're happy to do that. It's really nice that the community has supported us so much over the years."**

Coast Guard Lt. John Kirk



From left, U.S. Coast Guard service members Aaron Antrim, a lieutenant junior grade; Ken Malocha, a chief petty officer; Kyle Young, a lieutenant; and Ryan Bolohan, a petty officer and flight mechanic; brief before a helicopter flight at the Traverse City Air Station.

2010

NEWSMAKERS

nice." Crews this year went to assist in Red River flood operations in Fargo, N.D., and were dispatched to the Gulf Coast during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

"We're out there looking out for the folks. We're happy to do that," Coast Guard Lt. John Kirk said. "It's really nice that the community has supported us so much over the years."

The guard has had a permanent spot in Traverse City since the 1940s, Spaner said. About 150

people are on base, all with rotating terms of roughly two to four years.

Being designated a Coast Guard City reflects partnerships from both sides, he said. The guard volunteers at Traverse Heights Elementary, and some local businesses offer dis-



U.S. Coast Guard helicopters prepare to depart from the Traverse City Air Station.

counts. The Traverse City Beach Bums minor-league baseball team held a Coast Guard Appreciation Night this summer.

"These are the type of things that have gone on here year after year, for a very long time," Spaner said. "It was pretty easy to show that Traverse City was going to be competitive."

Follow our Newsmakers 2010 series online. Stories will be posted as they're published at record-eagle.com/newsmakers.



Lt. Kyle Young, of the U.S. Coast Guard Traverse City Air Station, inspects a helicopter.









## Photo Release

Date: January 30, 2011  
Contact: Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office  
(216) 902-6020

### PHOTOS: Ninth District Commander and Tribal Chairman sign historic agreement

Click on the images to obtain high-resolution versions.



PESHAWBESTOWN, Mich. - Rear Adm. Michael N. Parks, commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District, and Tribal Chairman Derek J. Bailey of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians sign a memorandum of understanding at the Eagle's Creek Conference Room at the Leelanau Sands Casino and Lodge, Jan. 29, 2011.

The signing of the MOU represents a unique opportunity to formalize the nation-to-nation cooperation between the Coast Guard and Grand Traverse Band and is intended to solidify an enduring relationship for decades to come. The agreement establishes consensus guidelines necessary to succeed over the long-term and is also intended to serve as a model for cooperation between other sovereign Tribal authorities and Coast Guard leaders.



PESHAWBESTOWN, Mich. -- Rear Adm. Michael N. Parks, commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District, addresses the crowd prior to signing a memorandum of understanding with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians at the Eagle's Creek Conference Room at the Leelanau Sands Casino and Lodge, Jan. 29, 2011.

The Grand Traverse Band and U.S. Coast Guard are entering into the memorandum of understanding to further enhance cultural, operational and community coordination.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class George Degener

###

*Saving Lives and Guarding the Coast Since 1790.  
The United States Coast Guard - Proud History. Powerful Future.*

# 'A FIRST' FOR TRIBE, U.S.C.G.



Above, "This is special, and so are you. This is a first," said Rear Admiral Michael Parks, of the United States Coast Guard Ninth District, left, to Chairman Derek Bailey of The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians just before the two signed a memorandum of understanding, top, to formalize and enhance cultural, operational and community coordination. It is the first such memorandum between a tribal authority and the United States Coast Guard.

Record-Eagle photos/Jan-Michael Skurip



January 29, 2011  
Eagles Ridge Conference  
Center; Peshawbestown, MI

The United States Coast  
Guard and the Grand  
Traverse Band would like to  
say Chi-Megwetch to the  
Tribal Membership, Coast  
Guard family and the  
surrounding community for  
your continued support and  
encouragement.



Grand Traverse Band of  
Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Ph 231.534.7750  
Fax 231.534.7192

2605 N. West Bay Shore Dr  
Peshawbestown, MI 49682-9275

[www.gtbindians.org](http://www.gtbindians.org)



A Cultural, Operational and  
Community Partnership

Memorandum of Understanding  
between the United States Coast  
Guard Ninth District and the  
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa  
and Chippewa Indians

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD NINTH DISTRICT AND  
THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA & CHIPPEWA INDIANS  
REGARDING A CULTURAL, OPERATIONAL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

1. **PARTIES:** The parties to this agreement are the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (Grand Traverse Band).
2. **AUTHORITY:** This agreement is authorized under the provisions of the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2804, 14 U.S.C. § 141, The Coast Guard Air Operations Manual, COMDTINST M3710.1F (series), and the Coast Guard Public Affairs Manual COMDTINST M5728.2D (series).
3. **PURPOSE:** The U.S. Coast Guard Ninth District and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (Grand Traverse Band) are entering into this memorandum of understanding (MOU) to further enhance cultural, operational and community coordination. This MOU memorializes existing cooperation between the USCG and Grand Traverse Band and is intended to solidify an enduring relationship for decades to come. The agreement establishes the consensus guidelines necessary to succeed over the long-term and can be withdrawn upon by either party. The responsibilities are suggested elements of a framework to ensure consistent coordination. The agreement is also intended to serve as a model for cooperation between other sovereign Tribal authorities and Coast Guard leaders.
4. **RESPONSIBILITIES:**
  - U.S. Coast Guard**
  - A. The USCG, through Sector Sault Ste. Marie and Air Station Traverse City, will endeavor to communicate regularly with the Grand Traverse Band to coordinate, prioritize and execute aviation and surface support, for both scheduled and emergent law enforcement operations and maritime safety missions. Scheduled missions include, but are not limited to, seasonal Tribal fishery patrols and enforcement.
  - B. When conducting combined operations and as practicable, the USCG Ninth District will seek to include Tribal Law Enforcement Officers on board Coast Guard vessels and aircraft subject to and in accordance with all applicable laws and policy.
  - C. The USCG Ninth District, through Sector Sault Sainte Marie and Air Station Traverse City, will strive to provide educational outreach to members of the Grand Traverse Band on the subject of the Coast Guard in general as well as career opportunities within the Coast Guard. Such outreach may include guest speaking at Tribal and school events by Coast Guard personnel and tours of Coast Guard facilities.
  - D. Subject to operational requirements and availability, the USCG, acting through Sector Sault Sainte Marie and Air Station Traverse City, will make best efforts to partner with the Grand Traverse Band on combined community outreach projects.



**Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians**

- A. The Grand Traverse Band will conduct educational outreach efforts to Coast Guard personnel to increase awareness of the Grand Traverse Band's cultural customs and history.
- B. When seeking to conduct combined law enforcement operations, the Grand Traverse Band will contact the Sector Sault Ste. Marie Enforcement Branch Chief to coordinate all requests involving aviation support, cutter support, and small boat support, as early as practicable to make requests for assistance and coordinate operations.
- C. The Grand Traverse Band will endeavor to maintain open communication with the USCG Ninth District including providing Air Station Traverse City's Public Affairs Officer all requests for tours and speakers at least two weeks prior to the requested date.
- D. Subject to operational requirements and availability, the Grand Traverse Band will make best efforts to partner with the USCG Ninth District on combined community outreach projects.

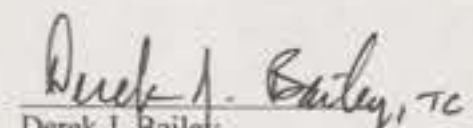
**5. POINTS OF CONTACT:**

- A. USCG Ninth District :
  - (1) District Tribal Affairs Officer (216) 902-6021
- B. Sector Sault Ste. Marie
  - (1) Sector Response Department Head (906) 635-3231
  - (2) Sector Enforcement Branch Chief (906) 635-3267
  - (3) Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator (906) 635-3306
  - (4) Sector Command Center (906) 635-3233
- C. Air Station Traverse City
  - (1) Commanding Officer (231) 922-8220
  - (2) Operations Officer (231) 922-8217
  - (3) Law Enforcement Officer (231) 922-8314
  - (4) Public Affairs Officer (PAO) (231) 922-8273
- D. Grand Traverse Band:
  - (1) Tribal Chairman (231) 534-7750
  - (2) Chief Warden (231) 534-7500
  - (3) Captain of Police (231) 534-7777

- 6. **OTHER PROVISIONS.** This MOU does not in any way change or impact the jurisdiction of the Grand Traverse Band or the United States. Nothing in it is intended to conflict with current law or regulation or the directives of the USCG. If a term of this MOU is inconsistent with such authority, that term shall be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions shall remain in force.
- 7. **MODIFICATION:** This MOU may be modified only upon the mutual written consent of both parties.
- 8. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** The terms of this MOU will become effective upon signature by both parties.
- 9. **TERMINATION:** The terms of this MOU, as modified with the consent of both parties, will remain in effect until either party provides written notice of their intention to terminate the agreement. The party wishing to terminate the agreement shall provide thirty days written notice to the other party of the intent to terminate the agreement. Either party may terminate this agreement.

APPROVED BY:

  
Rear Admiral Michael N. Parks  
Commander  
Ninth Coast Guard District

  
Derek J. Bailey  
Tribal Chairman  
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa &  
Chippewa Indians



# Leelanau Enterprise



**SHAWN T. GERAGHTY** of Elmwood Township retired from the U.S. Coast Guard as a lieutenant commander during a ceremony Friday at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. He began his military career in the U.S. Air Force in 1986, serving as a law enforcement specialist, then transferred to the Florida Army National Guard, serving in the infantry. He then enlisted in the Coast Guard and advanced to Boatswain's Mate First Class before becoming an officer and a helicopter pilot. He has been stationed in Traverse City since 2005.



**RETIREMENT CEREMONY  
FOR  
LCDR GERAGHTY**

**AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY  
6 MAY 2011**

**LCDR Shawn T. Geraghty**  
 Lieutenant Commander Geraghty first enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1986. After completion of boot camp and security police academy, LCDR Geraghty was assigned to the 44<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing in Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. There, LCDR Geraghty transported and provided close in security for the Minuteman II Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.

LCDR Geraghty was transferred to the 56<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Training Wing, at MacDill Air Force Base in FL. He qualified as a Law Enforcement Specialist, was a member of the Air Base Ground Defense Team, and deployed for Operation EIF-One US Central Command (US CENTCOM), Riyadh Royal Saudi Air Force Base, Saudi Arabia. LCDR Geraghty was also a distinguished Graduate of the Non-Commissioned Officer Preparatory Course and was assigned to HQ US Special Operations Command (US SOCOM) at MacDill AFB, FL.

After serving 4 years with the USAF, LCDR Geraghty transferred to Florida Army National Guard (FL ANG) and was assigned to Headquarters Company 53<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, Fort Homer Hesterly in Tampa, FL. LCDR Geraghty was designated as 11B10 Infantryman and later as a 95B20 Military Policeman. He was assigned as a Heavy Weapons Squad Leader and attended the Non-Commissioned Officer Primary Leadership Development Course.

After serving 2 years with the FL ANG, LCDR Geraghty transferred to the US Coast Guard and went to Recruit Training in Cape May, NJ (his 3<sup>rd</sup> Boot Camp!) LCDR Geraghty was assigned to the mighty USCGC MACKINAW (WAGB-83) in Cheboygan, MI. He qualified as Helm, Lookout, Boatswain's Mate of the Watch, and Anchor Detail, attended Emergency Medical Technician School, and qualified as Small Boat Crewman.

LCDR Geraghty advanced to Boatswain's Mate Third Class and transferred to US Coast Guard Station Sandy Hook in Highlands, NJ. He qualified as a 41' UTB/44' MLB/19'-21' RHIB/35' LARC Coxswain and served as a Maritime Law Enforcement Boarding Officer.

As a Boatswain's Mate First Class, LCDR Geraghty transferred to the pre-commissioning Detachment US Coast Guard Port Security Unit 308, Gulfport, MS. He stood up the PRECOMDET and qualified as a 25' Transportable Port Security Boat Tactical Coxswain and 42' Deployable Pursuit Boat Coxswain. Additionally, he deployed as member of Exercise Control Group (OPFOR) ISO Operation Foul Eagle, Pohang, Republic of Korea and to Dominican Republic/Haiti ISO Operation Frontier Shield.

LCDR Geraghty completed his Associate Degree, attended Officer Candidate School and completed Naval Flight Training.

Following flight school, LCDR Geraghty was assigned to Air Station Miami where he flew the HH-65A and HH-65B helicopters. He served as the Communications Officer, Ground Safety Officer, and Rotary-Wing Safety Officer.

In 2005, LCDR Geraghty transferred to his 11<sup>th</sup> military unit, Air Station Traverse City. He qualified as an HH/MH-65C Flight Examiner and served as the Flight Safety Officer, Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Officer, Homeland Security/Law Enforcement Officer, Facilities Engineering Officer, and Command Security Officer. LCDR Geraghty conducted 3 Commandant Mishap Analysis Boards and protected the citizens of the Great Lakes for 6 years.

LCDR Geraghty has been awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, various other personal and unit awards to include the...





Photo Release

Date: May 13, 2011  
Contact: Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office  
(216) 902-6020

**PHOTOS: Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City holds change-of-command ceremony**

Click the photos to obtain high-resolution versions.



**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** - Coast Guard Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner (left) and Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella (right) shake hands during a ceremony at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City May 13, 2011, at which Spaner transferred command of the air station to Buzzella.

Spaner was the air station's commanding officer for the previous two years and is departing to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management in Cambridge, Mass.

Photo courtesy of Jan Edman



**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** - Coast Guard Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner holds his daughter after returning from his last helicopter flight as the commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City May 12, 2011.

Spaner, who has been the commanding officer for two years, transferred command of the air station to Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella during a ceremony there May 13, 2011.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class April Caverly

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** - With family and friends, as well as members of the community, looking on, Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner transferred command of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City to another Coast Guard aviator today during a ceremony at the air station.

The traditional change-of-command ceremony, presided over by Rear Adm. Michael Parks, commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District, culminated with Spaner transferring command to Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella, the new commanding officer.

Spaner is a Cum Laude graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., where he served as regimental commander. He holds a master's degree in management from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., and is a distinguished graduate from U.S. Naval Pilot Training in Pensacola, Fla.

His prior operational assignments include Coast Guard air stations in Sacramento, Calif., Clearwater, Fla., and Astoria, Ore., where he held qualifications as an instructor pilot in the HC-130H Hercules aircraft and aircraft commander in the HH-60J Jayhawk helicopter.

Spaner is departing to attend the MIT Sloan Fellows Program in Innovation and Global Leadership at Cambridge, Mass., where he will be studying to receive a masters degree in business administration.

In attendance at the ceremony were Spaner's wife, Laura, his two young children, their nanny Elise, and his "little brother" from the Big Brother's Program.

Spaner enjoyed his two-year tour in Traverse City but said it went by too fast.

"I am exceptionally humbled to have served as a commanding officer in the United States military," Spaner said. "There is no one on earth who really deserves the privilege of leading so many accomplished people - no one. But, as a team, we worked well together, and I will always remember this opportunity as the highest professional privilege of my lifetime."

Buzzella is reporting from Air Station San Francisco, Calif., where he served as the unit's executive officer, or

second in command, and an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter pilot.

Change-of-command ceremonies are time-honored traditions deeply rooted in American military history. The event signifies a total transfer of responsibility, authority and accountability for the command in Traverse City from Spaner to Buzzella. The ceremony is attended by all members of the unit so they witness the transfer of leadership firsthand. Several family members, community leaders and friends of the commanders will also be in attendance.

For further media inquiries, please contact the Air Station Traverse City public affairs officer at (231) 922-8273.

###

Homeland Security United States Coast Guard *Semper Paratus*

*U.S. Coast Guard Air Station  
Traverse City, Michigan  
Change of Command  
Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr.  
relieves  
Commander Jonathan S. Spaner*

*May 13, 2011*







## COMMANDER

### JOSEPH R. BUZZELLA, JR.

Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr. hails from Miami, Florida. After completing Coast Guard Basic Training at Cape May, New Jersey in 1986, he was assigned to Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, Florida. He is a 1988 graduate of the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) and a 1992 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Management and an officer commission.

Following graduation from the Coast Guard Academy, CDR Buzzella served as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the USCGC Spencer and USCGC Vindicator. Upon completion of U.S. Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida, he was designated a Coast Guard Aviator in 1996. He then reported to Coast Guard Air Station Miami, Florida where he flew the HH-65A Dauphin Helicopter and later the HU-25A Falcon Jet where he maintained a dual airframe qualification conducting search and rescue, alien migrant interdictions, and counter drug missions. In 2000, he was assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, Massachusetts where he flew HU-25A Falcon Jets conducting search and rescue and New England fisheries enforcement missions. In 2005, he was assigned under the Department of Homeland Security Chief Financial Officer in Washington D.C., where he served as an Assistant Director & Budget Program Reviewer providing oversight of more than \$26 billion in annual appropriations. In 2007, he was assigned to Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco, California where he held the positions of Operations Officer and Executive Officer.

CDR Buzzella has accumulated over 3000 flight hours. He has held Instructor Pilot ratings in both the HU-25A and MH-65C aircraft and an Airborne Use of Force Aircraft Commander designation in the MH-65C helicopter. He also holds FAA fixed and rotary wing airline transport pilot credentials.

CDR Buzzella holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University and a Master of Science in Quality Systems Management with a Specialization in Homeland Security from the National Graduate School. He is a former Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Public Service Fellow.

CDR Buzzella is married to the former Patty Spanier. She is a school teacher and they are the proud parents of three children – daughters, Lauren and Maegan, and son, Joey.

## CGAS TRAVERSE CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From 2009 to 2011, Air Station Traverse City unwaveringly responded to all calls for assistance, prosecuting 341 SAR cases and saving or assisting 45 lives. The highlight of this period was a demanding three month stretch in which Traverse City maintained B0 crews at Traverse City and AIRFAC Waukegan, while deploying a five member crew and one Air Operations Officer in support of Deepwater Horizon pollution response. While deployed to Deepwater Horizon, crews flew 90 sorties totaling 167.1 flight hours. To facilitate this demanding period, unit personnel provided unmatched logistical and administrative support. In 2010, the Engineering Department successfully transitioned five new MH-65C helicopters to the Air Station while maintaining an aircraft availability rate of over 80%. This is one of the highest availability rates amongst all H65 units. The Medical Department maintained Physical, Immunization, and Dental Readiness scores well above 95% while maintaining healthcare for six additional Commands and providing medical supplies for all of the Ninth District. The Facilities Engineering Department completed a ramp reinforcement and resurfacing project as well as maintained the entire 40 year old complex in pristine condition for thousands of visitors during two National Cherry Festivals and one Community Open House which drew a record-breaking 2000 plus community attendees. The Supply Department expertly administered a \$1.9M annual budget while attaining spend down rates and budget metric scores among the highest in the Area. The Administration Department executed over 7,500 error-free personnel and pay transactions, providing flawless support for Active Duty, Reserve, and Retired service members from both the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense. Finally, the unit was involved with over 30 community events to celebrate the service of Veterans to our Nation.





PAKISTAN MOURNS FOR 66 KILLED IN ATTACK BY TALIBAN. PAGE 6A



High: 57 Low: 43  
Page 8B

TRAVERSE CITY  
**RECORD EAGLE**

2010 MPA NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

**SATURDAY**

75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.75 SUNDAY

May 14, 2011

COAST GUARD  
**TC station changes face of command**

*Ceremony bids farewell to Spaner, says hello to Buzzella*

BY JAMES RUSSELL  
jrussell@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — It's difficult to fill a Coast Guard hangar with people, but Traverse City made it look easy for departing Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner. Residents, government officials, veterans, law enforcement, tribal members, school administrators, students — even two kayakers whose lives were saved by Air Station Traverse City — gathered Friday to celebrate

View an online photo gallery at [www.record-eagle.com/photogalleries](http://www.record-eagle.com/photogalleries).



From left, Cmdr. Thomas McDevitt, Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella Jr., Rear Adm. Michael Parks and Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner salute during Friday's Change of Command Ceremony at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City.

Homeland Security United States Coast Guard  
U.S. Coast Guard Air Station  
Traverse City, Michigan  
Change of Command  
Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr.  
relieves  
Commander Jonathan S. Spaner



May 13, 2011



**COMMANDER  
JOSEPH R. BUZZELLA, JR.**

Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr. hails from Miami, Florida. After completing Coast Guard Basic Training at Cape May, New Jersey in 1986, he was assigned to Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, Florida. He is a 1988 graduate of the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) and a 1992 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Management and an officer commission.

Following graduation from the Coast Guard Academy, CDR Buzzella served as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the USCGC Spencer and USCGC Vindicator. Upon completion of U.S. Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida, he was designated a Coast Guard Aviator in 1996. He then reported to Coast Guard Air Station Miami, Florida where he flew the HH-65A Dauphin Helicopter and later the HU-25A Falcon Jet where he maintained a dual airframe qualification conducting search and rescue, alien migrant interdictions, and counter drug missions. In 2000, he was assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, Massachusetts where he flew HU-25A Falcon Jets conducting search and rescue and New England fisheries enforcement missions. In 2005, he was assigned under the Department of Homeland Security Chief Financial Officer in Washington D.C., where he served as an Assistant Director & Budget Program Reviewer providing oversight of more than \$26 billion in annual appropriations. In 2007, he was assigned to Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco, California where he held the positions of Operations Officer and Executive Officer.

CDR Buzzella has accumulated over 3000 flight hours. He has held Instructor Pilot ratings in both the HU-25A and MH-65C aircraft and an Airborne Use of Force Aircraft Commander designation in the MH-65C helicopter. He also holds FAA fixed and rotary wing airline transport pilot credentials.

CDR Buzzella holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University and a Master of Science in Quality Systems Management with a Specialization in Homeland Security from the National Graduate School. He is a former Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Public Service Fellow.

CDR Buzzella is married to the former Patty Spaner. She is a school teacher and they are the proud parents of three children — daughters, Lauren and Maegan, and son, Joey.

**GUARD**  
*Buzzella relieves Spaner of Traverse City command*

FROM PAGE 1A

Spaner's two-year stint here.

Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella Jr. replaced Spaner on Friday in a Change of Command ceremony.

"It's hard to look out in the audience because I know every single person in here, for the most part," Spaner said.

Spaner, who headed Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City since June 2009, is moving to Cambridge, Mass., where he'll be a full-time graduate student at MIT's Sloan School of Management. He will be studying for a master's in business administration through the MIT Sloan Fellows Program.

Spaner said he encouraged three things when he arrived in Traverse City: Think big, act courageously, and take care of families. He said he's seen all three in his time here.

One of the "big" accomplishments was an agreement between the Coast Guard and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to solidify the two groups' long-term relationship.

The "memorandum of understanding" signed in January encourages the tribe and Coast Guard to take part in each other's events to provide "mutual education" and to combine forces on community service projects.

"It is an honor to call you friends," said Spaner, speaking to tribal members.

"There's not another one in Indian country as specific as that (agreement)," Tribal Chairman Derek Bailey said.

"It goes beyond simple air support to a full collaborative effort for cultural awareness and understanding ... It was Spaner's vision that brought that forward."

Speaking about courage, Spaner recalled the rescue of two stranded kayakers on Lake Superior. Robert Beltram and Judith Gottlieb were carrying personal locator devices when their kayak



Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella, Jr., left, and Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner inspect the troops as part of U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City's Change of Command ceremony Friday.



Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner, left, and Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella Jr. shake hands as Rear Adm. Michael Parks applauds.

capsized in September 2010, and a helicopter crew from Air Station Traverse City plucked them to safety. Gottlieb and Beltram attended Friday's event and thanked Spaner for the station's efforts. Spaner read from a song Gottlieb wrote about the incident, which ended with "thank you for our lives, yes, thank you for our lives."

Spaner thanked Traverse City for taking care of the Coast Guard families, and said he was honored to be a part of the community. He was a Big Brother to a Traverse Heights Elementary student, and under his leadership, the Air Station launched a volunteer program with the school. "It's just been one more positive connection with

adults for these kids," said Principal Nathan Brush. Coast Guard members come to the school weekly, a visit Brush said is highly anticipated by the kids. Rear Adm. Michael Parks, who commands the Ninth Coast Guard District, listed other accomplishments of Air Station Traverse City under Spaner's command. Ten station members received

master's degrees from the National Graduate School; five air crews were deployed to respond to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; and crews aided Red River flood victims last month, saving two lives.

"It's great when you can hire for talent one of those leaders who actually gets it done," said Parks. "That is Jon Spaner."

Programs like the Traverse Heights efforts and the agreement with the tribe are expected to continue under Buzzella's leadership. He is relocating to Michigan from California, where he was executive officer at Air Station San Francisco.

Buzzella said it's a dream assignment, not because of the beautiful setting, but "because of the consistently positive testimonials of Coast Guard shipmates who have served this station."

"I'm taking command of an air station that is healthy," he said. "The air crews are proficient and they're ready for the call."

A visibly emotional Spaner said he was honored to serve as commander.

"There's no one on Earth who deserves leading a group of such accomplished people," he said.







Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella, the new Commander of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, is joined by Rear Adm. Michael Parks and outgoing Cmdr. Jonathan Spaner at the traditional change-of-command ceremony. Photo by Rick Coates.



# Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial

"2011 SPECIAL CELEBRATION"



Phagna Damrong Ritthikay Touby LYFOUNG

"Phagna Damrong Ritthikay Touby LYFOUNG (1917-1979) yog thawj tug Hmoob tau qhib kev txawj nse rau Haiv Neeg Hmoob, thiab tau rub Hmoob thiab txhua txhua Pawg Neeg Yau hauv Los Tsuas Teb nrog luag muaj cai ua tswv teb tswv chaw hauv Daim Av Los Tsuas".

"Phagna Damrong Ritthikay Touby LYFOUNG (1917-1979) was the first Hmong political leader who achieved national recognition, opened the doors to public education and knowledge for the Hmong people, and fought all his life for the integration and the civil rights of all ethnic minorities in the Lao Nation".

"Phagna Damrong Ritthikay Touby LYFOUNG (1917-1979) était le premier leader politique Hmong qui a ouvert la porte de l'instruction publique et du savoir au peuple Hmong, et qui s'est battu, les années durant, pour l'intégration et l'égalité de toutes les minorités ethniques dans la Nation Lao".

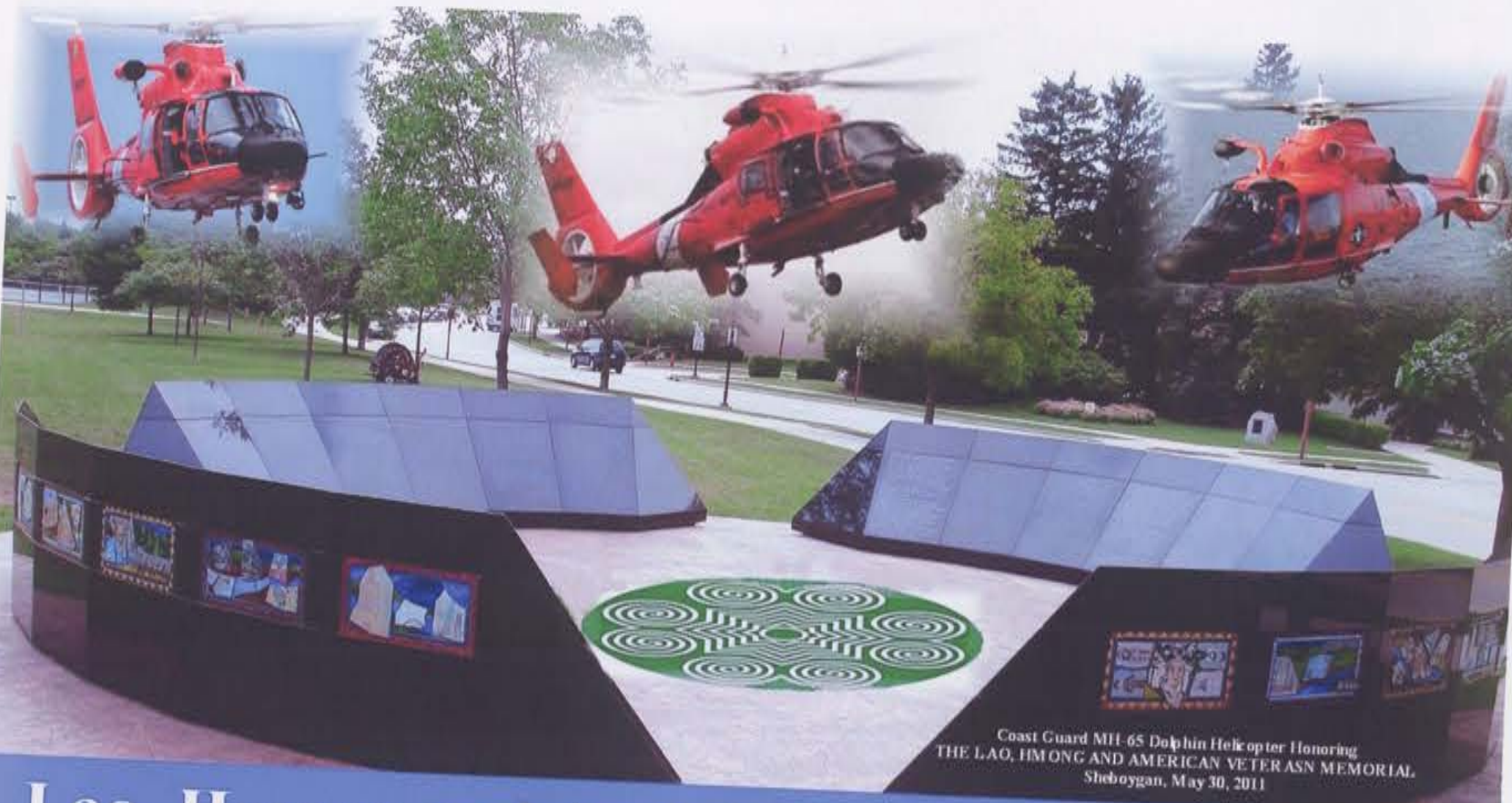
## MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Deland Park, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA

e-mail: [www.laohmongsmemorial.com](http://www.laohmongsmemorial.com)

"BE PART OF SOMETHING MONUMENTAL"



Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter Honoring THE LAO, HMONG AND AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL, Sheboygan, May 30, 2011

# Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial

Deland Park, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA

Dedicated July 15, 2006



## TODAY'S PROGRAMS:

### 5th YEAR CELEBRATION

EEMCEE: Cher Lue Yang, Past president of Hmong Mutual Assistance Association of Sheboygan.

**11: 30 a.m.**

- ❖ Presentation and Posting of Colors
  - ❖ National Anthem
  - ❖ Invocation
  - ❖ Cultural Show
  - ❖ Dedication of Touby LYFOUNG's panel
  - ❖ Cultural Show
  - ❖ Introduction of Guest of Honors
  - ❖ Welcome Remarks
  - ❖ Welcome by city of Sheboygan
  - ❖ Welcome remarks by USNV
  - ❖ Welcome Hmong SGU Veterans
  - ❖ Dedication Remarks
  - ❖ Cultural show
  - \* Helicopter Fly-Over
  - ❖ Wreath Presentation
  - ❖ Retrieving of Colors
- \* SGU Color Guards
  - \* Ms Kao Zhong Xiong & Ja Xiong
  - \* Deacon Michael Burg
  - \* Hmong Dancers: *Pab Ntxhais Npauj npsaim*  
*Chanlee Lee, Doris Lee, Hrou Vue, Lynn Lee, May Paying Lee, Talee Vue.*
  - \* Former SGU Capt. Cha Yeng Lee & 18 Clan Council president Wa Meng Yang
  - \* Hmong Youth Qeej Players  
*Tom Chang, Vichai Chang, Long Chang, Seng Chang*
  - \* MC: Cher Lue Yang
  - \* LHAVM Chairman – Mr. Xia Vue Yang
  - \* Sheboygan City Mayor Bob Ryan
  - \* Lt. Commader Ronald Roen, USN Ret.
  - \* LT. Neng Fong Vang, SGU T-28 Pilot
  - \* Mr. Tou Xoua LYFOUNG from France
  - \* Hmong Dancers: *Pab Ntxhais Puav Pheej*  
*Sunshine Lee, Jessica Lee, Emily Yang, Soeda Yang*
  - \* Around 12:30 pm, USCG MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter fly-over the Memorial
  - \* Lao & Hmong SGU wreath presentation
  - \* Touby LYFOUNG wreath presentation
  - \* MIA/KIA & TAPS Music
  - \* Gun Salute to the MIA/KIA veterans
  - \* SGU Color Guards

**1:00 p.m.**

**SGU Veterans Lunch- All are invited**

#### Special Celebration Committee:

Chairman: Thomas T. Lee  
Members: Xia Vue Yang, Yang Houa Lee, Dr. Blong Lee, Cha Yeng Lee, Wa Choua Yang, LHAVM Committee, Lee Family Organization, Inc.

## BIOGRAPHY

Phagna Damrong Ritthikay Touby LYFOUNG

By: *Tou Xoua LYFOUNG*

Touby LYFOUNG was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> month of 1917 in De Mua Tha village, near the big rocky mountain Pha Pheung, Tasseng of Phak Bun, District of Nong Het, Muang of Muang Kham of the province of Xienkhouang, Laos.

His father, LY Xiafoung was a farmer and a tradesman. He also handles the position of secretary of Kiatong LO Bliayao, Tasseng of Keng Khuai. When LO Bliayao passed away in 1935, and after his eldest son LO Chongtou resigned from the position later for health problem, the French then assigned LY Xiafoung as Tasseng of Keng Khuai. LY Xiafong passed away in October 1939 at the age of 52. He had four wives, Mrs. YANG Va, Mrs. LO Mai, Mrs. KU Choua and Mrs. VANG No.

Mr.Touby's mother was the second wife of LY Xiafoung LO May who was one of Mr. Kiatong LO Bliayao's daughters. She had 2 children, a son LY Touby and a girl, LY Maosong. Mrs Maosong LYFOUNG was Major VANG Neng's mother. LY Xiafoung's wife, Mrs. LO May died in 1923.

Touby Lyfoung first attended school in 1924 in the class room built by his father next to his own house in Dej Mua Da. The teacher was a retired Lao teacher Khampha from Muangkham.

In 1930 Mr.Touby LYFOUNG went to school in the town of Xiangkhouang where he completed elementary School in 1934. In 1935, he went to Vientiane for his junior High School, but got to go back home for health issue. After recovering, Mr.Touby LYFOUNG decided to attend school in Vinh town in Vietnam with his younger brother Mr.Tougeu LYFOUNG instead of Vientiane. He stayed four years in Vinh then returned home to help his father to take care of the family and dealing with the local Hmong issues in 1939. Unfortunately Mr.Touby LYFOUNG's father LY Xiafoung passed away in October 1939 before he could settle the Hmong issue. The French Governor then assigned Mr.Touby LYFOUNG to the position of Tasseng of Keng Khuai as this position was disputed between the LY and the LO clans. In 1940, Mr. Touby LYFOUNG obtained from French and Lao Administration to send a teacher and create the first school in the Hmong village as he believed that education was the best way to promote and contribute Hmong people to share the management of the country and to get better life in the Lao society.

In 1945, the Japanese and the French began to fight in Laos. Being grateful to the King of the Kingdom of Laos who had accepted the Hmong to settle in his country, Mr. Touby LYFOUNG decided to help the French and the King of Laos. The Japanese then looked to arrest Touby with some Hmong people. Mr. Touby LYFOUNG had to hide his family in the jungle with the help of many LY family members and fight back the Japanese. Mr. Touby LYFOUNG's first wife, Mrs Yang Youa passed away in the jungle.

Following the atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan formally surrendered and quit Laos but gave their weapons to the rising Vietnamese communist organization the Vietminh. The French Indochina War began. Mr. Touby LYFOUNG then again chose the Free World side and fought against the Communist and asked the Hmong people to stand with the King of Laos and the French.







Individuals and Organizations who have contributed financial support  
to engrave Phagna Damrong Ritthikay Touby LYFOUNG  
onto the **Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial**

**Individuals Contributors:**

Ger Lee-Treasure  
Blong Lee-Qhua Vaj  
Chong Vue Ly  
Christopher Yang-Vice  
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Doua Pao Lor--Advisor  
Fai Dang Lee  
Gary Chang  
Jou Hawj Lee-Board  
Kevin Yang  
Khab Lis  
Kim Lee-Chong Moua Lee  
Mai V. Yang--Secretary  
Muaj Vam Lee-Leader of Sheboygan  
Nao Sue Chang--Advisor  
Nhia Koua Lee  
Nhia Pao Thao  
Niam Khab Lis  
Niam Npis Xyooj  
Niam Vam Nplooj Lis  
Npis Xyooj  
Ntaj Lis-Nyiaj Tsab  
Ntsuab Lauj Lis  
Ntsuab Vaj Tsab  
Ntxoov Kiam Muas  
Ntxoov Pheej Lis  
Nyiaj Ntxawg Lis  
Shuameng Yang-Board  
Tong Ge Lee  
Tong Yia Lee  
Tshua Phiab Lis  
Tswv Pov Lis  
Tswv Tub Lis  
Txawj Pov Tsab-Board  
Txoov Teev Lis  
Txwj Pov Lis  
Vam Ceeb Lis-Secretary  
Vam Nplooj Lis  
Wa Ger Lee  
Xia Vang-Board  
Xue Vang-Board  
Xyooj Lis  
Yaj Ntsuab Pov Lis  
Yang Vue-Board  
Zeb Lauj-Board

**General Businesses:**

Greater Insurance-Sheboygan-Tommy Lee  
Hmong ABC-Book Store-Minnesota-Yue Pheng Xiong  
Hmong Quality Home Care-Wausau-Chue Neng Lee  
Sky Video-Minnesota-Eng-Yang  
TCL Supermarket-Sheboygan- Tooj Xeeb Lis  
Universal Home Health Care, Inc-Sheboygan-  
Thomas Txoos Teem Lis & Joshua Txawj Tuam Lis

**18 Clan Council of Wisconsin:**

Bee Xiong-Vice- Chief Clan  
Charles Hang- State Chief Clan  
Fong Xai Pao Chang- State Chief Clan  
Houa Vang Yang-Secretary of 18 Clan  
Neng Chue Thao- State Chief Clan  
Nom Suav Xyooj- State Chief Clan  
Pa Cha Lor- State Chief Clan  
Tshuas Dawb Muas- State Chief Clan  
Vam Meej Yaj- Exec Officer President  
Wa Seng Lee- Exec Pres State Advisor  
Yer Thao Yang- Exec Officer VP

**Radio Supporters:**

Hmongworld Radio- Sheboygan, WI- Vam-Yaj Lis  
Hmong Wisconsin Radio-Appleton, WI- Kor Xiong  
Long Cheng Radio-St. Paul, MN- Tzeng Zoo Yang  
Suab Hmong Radio-Milwaukee, WI- Richard Walue Vang  
Suab Hmong Sheboygan, WI- Txhiaj Vwj Yaj  
Wisconsin Public Radio-Green Bay, WI- Txawj Xauv Thoj

**Professional Businesses:**

Dr. Cha Lee-MD, Lee Clinic of Milwaukee  
Dr. Thai Lee, Chiropractic  
Dr. Long Lee-DDS-Milwaukee  
Dr. John Lee-PhD, Education, Sheboygan School District  
Dr. Jer Lee-Chiro-Health, St. Paul, MN  
Dr. Choua Lee, Chiropractic GreenBay

*Yog peb ho ntawv tsis tau leej  
twg npe, thov zam txim. Hais  
qhia peb paub. Peb mam li  
ntxiv rau nyob hauv Vaj Loog  
Zeb lub tsev vas hany tshuab  
ldwb hlau. Ua tsang*

Individuals who have contributed financial support to engrave  
Phagna Damrong Ritthikay Touby LYFOUNG  
onto the **Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial**

Alex Xiong	Niam Neeb Lis	Niam Wattzai Lis	Tswv Looj Lis
Bao Yang	Niam Nkias Pov Lis	Niam Xaiv Pov Lis	Tswv Vaj Lis
Caiv Vuab Lis	Niam Nom Lis	Niam Xob Lis	Tuam Lis
Cua Xyooj	Niam Nom Tub Yaj	Niam Yaj Huas Lis	Tub Lis
Dr. Chava Lis	Niam Npawv Lis	Niam Yaj Neeb Yaj	Tub Npis Yaj
Dr. Douglas Vwj	Niam Npliaj Yaj Lis	Niam Ywj Pheej Yaj	Txawj Lwm Yaj
Dr. Xab Xiong	Niam Npuag Txoov Xyooj	Niam Zam Teev Lis	Txawj Pov Tsab
Dut Light Lis	Niam Ntsuab Vws Lis	Niam Zam Yeeb Yaj	Txhiaj Vwj Yaj
Elena Xyooj	Niam Ntxoov Yeeb Yaj	Nkias Pov Lis	Txiaj Lwm Lis
Emily Xyooj	Niam Nyiaj Leej Lis	Nom Lis	Txiaj Vaj Lis
Foom Lis	Niam Nyiaj Ntxawg Lis	Nom Tub Yaj	Tooj Yias Lis
Huam Vam Lis	Niam Nyiaj Pov Lis	Nom Xyooj Lis	Txooj Lauj Lis
Hwj Lis	Niam Phiab Vwj	Nom Yeej Lis	Txooj Neeb Lis
Jaemin Yaj	Niam Phooj Lis	Npliaj Yaj Lis	Vaj Muas Lis
Kiab Yaj	Niam Qhua Pov Lis	Ntsuab Vaj Yaj	Vaj Pov Xyooj
Koob Meej Yaj	Niam Rauj Lis	Ntxoov Pov Lis	Vaj Txoos Yaj
Koob Yaj	Niam Thoj Pov Vaj	Ntxoov Yeeb Lis	Vam Thoj Lis
Kuam Neeb Xyooj	Niam Thoj Tsab	Nyiaj Leej Lis	Vam Tsua Yaj
Kuam Yaj	Niam Txoos Teem Lis	Nyiaj Pov Lis	Vam Txawj Tuam Lis
Lauj Fwm Yaj	Niam Thoob Vaj	Paj Lug Xyooj	Vam Yis Lis
Maiv Huas Lis	Niam Tommy Lis	Phiab Vwj	Vws Yaj
Maiv Lis	Niam Tooj Kub Lis	Phooj Lis	Xaiv Pov Lis
Maiv Lis Vaj	Niam Tsav Vaj Lis	Pov Lis	Xaiv Tuam Xyooj
Meej Thoj	Niam Tsav Yeej Lis	Qhua Nruas Lis	Xaiv Zeb Lis
Moos Lis	Niam Tswb Leej Yaj	Rauj Lis	Xees Lis
Nchaiv Kos Yaj	Niam Tswb Neeb Lis	Richard Lis	Xob Lis
Neeb Lis	Niam Tswv Looj Lis	Suab Noog Lis	Xyooj Lis
Neej Vaj Lis	Niam Tswv Vaj Lis	Thoj Pov Vaj	Xyooj Yaj
Niam Dr. Blong Lis	Niam Txawj Lwm Yaj	Thoj Tsab	Yaj Huas Lis
Niam Dr. Chava Lis	Niam Txawj Pov Tsab	Thoob Vaj	Yaj Neeb Yaj
Niam Dr. Douglas Vwj	Niam Txhiaj Vwj Yaj	Tommy Lis	Ywj Pheej Yaj
Niam Dr. John Lis	Niam Txiaj Lwm Lis	Tooj Kub Lis	Zam Teev Lis
Niam Dut Light Lis	Niam Txooj Lauj Lis	Tsav Tub Lis	Zam Vaj Lis
Niam Foom Lis	Niam Txooj Neeb Lis	Tsav Vaj Lis	Zam Yeeb Yaj
Niam Hawj Xeeb Lis	Niam Vaj Muas Lis	Tsav Yeej Lis	Zoov Neeb Lis
Niam Huaj Vam Lis	Niam Vam Thoj Lis	Tsbeej Lauj	
Niam Hwj Lis	Niam Vam Txawj Tuam Lis	Tswb Leej Yaj	
Niam Koob Meej Yaj	Niam Vam Yee Lis	Tswb Neeb Lis	
Niam Meej Thoj	Niam Vws Yaj	Tswb Vaj	
Niam Moos Lis			
Niam Nchaiv Kos Yaj			





June 8, 2011

United States Coast Guard  
Air Station Traverse City  
ATTN: Public Affairs Officer  
LT Karyn Forsyth  
1175 Airport Access Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686

Dear LT Forsyth:

On behalf of the citizens of Sheboygan I would like to thank you for your support in the organization and implementation of the MH-65 Dolphin flyover of Deland Park in Sheboygan, Wisconsin on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

As we gathered to honor those who died for our country we also celebrated the newest addition to the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial at Deland Park, along Sheboygan's lakefront. During the two-hour ceremony a granite panel was unveiled to celebrate the life of Touby Lyfoung, a man who championed civil rights and education for the Hmong people. It was during the ceremony that the U.S. Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter made its impressive appearance, flying low through the foggy skies.

Your unselfish act of kindness in fulfilling this flyover request has once again made this a very special Memorial Day for the citizens of our community.

Sincerely,

Robert Ryan  
Mayor

OFFICE OF MAYOR

CITY HALL  
828 CENTER AVE., SUITE 301  
SHEBOYGAN, WI  
53081-4495

920/459-3317  
FAX 920/459-0256



**Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial**

Mailing Address: 2022 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081  
Telephone: (920) 946-0467 Fax: (920) 457-4188  
Email: [xiavue@hmongunionmarket.com](mailto:xiavue@hmongunionmarket.com)  
Website: <http://www.laohmongsveteransmemorial.com>

Sheboygan, June 5, 2011

**LCDR Mark Graboski**  
USCG Air Station Traverse City  
Asst. Operations Officer  
1175 Airport Access Road  
Traverse City, MI 48686

Dear LCDR Mark graboski:

On Memorial Day celebration, I have had the opportunity to work with LTCMD Ronald Roen and with the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City for the MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter flyover the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial in Deland Park, Sheboygan at 12:30 PM. The people on the ground did enjoy the short time sight of the helicopter despite the dispersed clouds that shadowed the Memorial during the fly-over.

I just want to say a big thank you to all military personnel involved in making this Memorial Day one to remember! Thank you for your continued service too.

Attached is a picture of the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial that was built in Sheboygan, dedicated in 2006.

Very respectfully,

Vue X. Yang  
Chairman, Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin  
2022 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
Cel. (920) 946-0467  
Email: [www.xiavue@hmongunionmarket.com](mailto:www.xiavue@hmongunionmarket.com)

Sponsors & Supporters:

HMAA, Board of Directors

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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Vue X. Yang, Co-Chairman  
Mark C. Hanna, Treasurer  
Steven E. Jaeger  
Michael J. Burg  
Karl Byrand  
Sherril Byrand  
Ber W. Lee  
Mary Lynne Donahue  
Steven R. Schofield

ORIGINAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS:

Cold War Veterans Association of Wisconsin  
Polish Legion of American Veterans, Post 214  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapters 324 & 731  
AMVETS, Post 99  
Air Commando Association  
Special Forces Association, Great Lakes Chapter 73  
American Legion, Post #1  
Air America Association  
Lao-Hmong American Coalition

MEMORIAL PERPETUAL CARE COMMITTEE 2011-2015:

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Nhia Bee Vue, vice-chair  
Henry B. Yang, Secretary  
Yang Houa Lee, Treasurer

Committee Members:

Cha Va Lee  
Yang Pao Yang  
Xai Pao Lee  
Steven R. Schofield  
Tim C. Hall  
Cha Yeng Lee  
Michael Burg  
Cher Lue Yang  
Neng Vang Lee  
Cha Va Yang  
Mark Hanna  
Terry Van Akkeren

Advisors:

Mary Lynne Donahue, Atty  
Hauy C (Houa) Moua, SGTU Ret.

June 6, 2011

Dear LT Forsyth,

Thanks to you and all involved for arranging for an MH-65 Dolphin and crew to support a Memorial Day event with an impressive flyover of Deland Park in Sheboygan, WI.

Without the direct support of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City Michigan's Assistant Operations Officer (LCDR Mark Graboski) and you, the MH-65 Dolphin helicopter flyover during the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony to Phagna Damrong Ritthikay Touby LYFOUNG would not have been possible. I have never seen a more thankful group of people as those assembled for this event. I have included picture DVDs and video DVDs for distribution to crew and others as you feel appropriate.

Waukegan, IL-based Coast Guard Air Facility Aircraft Commander (LT Dave Ober) contacted me the morning of the event and provided UHF frequency to facilitate communications from the ground as well as verified primary flyover point. It was very kind of LT Ober to make 3 passes which thrilled the crowd. In addition to LT Ober's efforts, everyone was grateful for the support from Lieutenant Junior Grade Matt Krueger (Co-Pilot), Aviation Survival Technician First Class Kevin Ott and Aviation Maintenance Technician Second Class Josh Tjader. Josh opened the door and saluted in memory of the late-Army SSG Amy Krueger. As you know, Amy was from Kiel and made the ultimate sacrifice during the Fort Hood shooting massacre. Class act by the USCG!

During the ceremony, I mentioned the role of all USCG personnel involved. Sheboygan Mayor, Bob Ryan, spoke with and thanked the crew via UHF radio for their superlative support despite the weather.

According to the event sponsor, 280 people attended the Memorial Celebration and the dedication of the Phagna Touby Lyfoung's panel. Please see the link below and other contents I am forwarding to you.

<http://www.sheboyganpress.com/article/20110531/SHED101/105310364/Sheboygan-honors-those-who-died-their-country?odyssey=tab|topnews|img|FRONTPAGE>

Thanks to all operations, scheduling, maintenance and administrative personnel involved in making this Memorial Day one to remember! Thanks to you and all for your continued service. I respectfully request you inform everyone involved that I am sincerely thankful for their unselfish efforts and acts of kindness, which were the highlight of this event.

Very respectfully,

Ron Roen  
Aviation Point of Contact  
LCDR, USN Ret.  
402-709-0915



# CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



Presented To

**COAST GUARD AIR STATION  
TRAVERSE CITY**

**FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT  
OF SCENIC TRAILS COUNCIL BSA TROOP 229**

Frank Dituri  
Scoutmaster

Adam Jordan  
Senior Patrol Leader

Jim Jordan  
Committee Chairman



## CITATION

Presented to

**USCG AIRSTATION TC**

*In recognition of your outstanding support and service to the  
Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Your support demonstrates your  
commitment to the positive development of American youth.  
You have earned the respect and admiration of the members of the*

*Naval Sea Cadet Corps*

*Cherry Capital Guardians*

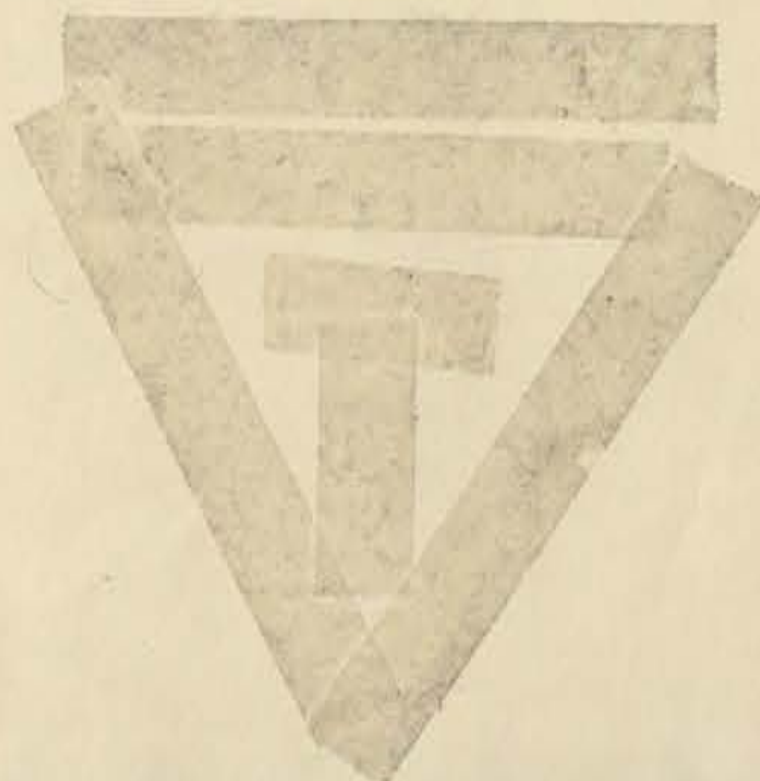
*For service and support during the year of*

**2011**

*Olw. Hosen*  
National Chairman

*Alle*  
Executive Director

NSCADM 033 (REV 07/11)





 **National Cherry Festival**  
July 2-9, 2011 



**GENERATIONS OF FUN**

[www.cherryfestival.org](http://www.cherryfestival.org)

TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN



Record-Eagle photos/Keith King  
Above, members of the United States Coast Guard Airstation Traverse City perform a demonstration over West Grand Traverse Bay on Saturday as part of the National Cherry Festival Air Show. Top right, Shannon LaClair, of Breckenridge, and her nephew, Braxton LaClair, 5, of Traverse City, watch the air show. Left, cherries from Edmondson Orchards were for sale near the Open Space on Saturday during the opening day of the National Cherry Festival.





Ninth District External Affairs  
U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



## News Release

Date: August 2, 2011  
Contact: Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office  
(216) 902-6020

### Michigan-native Coast Guardsman now serves in Traverse City *Servicemember among Great Lakes Coast Guard's 'Hometown Heroes'*

**CLEVELAND** – To commemorate the U.S. Coast Guard's 221st birthday on Thursday, the 9th Coast Guard District, headquartered here, announced today its "Great Lakes Coast Guard Hometown Heroes."

Among them is Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Jonathan B. Ardan, a Ann Arbor, Mich., native who is just one of 6,000 active-duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary Coast Guard members currently serving in the Great Lakes region.

Ardan is an aviation survival technician who currently serves at Air Station Traverse City, Mich. As an aviation survival technician, Ardan's responsibilities include inspecting, servicing, maintaining, troubleshooting and repairing various aircraft systems and equipment. As an additional qualification, Ardan serves in the aircrew position of helicopter rescue swimmer.

In July, Ardan was recognized for his performance of duty while assigned to the air station since July 2007. During his four-year tour of duty there, he accumulated more than 600 flight hours and was involved in the execution of 81 search and rescue cases, directly saving and assisting five lives.

In addition to serving the Great Lakes region, Ardan advanced his education by earning a bachelor's degree in psychology and serving as a team leader for a Quality Systems Management postgraduate program. He successfully led his team through the program and earned a Master of Science degree.

*Ardan's service to his community and his country are in keeping with the long history of Coast Guard involvement in the Great Lakes region, which dates back to the establishment of the Presque Isle Lighthouse on Lake Erie in 1819.*

*That's why he is among the 9th District's "Great Lakes Coast Guard Hometown Heroes" – Coast Guardsmen assigned near their hometowns, who have, through continuous exceptional service, demonstrated their commitment to the Coast Guard's core values: honor, respect, and devotion to duty.*

###

*Saving Lives and Guarding the Coast Since 1790.  
The United States Coast Guard – Proud History. Powerful Future.*



Ninth District External Affairs  
U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



## News Release

Date: August 26, 2011  
Contact: Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office  
(216) 902-6020

### Coast Guard aircrew from Traverse City deploys for Hurricane Irene response

**CLEVELAND** — Four Coast Guardsmen currently assigned to Air Station Traverse City, Mich., deployed to Columbia, S.C., Friday morning in preparation for Hurricane Irene emergency response.

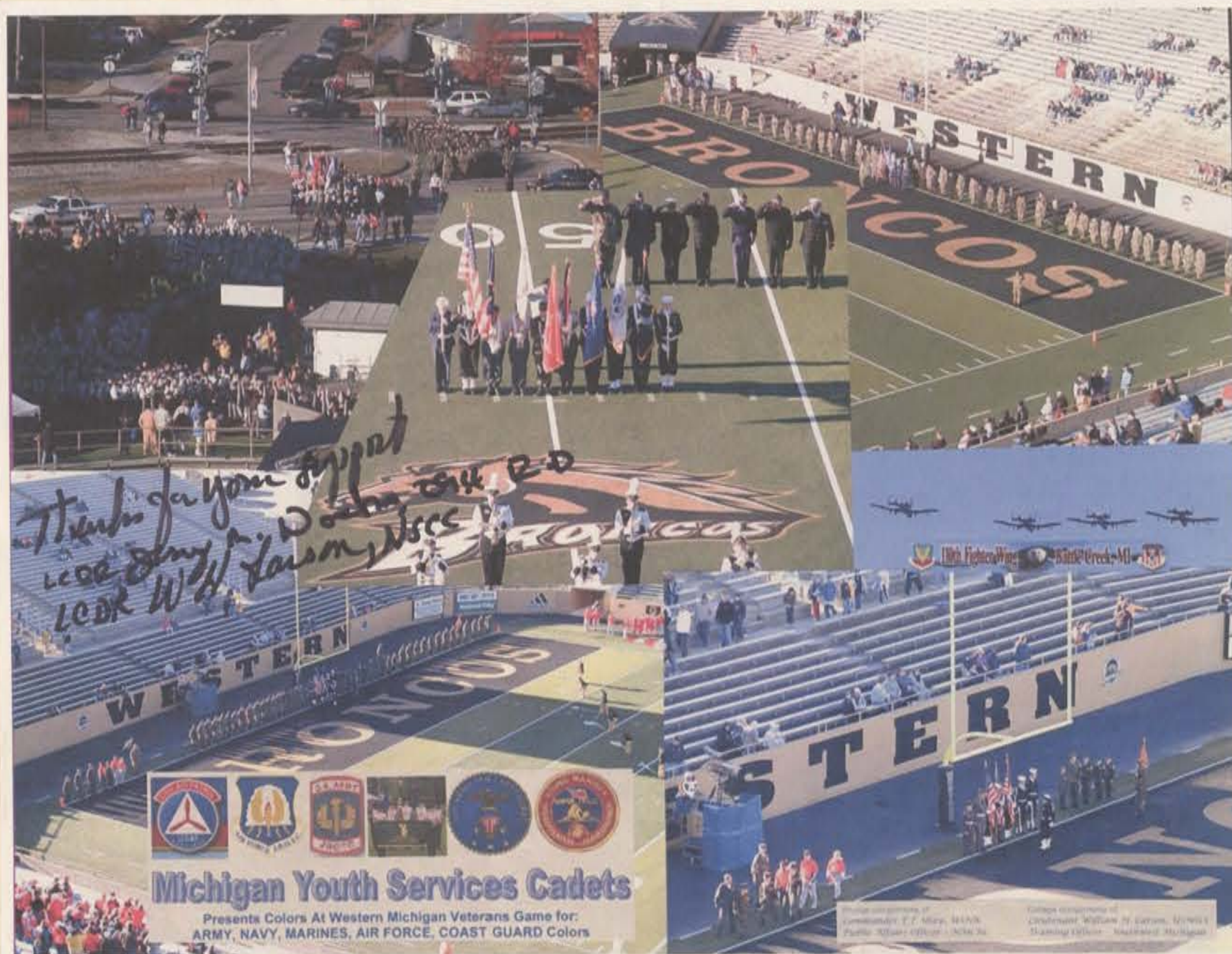
The Traverse City aircrew, along with other Coast Guard crews from around the country are mobilizing to augment local units as they prepare to conduct possible search and rescue; overflights to assess possible pollution spills or damage to waterside structures, assess any damage to ports and waterways; and otherwise assist as needed following Hurricane Irene's impact along the U.S. eastern seaboard.

"Our aircrews are trained for hurricane response and are highly proficient in conducting search and rescue" said Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella, commanding officer of Air Station Traverse City. "We're always ready to respond when called upon – anywhere, anytime."

Before mobilizing local units for this or any deployment, the Coast Guard conducts a comprehensive risk assessment to ensure that the deployment will not impact local Great Lakes response capabilities.

###

*Saving Lives and Guarding the Coast Since 1790.  
The United States Coast Guard – Proud History. Powerful Future.*





The honor of your presence is requested at:

### A Decade of Remembrance

An evening to remember those who lost their lives 10 years ago and to honor those who protect and serve our community

September 11, 2011  
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
Grand Traverse Resort  
Dinner and Key Note Speaker

Service Dress Uniform  
Civilian Guests: Business Dress

RSVP by August 31, 2011  
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# TRaverse CITY RECORD EAGLE

2010 MPA NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

September 12, 2011

MONDAY

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# WE REMEMBER



The flag flies over Sunday's ceremony at the Open Space in Traverse City, organized by the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department to mark the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks. Special to the Record-Eagle/Jim Anderson

## Tears flow at Traverse City ceremony

*'I came because I love my country'*

BY LISA PERKINS  
lperkins@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — Tears flowed freely for many who attended the Sept. 11 memorial ceremony organized by the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department on Sunday.

"My heart is always tender when it comes to remembering Sept. 11," said Mary Penny, of Acme, dressed in a T-shirt memorializing the day, 10 years ago, when terrorists attacked the United States.

"I came because I love my country," she said, surrounded by hundreds

who attended the early morning event at the Open Space.

A procession of first responders from fire and police departments across the region was followed by a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the time the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

"An attack of indescribable proportions was an attempt at creating terror and bringing us to our knees," said Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department chief Pat Parker.

"But we as a country got up off our knees," he said, before a ceremonial bell rang out in 3-4-3 cadence to honor the 343 firefighters who died at the World Trade Center.

A 21-gun salute honored the 60 fallen police officers from New York



City and the Port Authority.

"We as first responders have vowed to never forget," said Parker, noting that a steel beam from the North Tower, on display during the memorial service, serves as a constant reminder of their sacrifice.

Firefighters from the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority brought the steel artifact, made available to the Grand Traverse region by the September 11th Fam-

City and the Port Authority.

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of their sacrifice.

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ilies Association, home to Traverse City in April. A permanent public memorial is planned for the department's headquarters at Three Mile and Parsons Road.

Amy Farmer said she brought her three young children, two who weren't yet born on Sept. 11, 2001, to the memorial ceremony because she wants them to know what is going on around them and why.

"This is an important part of who we are as a country," said Farmer, of Traverse City.

Michelle Rogers, of Traverse City, said she was glad to see so many young people in attendance.

"To see them here when they have no idea what happened that day, it just really hit me," she said.



The American flag is hoisted aloft by a Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department fire engine Sunday during a Sept. 11 memorial service at the Open Space in Traverse City. Record-Eagle/Lisa Perkins

### RECORD EAGLE

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### LOTTERY

Midday dailies: 9-2-9, 0-6-6-1  
Dailies: 4-0-1, 8-7-1-3  
Fantasy 5: 06-08-11-23-29  
Keno: 07-12-13-14-16-17-18-  
24-26-30-33-37-40-42-45-47-  
48-52-57-61-62-69  
Mega Millions jackpot: \$54  
million  
Saturday's Powerball: 4-19-  
22-32-53 (24) Power Play x4  
jackpot: \$25 million

### WHAT'S INSIDE



**Nation:**  
America reflects on 9/11 and looks ahead to the future.  
Page 3A

**Sports:** The Lions beat Tampa Bay 27-20 in their fifth consecutive victory, dating to the final month of the 2010 season.  
Page 1B

**Community:** Gardens are on display at the GT Commons.  
Page 4A



### INDEX

Advice.....9A  
Classifieds.....6-9B  
Comics.....5B  
Community.....4-5A  
Obituaries.....7A  
Opinion.....6A  
Sports.....1-4B  
TV listings.....8A  
Weather.....10B  
World.....2A



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October 2011

# Sea Kayaker

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## The Tokara Islands Japan's isolated archipelago

### A Journey Like No Other

Oskar Speck's trek from Germany to Australia

### Kayak Reviews

Whisper by Current Designs

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## COAST GUARD OPENS DOORS

Record-Eagle photos/Jon-Michael Stump

Below, Gwendolyn Brush, 4, of Kingsley, covers her ears from the noise of a HH-65C Dolphin helicopter while in the arms of her father, Nathan, during a rescue demonstration at United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City's open house. Left, a crowd lines up to sit inside one of the station's helicopters in the base's hangar during the open house for the public.







Tahé Kayaks has implemented new generation Super Linear High Density Polyethylene Material for even lighter, stiffer kayaks.

## Lifestyle 420 PE

This kayak is the third and smallest PE kayak in the Tahé Marine range and is new for the 2011 season. The kayak is suitable for small to medium sized paddlers. The large cockpit provides a much easier entry and exit. The Lifestyle 420 PE is equipped with two oval hatches for easier packing and access to your equipment. The hull has been designed keeping initial stability in mind. In standard the kayak has no rudder installed but it has been designed so that it can be paddled easily without one. This is a kayak that is good for a beginner looking to start their paddling adventures!

The Lifestyle 420 PE can be ordered with the Smarttrac rudder system if required.

### SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	420 cm (16'2")
WIDTH	63 cm (24")
CAPACITY	Approx. 145 kg (320 lbs)
COCKPIT	89x46 cm (34 1/2" x 18")
WEIGHT	PE 23-25 kg (51-55 lbs)
STORAGE	Front: oval hatch 44x26 cm (17" x 10 1/4") Rear: oval hatch 44x26 cm (17" x 10 1/4")

Rudder

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## ZEGUL Baidarka

In the 1700's, Russian sailors sailing the Aleutian Islands gave this uniquely-shaped kayak the name "Baidarka" meaning "small boat". The lower portion of its' upswept bow is extremely narrow, allowing for clean entry lines, while the upper bow is fuller and wider, increasing buoyancy, causing the Baidarka to rise over the oncoming waves. Baidarkas are known for their unusually fast speed. With their Swede form shape and high volume stern they produce an incredibly high hull speed. Our Baidarka is designed for the paddler who desires a unique looking boat with performance, light weight and beauty.

*...from innovation to perfection!*

Length	548 cm (18')
Width	45 cm (24 3/4")
Capacity	Approx. 140 kg (309 lbs)
Cockpit	82 x 46 cm (32 1/4" x 18 1/2")
Weight	Carbon/graphite: 24-26 kg (53-57 lbs) Carbon: 20-22 kg (44-48 lbs)
Storage	Front: round hatch: 24 cm (10") Rear: oval hatch 44/26 cm (17" x 10 1/4")
Optional	Stable skeg





## 18 SEMPER PARATUS: ALWAYS READY

by Larry Hansz

*We're always ready for the call, We place our trust in Thee, Through surf and storm and howling gale, High shall our purpose be. "Semper Paratus" is our guide, Our fame, our glory too, To fight to save or fight to die, Aye! Coast Guard, we are for you!* —Second verse USCG Marching Song by Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck, USCG

Most Island residents know of someone who has been medically evacuated from the Island. Medevacs are often the topic of morning coffee gatherings and other social interactions. "Who did the Coast Guard take off last night?" "I heard the helo come in last night." "So and so got taken to the Charlevoix Hospital by the Coast Guard." Medical care is one of the most important weak links of Island life and a quick evacuation for a serious condition is imperative. United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City is "ready for the call."

They are ready for the call from the Beaver Island EMS and Health Center but they are also ready for the call from so many others. Consider some of the USCG District 9 calls in the last months:

"Coast Guard medevacs man injured on Kelleys Island."

"Coast Guard rescues wind surfer near Alpena."

"U.S. Coast Guard medically evacuated 68 year old man 15 miles north of Charlevoix."

"Coast Guard assists 6 adults and 1 child on recreational boat taking on water."

"Coast Guard rescues 4 year old boy adrift on inflatable raft."

"Coast Guard searches for two reported missing on the St. Clair River."

"Guard works with firefighters, EMTs to rescue teenager after fall from cliff."

"Coast Guard aircrew from Traverse City deploys for Hurricane Irene response."

"Coast Guard searching Lake Huron after report of possible plane crash."

"Coast Guard rescues man who was stranded on North Fox Island."

"Air Station Traverse City deploys helicopter and crews to assist Red River flooding operations."

"Coast Guard searching for two after sailboat capsizes in northern Lake



Michigan."

"Coast Guard medically evacuates crew member of Canadian freighter."

"Coast Guard searching Green Bay for missing man."

On an average day nation wide the Coast Guard has sixty-four search and rescue cases underway and saves twelve lives. That may be an eye opener to some on Beaver Island but to the 41,600 active duty Coasties it is an everyday fact of life. That is why they serve. Air Station Traverse City is one of twenty-four air stations ready to answer the call along with others serving on cutters, boat stations, and land based units.



### Air Station Traverse City:

Year	Total Medical	B.I. Air Evacuations
2009	12	3
2010	15	10
2011 to Oct 1,	12	8

(per USCG Air Station Traverse City Public Affairs Office)

What exactly happens when a call from Beaver Island requesting a medevac is received by the duty watch desk in Traverse City? It sets into immediate action dozens of people from Traverse City to Sault Ste. Marie to Cleveland and possibly Detroit who will evaluate, coordinate, and manage the flight. The ready crew is immediately notified to ready an aircraft, however that is just the beginning. For a search and rescue case (man in the water, vessel sinking, etc.) the standard is to launch within thirty minutes. For a medical case

the issue can be a little different.

Within seconds after the call is received District 9 Headquarters in Cleveland is notified. It is one of nine Coast Guard Districts and is responsible for all USCG activities on the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, and parts of the surrounding states. District calls which ever CG doctor is on call, either the one at Air Station Traverse City or one at Air Station Detroit at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The Flight Surgeon must evaluate the patient's medical situation, need for transport, determine which medical center is most appropriate for the care needed, and determine the level of care required during the flight. He or she confers with the Beaver Island Health Center's nurses and EMTs. He determines the best time for the transport: Is the patient stable and can he/she wait for daylight or better weather? Or, is the patient critical or may soon become critical and must be moved as soon as possible. He must also confirm that a private/commercial air ambulance (Munson Medical Center's North Flight) is not able to accept the transport as the government will not take business away from the private sector unless it is an emergency. The doctor must decide what personnel and equipment must be onboard. The usual flight crew includes pilot, copilot, flight mechanic, and a rescue swimmer who is EMT qualified. Occasionally the Traverse City Flight Surgeon, or a North Flight nurse, or Beaver Island EMT will accompany the patient. This sounds like a lot but it happens fast enough to allow in a critical case for the crew to meet the SAR (Search and Rescue) standard of being air born in thirty minutes. If the patient is not critical or weather is a factor the elapsed time may be longer.

While the Flight Surgeon evaluates medical issues the ready crew is preparing themselves and the aircraft. Ready crews stand duty for 24 hours from 1600 to 1600 the next day on week days and from 0800 to 0800 weekends. Air Station Traverse City has an active duty staff of about 150 which includes 28 pilots and 60 air crew including twelve rescue swimmers. A rescue crew is on duty twenty four hours a day every day of the year. If the crew is already



working a case in Duluth, southern Lake Michigan, or elsewhere it is not hard to assemble a second crew on week days, however, during the night and weekends a back up crew must be called in. Of course there are many others on the ground involved in communications, operations, and maintenance.

The duty crew dress out for the mission. In the winter months this includes three layers of under garments plus a dry suit on top. Each has night vision goggles. The Watch Captain and/or the Plane Captain and the Operations Officer, if available, review the latest Notice

to Airmen, airspace restrictions, hospital options, and weather conditions.

Fog and icing conditions are of primary interest. They also take into consideration how this flight may affect any other SAR or other cases currently underway.

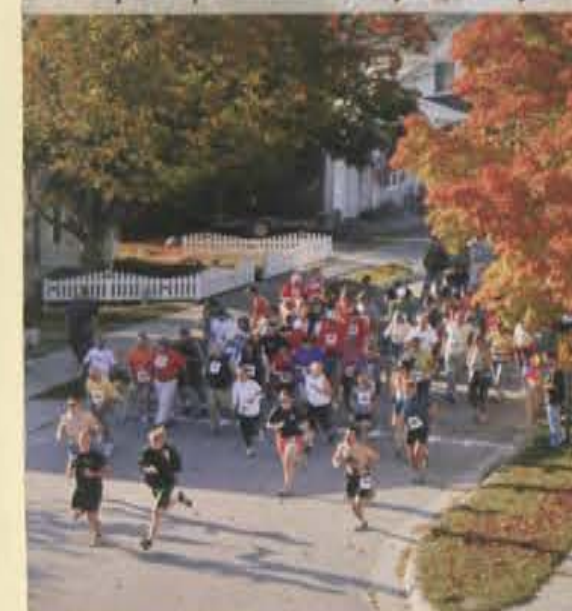
The ready aircraft, one of five MH65C Dolphin helicopters stationed in Traverse City, has been pulled out onto the ramp by a tug and pre-flights are conducted.

The Dolphin, the Coast Guard's most ubiquitous aircraft, was selected in 1979, introduced in about 1984, and continuously updated. It is built by American Eurocopter, a French firm which is the largest in the helicopter industry in terms of revenues and turbine helicopter deliveries. There are 101 Dolphins in the Coast Guard's inventory.

When the Flight Surgeon has approved the flight the crew immediately start the aircraft, complete the pre-flight preparations, taxi out to the main runway taxiway, and ask for clearance to take off. *(continued on page 20)*

## ISLAND BOODLERS WALK THE WALK

This year's Booodle took place on a warm Saturday in early October, with runners and walkers setting off at the crack of a cannon. Although there were fewer participants than last year, everyone



had a great time, and no one got lost along the route. Here are the top three for each category:

**Male Runners:** Cameron Burton (21:10); Christo Miner (22:35); and Dave Dewey (23:18).

**Female Runners:** Linda Frysinger (30:30); Leslie Shanlain (32:31); and Laura Gibson (34:04).

**Male Walkers:** Michael Risinger (42:51); Jeff Stone (45:34); and Jeff Risinger (45:36). *(continued on page 20)*



Ninth District External Affairs  
U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
United States  
Coast Guard



### News Release

Date: October 18, 2011  
Contact: Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office  
(216) 902-6020

#### Coast Guard airlifts ailing woman on Beaver Island

**CLEVELAND** — A Coast Guard rescue helicopter crew airlifted a 60-year-old woman who was reportedly experiencing stroke symptoms on Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan and transported her to mainland Michigan Tuesday evening.

The woman's name is not being released. There is no imagery associated with this case.

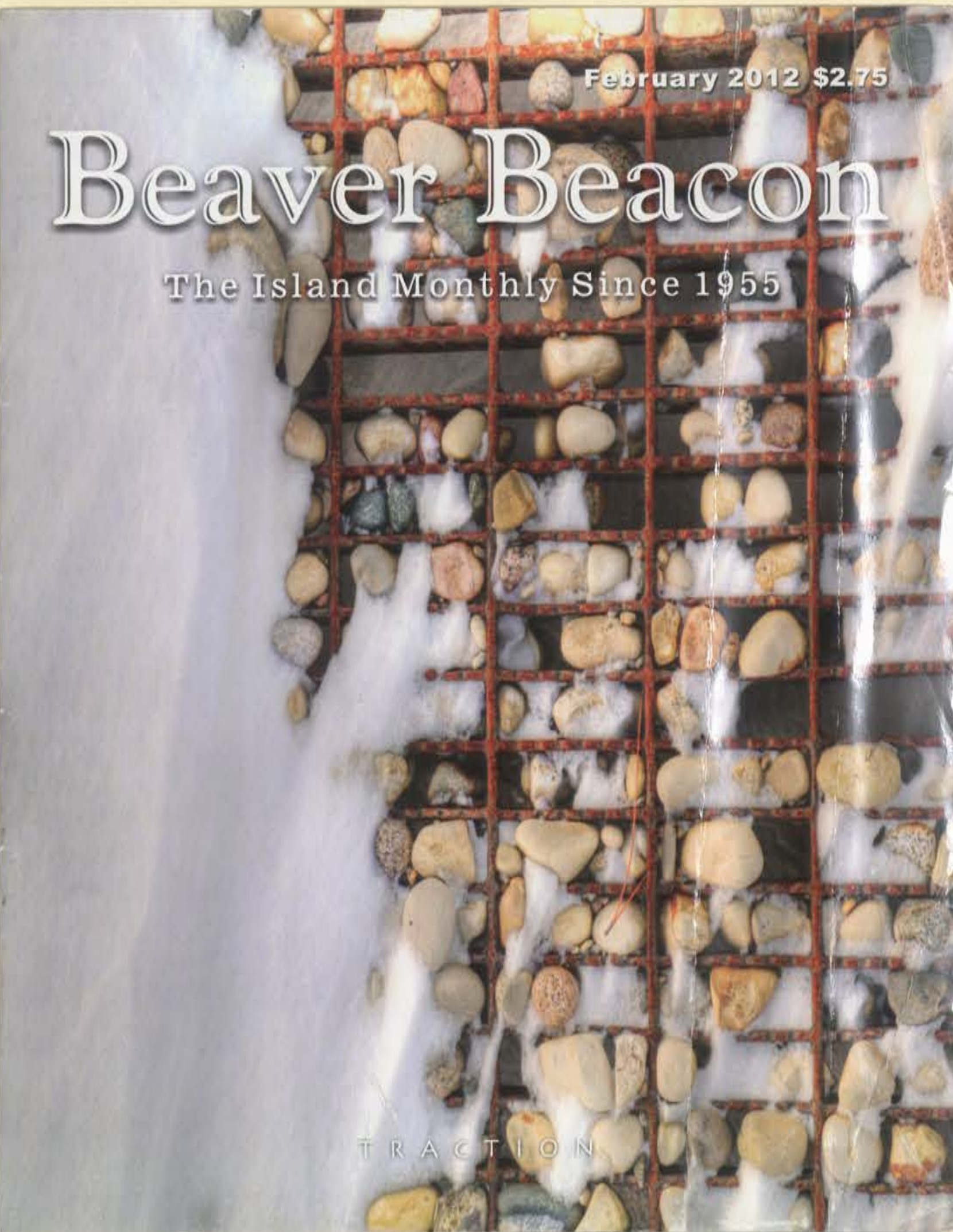
Search and rescue controllers at the 9<sup>th</sup> District Command Center in Cleveland received the request for medical evacuation at 5:06 p.m. The Coast Guard flight surgeon, who makes the ultimate determination on what warrants emergency transport, authorized the medevac.

A rescue helicopter crew from Air Station Traverse City, Mich., launched aboard an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter. Once on the island, the aircrew embarked the woman and transported her to Harbor Springs, Mich., where she was met by awaiting EMS for further transport to a hospital.

The Coast Guard maintains great working relationships with medical personnel at emergency facilities in remote Great Lakes locations, including northern Lake Michigan's Beaver Island.

###

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February 2012 \$2.75

# Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955

TRACTION





**Semper Paratus**, continued from page 19. Once air born the flight to Beaver Island takes about thirty minutes. The aircraft reports position and flight operations on VHF radio every fifteen minutes to the duty desk in Traverse City. If on a longer mission, for example into Lake Superior, another Coast Guard station will pick up the watch and maintain communications. A few minutes prior to landing at

the Beaver Island Township airport the helo radios that they are in the pattern for landing and the Island EMS prepare for the transfer of the patient. Unless there are unusual circumstances the aircraft is only on the ground a few minutes and the engine remains running. The Rescue Swimmer and the Flight Mechanic deplane just long enough to receive a brief medical report and load the gurney

into a cargo bay. Usually the patient stays on the EMS's gurney instead of being transferred to the Coast Guard gurney which is designed for hoisting people out of the water or off ships. It is less hassle for the patient.

When the patient is secure, onboard the EMT Rescue Swimmer becomes the caregiver unless the Flight Surgeon is also aboard. Once in the air a position and ops

call is made to the duty watch officer. He or she is coordinating a local ambulance to meet the aircraft. The destinations usually are: Harbor Springs where the patient is transferred to Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey; Charlevoix airport then to Charlevoix Area Hospital; or Traverse City then the Emergency Room at Munson Medical Center. Once the patient is in the ambulance the Coast

Guard's job is done. They very seldom hear anything more about the patient and do not know his or her outcome. They have done their job. Also, the patient receives no bill! Seems like at least a thank you note would be appropriate.

Commander Chris Chase, Traverse City Operations Officer, summed it up: "We are always ready for the call, but we must make sure nothing worse is going

to happen to the patient while in our care." It's their job and they are there for us. Thank you.

A special thank you to Commander Chris Chase, Operations Officer, and LTJG Chistoper Breuer, Public Affairs Officer at Air Station Traverse City.

Stay tuned for part two of this series when a four member air crew and some support staff will be featured.



**Island Boodlers**, continued from page 19. Female Walkers: Sarah Rohner (45:35); Maureen Turner (48:14); and Erin Myers-Dixon (105:3).

Afterwards over 250 people sampled the delicious gourmet offerings at the Parish Hall, shopped for gifts at the Arts and Crafts show at the

Community Center (candles, jewelry, foodstuffs, furs, stuffed animals, and novelties), and shared stories and comments with their friends.

That evening many Islanders went down to CMU's Bio Station for the year-end dinner, which gave us our chance to let the university know how

much its presence is appreciated – and to swap stories about how its presence has elevated our general awareness of ecological issues. When someone

expressed disappointment that the collection of alligators, turtles, and snakes was no longer there, a jesting professor replied, "We had to set them free!"



## 20 SEMPER PARATUS: ALWAYS READY

by Larry Hansz

Who are the men and women of the United States Coast Guard who are ready when we need someone sick or injured evacuated from Beaver Island? Who responds in the middle of the night, in bad weather, when no one else will come?

AMT 2 Steven Taticek joined the National Guard in his hometown of Rantool, Illinois and right after 9/11 his unit was called to active duty. He was sent to Germany where he remained fighting boredom. Upon returning to the states he searched for a service "with a mission" that fit him, and joined the Coast Guard. Steven now is a Flight

hot refuel, pick up our swimmer AST2 Luke Cotturone [an RS in TC now], and start making our way to a vessel which had run aground. We arrived and assessed the situation. Luke and I had a plan of attack almost immediately. The vessel was in no immediate danger but the crew on board had already put on their survival suits. The temperature outside was absolutely freezing. The entire deck and rails of the boat had a layer of ice. The vessel was listing partially on its side. I lowered PO Cotturone down direct to the boat and it was a perfect delivery, but due to the list and ice we opted to abort the hoist. After recovering the swimmer we reassessed the situation and decided since they

were in survival suits to put them in the water and recover each by basket. The swimmer was lowered to the water and one by one we put a survivor in the water and in the basket.

AST2 Luke Cotturone, the Rescue Swimmer mentioned above, is also now stationed in Traverse City.

His hometown is Suffolk, Virginia; he and his wife Nancy who is from Poughkeepsie, New York have two

## PART TWO

do not make the grade, which for physical training is equal to or higher than that of the Navy Seals. When the eighteen-week physical and flight aspect training is successfully completed in Elizabeth City, North Carolina the candidate goes to Petaluma, California for EMT training. Upon graduation a new AMT receives orders to one of twenty-four USCG Air Stations and is fully ready to stand Rescue Swimmer duty.

LTJG Matthew Kruger is from Waterboro, Maine. His father was in the Air Force and he had an older brother who was a pilot in the Coast Guard. Matt knew from high school days that he was going to join the Coast Guard.

Matt received orders to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida for flight school, where Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, and some Air Force aviators train. Coast Guard pilots get the same training as the Navy and Marines except for carrier landings. Basic flight skills are honed in a T-34 two seat fixed wing trainer. After six months a successful candidate moves to advanced fixed wing training or advanced helicopter training. Matt chose helicopters as he says "helos are where the work gets done." Between eighteen and twenty-one months are required to complete all training modules.

Matt's orders following graduation

Cheboygan, Michigan and the Coast Guard Cutter *Mackinac* (the original *Mackinac*) as an "Engineering Officer in Training." He was on the *Mackinac* from June 2003 until May 2005, when he got orders to report to Pensacola for flight training. At graduation he received orders for Traverse City.

Kevin and his wife Christine went to the same high school in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. They have a two and one-half year old daughter. Christine received a masters degree from Grand Valley State University extension in Traverse City. Both love outdoor activities such as mountain biking and camping. When asked if he was going to stay in the CG, he



Mechanic on MH-65C helicopter and has been at the Traverse City Air Station for three and one half years. A flight mech sits in the middle seat, handles the radio and GPS, acts as another set of eyes for the pilots, and operates the hoist. When operating the hoist he verbally "cons" the aircraft as the pilots cannot see the swimmer or basket so the mech gives them instructions: "right 20 feet", "down 10 feet", "hold."

Taticek recalled one memorable flight. "I believe it was winter 2007 in Kodiak, Alaska. I was on the ready crew that day and was flying as Flight Mechanic on training flight. We received a call to RTB [Return to Base],

were in survival suits to put them in the water and recover each by basket. The swimmer was lowered to the water and one by one we put a survivor in the water and in the basket.

The first survivor came up with a load of water in his gumby suit [survival suit]. Water began to freeze to the deck of the aircraft making a very slippery surface for me to manage the hoist. Also, with being wet and the freezing temps my fingers became numb and I lost dexterity in my hands. I had to continue hoisting with just the use of my palms and arms. I recovered survivors 2 and 3 and then our swimmer. This wasn't memorable because it

children. Luke originally considered the Marine Corps but joined the USCG instead. After basic training he spent three and one half years on the USCG *Tampa* a 270' high endurance cutter based on the east coast. Seagoing life focused his desire to become a CG aviator, one of the "lite" Rescue Swimmers.

Aviation Survival Techs are currently getting a lot of TV coverage on the Weather Channel's *Coast Guard Alaska* show. The sixteen-week training on the show is only the "prep school" which one must pass to attend the actual AST School. Seventy-two percent of candidates accepted for AST training

He applied to the CG Academy in New London, Connecticut but was not immediately accepted, however, they sent him to the U. S. Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, Rhode Island. After excelling there he was accepted into the sophomore year of the Coast Guard Academy where he majored in government studies. The Academy offers eight degree options: electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, naval architecture, government, management, environmental science, and operations research. Matt also played football and hockey.

At graduation from the Academy

at Pensacola were to report to USCG Air Station Traverse City. He loves being stationed in Traverse City but looks forward to flying in Alaska or the northern coast of the U. S. He plans to be married February 25 to Carlie Braswell, who is a Pensacola native. She will be pursuing a masters degree from Western Michigan University extension in Traverse City.

LTJG Kevin Garcia has been in the USCG since 1999. He is a 2003 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Kevin's first orders were to

emphatically said "Absolutely! If they let me fly, I'll stay in forever!"

Although only four men have been profiled in this article, Air Station Traverse City has an active duty staff of about 150 men and women, which includes 28 pilots and 60 air crew. Also, many are non-aviators such as cooks (FS), health services technicians (HS), a doctor, a dentist, storekeepers (SK), yeomen (YN; handle administration), operations specialists (OS), and several non-rates directly out of basic training. They are *Semper Paratus*: Always Ready. Ready to help those in need.



# 12 PEOPLE SAVED

McArthur helped rescue 12 people from a rip current

BY JAMES RUSSELL  
russell@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — Thomas McArthur is a professional lifesaver with the Coast Guard, but his off-duty actions in the summer of 2010 garnered him national awards and recognition.

McArthur had just wrapped up a training run in Frankfort in August 2010 and decided to cool off in the lake. An hour later, he had saved 12 swimmers caught in dangerous riptides.

The Coast Guard recognized his efforts at an Oct. 13 ceremony in New York with the prestigious Silver Lifesaving Medal, awarded to people who endanger their own lives while saving or attempting to save

## SAVED

McArthur helped save 12 people from a rip current

FROM PAGE 1A

another from drowning. On Oct. 27, the Boy Scouts also honored McArthur, an Eagle Scout, with its Scouts Salute the Military Award at a ceremony in Washington.

"It was tough that day, but to be honest, I'm just so happy everybody ended up OK," McArthur, 22, said. "They didn't have any injuries, nobody got hurt. That's the best thing at the end of the day."

McArthur was off-duty on Aug. 15, 2010, but training for Aviation Survival Technician "A" School to become a certified rescue swimmer. After a three-mile run, he jumped in the water at Frankfort Beach to cool off.

Two teenagers jumped off the breakwall and began to struggle with the current. The waters near the Frankfort pier are notorious for a

strong undertow in certain conditions, and that day it gripped swimmers.

McArthur swam over to help, and with a life ring tossed from the breakwall by their friend, he pulled the first boy to safety.

"I told him to hang on real tight to the life ring, and I got both my legs wrapped around the life ring and kind of clinched between my legs and crossed my ankles. I just started digging in with my arms and started swimming toward the breakwall," he said. "That was one of the longest swims that day. I definitely choked on some water."

He then towed the second boy to the breakwall, but his job wasn't done.

The current had latched onto two brothers. Their parents swam out to help, but soon they also were overcome by the current. McArthur dove in and safely pulled them all to shore.

It was an exhausting experience, but McArthur said he had little time to focus on being tired.

"You don't really think about yourself, or your condition, or how tired you are," he said. "You're

just focused on the goal of helping the kids and getting those adults out of the water. You can be tired afterwards."

McArthur helped save 12 people from the water over the course of an hour, either by jumping in or throwing a line, sometimes with help from bystanders.

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate the couple other people on the pier that day that helped with tending those lines," said McArthur.

McArthur's friends described him as level-headed and humble — so humble that they did not know the full extent of his actions until they read about them online.

"He mentioned it to me when I was asking about his job at the Coast Guard, and the crazy things he'd seen. He didn't elaborate about how significant it was," said Scott Conaway, who owns a small aviation company in Traverse City. "It's incredible for someone his age to have such a level head and total concern for everyone else around him to pull it off."

Conaway helped McArthur

pull off an elaborate proposal to his girlfriend — the pilot dropped rose petals from a plane after she said yes. They struck up a quick friendship, and it wasn't long before Conaway hired him to work as a pilot. McArthur earned his own pilot's license when he was 17.

"He's ridiculously responsible, extremely level-headed, very humble — just one of those people you want working for you," he said.

Kent Stiner, president of Cherry Capital Aviation, met McArthur through Conaway. The young pilot helped Stiner with fundraisers for programs like Wings of Mercy, which provides free medical transport for people who need it.

"These are the kind of people we want in Traverse City," he said.

McArthur graduated from AST school in May. He's now an official rescue swimmer, which he describes as his "dream job." He's honored by the awards, but remains modest about his actions.

"Any one of these guys (at the Coast Guard) would have done the same thing," he said.



Aviation Survival Technician (AST3) Tom McArthur stands at the United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. Record-Eagle/Kelli King

SEE SAVED PAGE 2A



Ninth District External Affairs  
U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
United States  
Coast Guard



### Photo Release

Date: November 8, 2011  
Contact: Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office  
(216) 902-6020

**PHOTO: Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City honored by Special Olympics Michigan for outstanding service**

Click on the image below for a high-resolution version



TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella, commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, and Cmdr. Chris Chase, operations officer of the air station, are presented with the Outstanding Agency Award by Lois Arnold, president and CEO of Special Olympics Michigan, at the Special Olympics Hall of Fame Awards Banquet in Mount Pleasant, Mich., Nov. 5, 2011.

The crew of Air Station Traverse City received the award for their consistent efforts in support of Special Olympics Michigan.

Photo by Mallorie Stiger, courtesy of Special Olympics Michigan

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., was named an Outstanding Agency at the Special Olympics Hall of Fame Awards Banquet Saturday in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Once a year, Special Olympics Michigan gives Outstanding Service Awards to acknowledge groups and individuals who have stood out for their support and friendship.

"With the support of dedicated Michigan volunteers, the Special Olympic athletes receive quality athletic

experiences, while developing life skills and a sense of community," said Kimberly Purdy, public relations director for Special Olympics Michigan.

For years, Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City has provided support to athletes and volunteers for several events; including flyovers for the State Summer Games, State Winter Games and the Mackinac Bridge during the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Air Station Traverse City also landed and conducted a static display during the State Winter Games, which gave athletes an opportunity to see the MH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopter and aircrew up close. In addition, air station crewmembers participate yearly in the annual Polar Plunge, a fundraiser for the Special Olympics Organization.

For more information on this event, please contact Lt. j.g. Jim Okorn, public affairs officer at Air Station Traverse City at 231-922-8276. During non-business hours, please contact the duty desk at 231-922-8212.

###

Saving Lives and Guarding the Coast Since 1790.  
The United States Coast Guard — Proud History. Powerful Future.



**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Dave Lheureux conducts the Twelve Folds of the Flag Ceremony at a Veterans Day observance at Air Station Traverse City on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class April Caverly



**Veterans Day tribute**

Written by Allison Westnhil  
Tuesday, November 08, 2011 2:42 PM



It came about a week early, but Forest Park students were treated to a special salute to local veterans on Thursday, Nov. 3, with the arrival of a U.S. Coast Guard rescue helicopter from Traverse City at the school's practice field, with a full search and rescue crew on board. The visit was arranged by Chris Sholander, retired Michigan State Police post commander and a former member of the air rescue team with the Coast Guard, as part of the school's Veterans Day commemoration and as a special treat for his daughter, Audrey, who celebrated her 18th birthday that day. Sholander, his daughter and several members of the local veterans organizations were on hand to greet the crew, who later gave students a visual tour of the aircraft.

Last Updated on Tuesday, November 08, 2011 2:43 PM

# 2011 Turkey Trot



Above, Tom McArthur (1699) Brooks Brannan (111) and Danyelle Brannan (110) run in costume for Thursday's Traverse City Turkey Trot. Right, a Coast Guard helicopter does a fly-by over Thirlby Field.



Record-Eagle photos/Keith King





Military Appreciation Night



Special to the Record-Eagle/Carol South  
During the second annual North Stars Never Forget celebrations, culminating during Military Appreciation Night on Friday at Centre Ice, the hockey team both honored the U.S. Coast Guard and helped Operation American Soldier.

North Stars double up

Team honors Coast Guard plus charity for troops

BY CAROL SOUTH  
Special to the Record-Eagle

TRAVERSE CITY — No soldier walks away from mail call empty handed. Operation American Soldier's simple motto belies the deep commitment, thorough organization and practical patriotism behind it. Founding a local chapter of the organization a year ago, Christine Stalsonburg to date has sent 1,500 packages to military personnel in all branches serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a mother of two soldiers who have served overseas — one completing two tours in Iraq and the other two tours in Afghanistan — she plans to continue her efforts indefinitely.

As a mother, just the thought of anyone not receiving support keeps her going.

"It's just heartwarming, they know they're thought about over there," said Stalsonburg.

A Realtor, she learned about Operation American Soldier, which was founded by Realtors from Massachusetts, at a national convention.

"My sons are not deployed at the moment, but that makes no difference," she said.

On Friday night, members of the North Stars hockey community helped Stalsonburg with her latest mission: sending each of the 1,200 deployed Michigan National Guard soldiers a stocking for Christmas.

The team's Military Appreciation Night — part of monthlong, second annual North Stars Never Forget observances — each year honors a branch of the military. This year "our very own" Coast Guard and Air Station were selected, said team majority owner Raj Wiener.

"The 145 Air Station members were invited to be our guests," she said.

The celebrations Friday also were a fundraiser for Operation American Soldier. In addition to a silent auction held during the game at Centre Ice, players wore special commemorative jerseys that were auctioned off after the game as an additional fundraiser.

"Each year, the owner of the North Stars asks the Grand Traverse Veterans Coalition who they would like to designate as the recipient of the proceeds," said Stalsonburg. "This year, Operation American Soldier has the honor to be the

"My sons are not deployed at the moment, but that makes no difference."

Christine Stalsonburg, founder of the local chapter of Operation American Soldier

recipient."

Commander Joe Buzzella, commanding officer of Air Station Traverse City and a native of Miami, enjoyed his first hockey game. He and his son, Joey, 9, as well as Commander Chris Chase and his son, Evan, 5, dropped the ceremonial first puck and led the crowd in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Debra Harrant, a member of the city's new seven-member Coast Guard City committee also joined in pregame ceremonies.

Honored to participate in an event helping military personnel serving overseas, Buzzella praised the community's enthusiasm for the military and veterans in general and the Coast Guard specifically.

"Traverse City is a special city. I've never seen the outpouring of support there is here," he said.

Funds raised for Operation American Soldier during the North Stars game will help defray the cost of shipping, which can run between \$12 and \$14 a box. Even when Stalsonburg bundles multiple packages per box, the

costs add up quickly. Other area veterans groups also help with postage as well as logistics; the Blue Star Families organization in Michigan helps provide names.

Stalsonburg sent about half of the Christmas stockings today and will mail the other half Friday. She hopes that all will arrive and be distributed by Christmas.

As with all her shipments, Stalsonburg includes a personal letter with each package. Word is spreading locally about Operation American Soldier and now she can include notes from area schoolchildren.

"One of the things they appreciate most is the cards they receive from schoolchildren — they really enjoy them and pass those around," Stalsonburg said.

To support the Traverse City chapter of Operation American Soldier, contact Stalsonburg at 409-4140 or email cstalsonburg@charter.net. For more information on the organization, see www.operationamericansoldier.com.

Traverse City NORTH STARS

vs. port huron  
friday, november 25  
7 p.m. - centre ice arena  
TO BENEFIT OPERATION AMERICAN SOLDIER



GAME

High-octane NAHL action: TC vs. Port Huron  
Great prizes, including a Great Wolf Lodge family suite  
Free post-game skate with the North Stars players

GIVE/GET

Bid on special game-worn U.S. Coast Guard jerseys and great silent auction items



GRATITUDE

Bring items to ship to U.S. Armed Forces that are currently deployed overseas  
Help Operation American Soldier stuff stockings for Michigan National Guard presently stationed in Afghanistan

231.941.9200 [traversecitynorthstars.com](http://traversecitynorthstars.com)

TRAVERSINSIDER.COM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012

Web: [www.grandtraverseinsider.com](http://www.grandtraverseinsider.com) Facebook: Grand Traverse Insider Twitter: @TheGTInsider

Toys for Tots honors local CG Air station

TRAVERSE CITY — The United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City and its commander received the top award from Toys for Tots of Northwest Michigan during a special ceremony last week.

Commander Joseph Buzzella Jr. accepted the "Star Award" that is annually given out to leading contributors of the local Christmas toy drive.

For over a decade the campaign has leaned on Coast Guard volunteers to pick up toys, store donations and fly Santa in on a helicopter during the kickoff event.

With the recent designation of Traverse City as a Coast Guard City, it seems very appropriate to mark the tremendous contribution made by the men and women of the Air Station over the years," said Toys for Tots coordinator Maggie Kent.

In addition to the Star Award, the campaign also presented a plaque of appreciation to Richard Hines and Kelly Donaldson for heading up a team that has donated bicycles to the program for the last eight years. The 2011 campaign marked the 1,000th bicycle that was donated to Toys for Tots.

"There are a lot of children who ride bikes down the street with a smile on



Photo by Allen-Kent Photography  
Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City Commander Joseph Buzzella Jr. (left) received the "Star Award" from Mike and Maggie Kent of the Northwest Michigan Toys for Tots last week.

their faces because of the efforts of Richard and Kelly," said Kent.

During the wrap-up event, Toys for Tots of Northwest Michigan announced it collected and distributed 24,932 toys to nearly 8,200 needy children in the region. Kent said the community warmly responded to a last-minute request for donations when it appeared the campaign was not going to meet the goal of assuring that every child in the region had toys to open at Christmas.

She said the campaign not only reached the goal, but have some toys stored to help with the start of next year's campaign.

The campaign works with nearly all human service agencies in Grand Traverse, Benzie, Leelanau, Kalkaska and Antrim counties. Major sponsors for the campaign are Meijer, Bill Marsh Auto, Fox Motors, Great Wolf Lodge, Two Men and a Truck, Bay Area Transportation Authority, Traverse City Record-Eagle, TV 7&4 and 29 & 8, radio stations WKLT, The Fox FM, YOU FM, WLDL, Sara Lee and Grand Traverse Janitorial and Packaging.

For more information about this year's campaign and next year's event, visit [www.ToysForTots.org](http://www.ToysForTots.org)



## Body of missing man found in Wexford Cty.

**MESICK** — Authorities said a dive team has recovered the body of a 33-year-old fisherman who fell through the ice earlier in the northwestern Lower Peninsula.

The Grand Rapids Press reported the body of Billy Platz, of Mesick, was found Tuesday, a day after he fell through ice on Hohenpyl Dam Pond in Wexford County. Authorities said a friend who tried to save him also fell through the ice but got out.

A search Monday at the pond about 25 miles south of Traverse City that included a dive team and a Coast Guard helicopter didn't find Platz.

## FLIGHT

# New Aviation Explorers post launches on Feb. 1

*EAA: Youths can look at airplane, see how it's put together*

BY CAROL SOUTH  
Special to the Record-Eagle

See stuff, learn stuff, do stuff! More than a motto, these few words embody the vision of the new Aviation Explorers post launching Feb. 1 in Traverse City. Sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association Post 234, the Explorers post will immerse youth ages 14-20 in all things aviation. This means everything from riding in airplanes, flying simulators, and building and launching rockets, to building and flying radio-controlled airplanes. In addition, Explorers will enjoy in-depth information about and tours of local aviation assets, such as the U.S. Coast Guard Air

## Aviation Explorers Open House

■ **When:** Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7-9 p.m.  
■ **Where:** NMC's Parsons-Stulen Building (M-TEC facility), 1000 Aero Park Drive; youth ages 14-20.  
■ **For more info:** Contact Bill Donberg at 409-5780 or the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 234 via email at pres@eaa234.org or see www.eaa234.org.

Station Traverse City, the Cherry Capital Airport and air traffic control, charter services, North Flight and the Civil Air Patrol. The goal of these activities is twofold: build awareness and excitement about aviation and the myriad potential careers while also boosting character as well



Special to the Record-Eagle/Carol South

Sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association Post 234, the new Aviation Explorers post will draw on extensive community assets to immerse youth ages 14-20 in all things aviation. Pictured from left are Patrick Koro, a senior at Traverse City Central High School; Mike Stimac, past president of the EAA Post 234; and Bill Donberg, assistant chief flight instructor at NMC's Aviation Division.

as leadership and organizational skills.

Learning time will also include firsthand interaction with aviation technology.

"It'll be hands on. They can look at an airplane and see how it's put together," said Duane Kalem-

ber, president of the EAA Post 234, whose 55-plus years of flying include stints as a military and a commercial pilot. "If you see how things work, the aerodynamics of them and what makes them fly,

SEE FLIGHT PAGE 4A

www.record-eagle.com



TC was designated as a Coast Guard City in 2010, the 10th in the nation and the second in Michigan.

## Take a Flight With a Coastie

by Bob Lovik

Today *The Ticker's* reporting live from the cockpit of the bright orange MH-65C Dauphin Coast Guard helicopter, gliding over West Grand Traverse Bay and Traverse City. We've all seen the copter on rescue missions and routine patrols overhead, but today Station Commander Joseph Buzzella is detailing everything from the station's wide-ranging economic impact to why Traverse City is among the most sought-after deployments in the nation.

One hundred thirty-six active duty guardsmen and three civilians work at the station. The station has no housing, so all guardsmen either rent or buy homes in the area during their three- or four-year deployments.

Though the station's \$2 million annual budget is strictly regulated on a federal level, Commander Buzzella says he "goes out of his way" to buy local fuel, utilities, office supplies and furniture, vehicles and auto parts, road salt, signage and more.

Each month, some \$7,000 gets spent on food. During our time inside the station, *The Ticker* noticed locally-bought brisket and vegetables, as well as a variety of items that came from nearby grocers.

"We don't like anything to go to waste, either," points out Buzzella. "We donate all leftover food to local food banks and yes, our active duty cooks buy as much local food as possible."

Buzzella estimates the station's overall community economic impact at around \$8 million annually, including expenditures, salaries, and service contracts for things like construction, landscaping and maintenance.

A few of the most active local Coast Guard partners include Traverse City Area Public Schools, American Red Cross, United Way, and the Boy Scouts. The station also assists the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians with fishing enforcement.

Buzzella reports that Traverse City is not only among the most cherished deployments among active guardsmen (several cite the supportive community, year-round activities, and natural beauty as reasons), it's also developed into a hotbed for Coast Guard retirees — even for those who never served here.

More than 200 retired guardsmen call the area home, as does Vice Admiral John Currer, the second highest-ranking Coast Guard officer, who has a home on Old Mission Peninsula.

To don a jumpsuit and helmet and get a look at the region from the cockpit of the Dauphin, click on the photo at top left.

Permalink

## Coast Guard receives 'Thrive' Award

**T**Raverse City — The U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Traverse City was recently selected to receive the Traverse City State Bank (TCSB) "Caught Thriving Award."

The award is given to a business or community organization that has positively and significantly impacted the local community.

According to TCSB President and CEO Connie Deneweth, the USCG "Guardians of the Great

Lakes" patrol the waters from Duluth, Minnesota to Chicago, Illinois to Northern Lake Huron, providing search and rescue support for both regional and national incidents. Throughout the Great Lakes in 2011, they prosecuted 3,127 cases, saved 437 lives and assisted 5,335 people.

The Air Station Traverse City operates on an annual budget of \$2.1 million and generates more than \$8 million for the northern Michigan economy, including a significant percentage

of goods and services purchased from local producers and companies.

Deneweth said the men and women stationed here are involved in many community-oriented activities, including partnering with TCAPS and the Special Olympics; supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters, the American Red Cross, United Way, Aviation Explorers, Boy Scouts, and the Naval Sea Cadets; as well as coaching local children's sports teams.

"We feel that the Traverse

City Air Station's contribution and superb service to our community deserves public recognition," Deneweth stated.

TCSB is a locally owned and managed community bank providing a full range of commercial and consumer banking services to small and medium-size businesses as well as individuals in the Grand Traverse region.

For more information, stop by 310 West Front St. in Traverse City, call 231-995-5500 or visit www.tcsb.com.



Photo Special to the Insider

Pictured at the recent award reception are (from left): Commander Scott Langum, USCG; Connie Deneweth, CEO Traverse City State Bank; Commander Joe Buzzella, USCG; and Ann Bollinger, CFO Traverse City State Bank.





## Photo Release

Date: January 10, 2012  
Contact: Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office  
(216) 902-6020

### PHOTOS: TCAPS Japanese exchange students tour Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City

*Editor's Note: Click the below images to obtain high-resolution versions.*



**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — Petty Officer 3rd Class Cody Thorpe, a rescue swimmer at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., conducts a rescue hoist demonstration with middle school students from Koka, Japan, Jan. 9, 2012.

The students were given a tour of the air station as part of their one-week visit to Traverse City, Koka's "Sister City" since 2006.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. j.g. Jim Okorn



**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — Middle school students from Koka, Japan, visiting Traverse City, Mich., look on as an MH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopter crew conducts a rescue demonstration at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Jan. 9, 2012.

The students were given a tour of the air station as part of their one-week visit to Traverse City, Koka's "Sister City" since 2006.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. j.g. Jim Okorn

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — The crew of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., hosted a group of Traverse City Area Public Schools Japanese exchange students Monday.

The students were given a tour of the air station that included a brief on the job of a rescue swimmer, a hands-on showing of the MH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopter, as well as a live rescue demonstration on the Coast Guard Ramp at Cherry Capital Airport.

Coast Guard units are encouraged to share Partnerships in Education with surrounding schools; TCAPS and Air Station Traverse City share that partnership here in Northern Michigan.

As part of the Michigan-Shiga Sister State Program, students from Japan will spend a week attending Traverse City Area Public Schools. The purpose of this exchange program is to promote friendship and understanding between Japanese and American middle school students. TCAPS schools have been participating in the exchange program since 2006. Many TCAPS students have participated in the exchange program and have visited Japan and/or hosted Japanese students.

Originally, the City of Traverse City established a Sister City relationship with Tsuchiyama, Japan, in 1969. In 2004, the cities of Tsuchiyama, Konan, and Koka combined to form the city of Koka as a result of a governmental reorganization. As such, Traverse City's "Sister City" relationship is now with the combined city of Koka.

"Since the time of the last Koka visit to our community, Traverse City has been officially designated as a U.S. Coast Guard City," said TCAPS Superintendent Steve Cousins. "We are extremely proud to showcase this special relationship with our visiting students and leaders."

To learn more about the Michigan-Shiga Sister State Program, visit <http://www.mishiga.org/sisters/traverse.htm>.

For more information on this event, please contact the Lt. j.g. Jim Okorn, public affairs officer at Air Station Traverse City at 231-922-8273. During non-business hours, please contact the duty desk at 231-922-8212.



**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella, commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., takes a picture with the student advisors from the city of Koka, Japan, at the air station on Jan. 9, 2012.

The advisors escorted middle school students to Traverse City, where they were given a tour of the air station.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. j.g. Jim Okorn



**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella (second from left), commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., and Cmdr. Chris Chase (second from right), operations officer at the air station, take a picture with middle school students and their advisors from the city of Koka, Japan, Jan. 9, 2012.

The students were given a tour of the air station as part of their one-week visit to Traverse City, Koka's "Sister City" since 2006.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. j.g. Jim Okorn

###  
*Saving Lives and Guarding the Coast Since 1790.  
The United States Coast Guard — Proud History. Powerful Future.*



## Photo Release

Date: December 8, 2011  
Contact: Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office  
(216) 902-6020

### PHOTOS: Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Michigan State Police conduct joint training

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — Indicative of their strategic partnership, members of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., and the Michigan State Police recently completed joint-agency helicopter training designed to increase their operational readiness Thursday at the air station.

For the second time in just over a week, members of the Michigan State Police Emergency Support Team participated in training with Air Station Traverse City crewmembers in order to provide members of the team training in underwater egress, swim endurance and helicopter hoisting, furthering the state police's ability to respond to threats on the state's waterways.

"This training provides our aircrews with an increased understanding of the state police's procedures and capabilities," said Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella, commanding officer of Air Station Traverse City.

"It serves to enhance the partnership between our two organizations, allowing us to better serve the citizens and visitors of the Great Lakes region."



**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Luke Cotturone (foreground) monitors as a member of the Michigan State Police Emergency Support Team is hoisted aboard an Air Station Traverse City MH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopter during joint-agency training at the air station, Dec. 8, 2011.

The training was held to qualify members of the state police for operations with other agencies' aircraft, and allows the air station crew to better understand the state police's procedures and capabilities.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. j.g. Jim Okorn



**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — A Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., aircrew hoists a member of the Michigan State Police Emergency Support Team aboard the air station's

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, TROOP 30

◆◆◆  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ◆ TRVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49684

January 11, 2012

U.S. Coast Guard  
Public Affairs Officer  
Coast Guard Air Station  
Traverse City, Mi.  
49686

Dear Sir,

As Chairman of Troop 30, I am proud and honored to announce that on Saturday, Feb. 18th, 2012 the esteemed rank of Eagle Scout will be presented to the following outstanding young man of our community:

George R. Townsend  
444 Peninsula Knolls Ln.  
Traverse City, MI. 49686

Troop 30's Scoutmaster, Chris Stein and I personally Invite you to attend the Court of Honor Ceremony, awarding this prestigious rank. It will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18th, at 2:00 pm, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1003 S. Maple, Traverse City, Michigan 49684.

As Chairman of Troop 30, I would appreciate any acknowledgements or resolutions that you may wish to bestow on this young man, be forwarded to him directly.

Please contact Mr. Stein regarding your availability to attend this Court of Honor on Feb. 18th.

Chris Stein 231-922-8145  
2634 Ra Wa Si  
Traverse City, MI 49684

Respectfully Yours,

Richard M. O'Neil  
Chairman, Troop 30





Record-Eagle photos/Jan-Michael Stump  
**Left, Kassandra Kohsmann, 7, of Burlington, gets her headgear adjusted by volunteers before sumo wrestling during Sunday's Great Lakes Burn Camp activities at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. Below, Isabelle Rench, 10, of Colon, shoots hoops with an oversized basketball. Approximately 40 burn survivors from across Michigan, and as far away as Texas and California, spent the weekend in Northwest Michigan for the winter Great Lakes Burn Camp. On Sunday, the group spent the day at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City with a hangar full of games and activities. The group, which began in 1995, stayed in Petoskey and took part in other activities such as sledding, ice skating, skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling.**



**Personal Connection**

The Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City participates in numerous events throughout the year. Upcoming activities include:

- March 15 the USCG will attend Career Day at Grand Traverse Academy
- United Way Day of Caring
- Special Olympics Summer Games
- Recess with students every Thursday at Traverse Heights Elementary

In addition, Air Station Traverse City's service members participate in regular volunteer programs, outreach events, and career days in the local community. Over the last year, the unit has been involved in the following efforts:

**Community Organizations:** The Command actively serves on the board of directors for the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boy Scouts of America, Kiwanis, Red Cross, Rotary, and United Way.

**Air Shows/Flyovers/Static Displays:** The Air Station participated in more than 100 static displays, parade/memorial flyovers, and SAR demos across the area of responsibility.

**Special Olympics:** Air Station personnel volunteer with the Michigan winter and summer games. Volunteers assist in setting up courses, helping athletes with their gear and equipment, timing events, and announcing the events.

**Air Station Tours:** More than 6,000 people have toured the Air Station this year from various schools and youth programs and during the unit

open house.

**Toys for Tots:** The Air Station helped collect, sort and store more than 25,000 toys during the holidays. Partnership in Education: 40 members volunteer as mentors for K-5 students at Traverse Heights Elementary School.

**Youth Sports:** Many members volunteer their time as coaches of a variety of youth sports that include soccer, football, wrestling and hockey.

**Career Day:** Several members participated in career day at local middle and high schools.

**Day of Caring:** More than 20 members assisted in replacing a roof on an office building at a local Boy Scout camp.

**Naval Sea Cadets:** Air Station TC currently sponsors a local Sea Cadet unit, assisting and mentoring 40 youths.

**CAMP**

FROM PAGE 1-A

free for kids through generous people and donations," he stated. "That's how we run the camp."

In addition, "everyone that works at camp volunteers their time."

**Local connection**

One of those volunteers is Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer Cody Thorpe, who became involved with the group several years ago when the Coast Guard performed a Search and Rescue demonstration in Kalamazoo.

Thorpe became a lifeguard for the Camp and attends its summer and winter events every year.

He also organized the event

at Air Station Traverse City this past weekend, garnering sponsors and planning the activities. Organizing the day took about three and a half months and nearly 40 volunteers.

"We're trying to establish an ongoing relationship between Traverse City and the Burn Camp," he said. "There are so many giving people up here."

The recent event may have helped to create just such a relationship.

"The community came out great in Traverse City," Longenecker said. "It was just wonderful to see that. There were a lot of nice and generous people and we appreciate that. Our camp doesn't happen without those kinds of efforts."

As event host, the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City was happy to be a part of the festivities.

"It was an honor to be able to host such a great event," said Commander Joseph Buzzella. "The opportunity to provide a fun and safe outing for the campers was something that the men and women of Air Station Traverse City enjoyed as much as the campers did."

"We are proud to be part of this great Coast Guard City and being able to give something back is very important to everyone stationed here."

TRAVERSE BAY  
**FAMILY**  
 LIFESTYLES OF THE NORTH

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY RECYCLE RATE REVIEW**

2006 GTC RATE	29.28%
2010 GTC RATE	35.51%
National Average Rate	33.80%

[WWW.RECYCLESMART.MI.GOV](http://WWW.RECYCLESMART.MI.GOV)

we're not gossiping, we're networking

**Toys for Tots Needs You!**



The Toys for Tots program in our area is one of the most well recognized across the entire country. "It's all because of this incredible community and how generously they give," said Mike Kent, Toys for Tots organizer. The toy drive officially kicks off November 19th from 12-2 pm. Santa flies in on a US Coastguard Helicopter to the Great Wolf Lodge greeted by hundreds of kids. They collected over 23,000 toys last year, in over 100 drop off points across the five county areas. The toys, after collection, are stored at the coastguard, where they go through vigorous "toy sorts." There, the thousands of toys are sorted by age group. Before they ever reach a needy child, each toy has been lovingly "touched" by literally hundreds of hands - all committed to one goal, "Ensure Every Child has a Christmas."

If you think you just may be an expert at sorting toys, (hello moms and dads?) or have a few hours to give, call Campaign Coordinator Maggie Kent at 231-933-0344. She would love the help!

Check out GTI online:

- Web: [www.grandtraverseinsider.com](http://www.grandtraverseinsider.com)
- Facebook: Grand Traverse Insider
- Twitter: @TheGTInsider

**GRAND TRAVERSE INSIDER**

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**FREE**

**TRAVERSE**



TCRD to celebrate anniversary, growth and new team. PAGE 3-A

**BENZIE**



Local artists turn curriculum into dance with Mosaic program. PAGE 1-B

**LEELANAU**



Local departments set to implement 'Yellow Dot' program. PAGE 1-B

**SPORTS**



Photo by Katie Bedard-Goytowski  
 Kids from the Great Lakes Burn Camp compete in "sumo wrestling" during their visit to the Air Station last weekend.



Photo by Katie Bedard-Goytowski  
 Youth from the Great Lakes Burn Camp finish the inflatable obstacle course as part of their visit to Air Station TC last weekend.

**'Just Wonderful'**

Community, Air Station savor opportunity to host Burn Camp

By KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
 Contributing Writer



Photo by Katie Bedard-Goytowski  
 The Great Lakes Burn Camp group stands in front of two helicopters at Air Station Traverse City.

**T**RAVERSE CITY - The U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City hosted the Great Lakes Burn Camp as part of its Winter Camp last Sunday.

The Great Lakes Burn Camp began in 1996 as a place for burn survivors to "meet others who have been through the same thing they have been through," said executive director Mike Longenecker.

The Camp provides free opportunities and experiences like the Winter Camp for kids ages 6 to 17.

The four-day Winter Camp brought more than 40 campers to Petoskey, where they spent time at the Winter Sports Park, sledding and ice skating. They also visited Challenge Mountain, a non-profit that teaches disabled youth how to ski, and had arts and crafts opportunities, said Longenecker. The kids also went to Avalanche Bay Indoor Water Park, near Boyne City.

One day was spent with the Coast Guard in

Traverse City, where they had a day full of activities including inflatable bounce houses and obstacle courses, basketball games, horse and carriage rides, the Northern Michigan Photo Booth Company, a display by the State Police SWAT Team, visitors from the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department and more.

The Coast Guard also gave a Search and Rescue helicopter demonstration to the group, provided snacks

from the Anchor Club and solicited donations for the activities and lunch from Outback Steakhouse.

According to Longenecker, the group's Summer Camp typically serves around 80-85 kids and takes place at Pretty Lake Vacation Camp in Kalamazoo County. "There, the youth are able to participate in activities like swimming, field games, ropes courses, snorkeling and a dance.

In addition, all kids are given the opportunity to learn how to water ski, he said.

There is also a carnival on the last day of the camps, a fireworks show over the lake and a video showing shots of the whole week of camp.

Participating in these events together (Winter and Summer Camp) is "important for their self-esteem and social well-being," Longenecker said.

"They find out they can be kids," he explained. "No one is there to stare at them or

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make fun of them."

"The kids participate in team-building exercises, and in general have a lot of fun."

"They're kids - we want them to be kids," he said. "Our whole motto is that it's about the kids."

All burn survivors are welcome to participate in the camps, said Longenecker, though most participants are from Michigan.

The programs are "totally

PLEASE SEE CAMP/2-A



**FREE**

**TRAVERSE**



Hiking Club to celebrate Trail, honor volunteers. PAGE 6-A

**BENZIE**



MLU event to showcase local foods available in the 'off season.' PAGE 1-B

**LEELANAU**



Farmers say visa program not working, legislators are 'clueless.' PAGE 1-B

**SPORTS**



Photo Special to the Insider  
 Crew members from Air Station Traverse City are shown participating in a Helo Operations training program in Duluth, Minn. last year.

## Call of Duty

**Air Station TC takes pride in serving, protecting region**  
 By KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
 Contributing Writer

**T**Raverse City – Last year, U.S. Coast Guard Commander Joseph Buzzella was looking forward to being transferred to Traverse City recently named the 11th Coast Guard City in the United States.

"I was pretty excited to command a base inside a Coast Guard City," he said. "But when I arrived I couldn't tell that it was a Coast Guard City."

Right away, Buzzella set out to change that.

He worked with the city to establish

a Coast Guard City committee, which just began in January and now meets publicly twice a month at the governmental center.

The group "discusses how to promote and advertise Traverse City as an official U.S. Coast Guard City," he said. The committee is currently working toward designing signage to be placed at different points of entrance to the city showcasing its unique designation, and is thinking about coming up with potential Coast Guard City logos for storefronts.

Additionally, he said, the group is working on designing a static Coast Guard display to be featured somewhere in town, which will include a "scale version" of a Coast Guard helicopter.

Along with promoting the City,

one of Buzzella's main goals is to "continue to build upon the relationships that the city has with the Coast Guard, and enhance and support the Coast Guard," he said.

One of the ways Buzzella and his predecessors have done this is to create and maintain a "strong partnership with the Traverse City Area Public School System," he said.

Every Thursday, a team of Coasties travel to Traverse Heights Elementary to mentor and tutor students, and members of the base are working on creating a virtual program with TCAPS for students of Coast Guard parents who transfer out of the area.

"Through technology, kids could attend class in northern Michigan through a virtual concept," Buzzella

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## Heart Strings



Photo by Mark Denny  
 The gift of music has helped Jerry and Marilyn Wares through some of life's greatest challenges. Health concerns and the loss of a son.

## Rescue crews team up for training

by Roxanne Werly  
 Posted: 02.21.2012 at 6:27 AM

**Read more:** Local, Weather, Water Issue, Outdoors, Military, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Training, Coast Guard Rescue, Coast Guard Rescue Helicopter, Rescue Training, Glen Lake, Glen Lake Fire Department, GLED, National Parks Service, Water Rescue Training, Water Rescue Training USCG, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Sleeping Bear Dunes Rescue Training

Area agencies recently teamed up for specialized water rescue training.

Glen Lake Fire Department trained with the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Park Service for water rescue responses.

Crews learned the proper procedures for safely transferring a patient into a helicopter from the deck of the GLED Rescue/Fire boat. The USCG brought its rescue helicopter to the Dunes parking lot to live practice these maneuvers.

All three agencies are often called upon to help citizens needing assistance on the water. This training helped to coordinate the efforts of personnel who do not often have opportunity to work together. The training involved classroom lecture on what to expect with rescues involving boats and air crews.

The GLED Rescue/Fire boat was towed and shown how it will assist and interact with USCG rescue crews and NPS personnel. The Rescue/Fire boat presents the unique possibility that patients may be lifted off the deck of the boat rather than directly from the water. Finally, all were given the opportunity to practice ground exercises to hoist the rescue basket into the USCG helicopter.

All three agencies are now more familiar with GLED Rescue/Fire boat operation and capabilities. This was an excellent example of inter-agency cooperation to further protect the lives of area citizens and visitors.

**Search and rescue ups**



Members of the Cheboygan County Search and Rescue Team were trained by a Coast Guard crew from Air Station Traverse City. Pictured left to right are Tuscarora Township Fire Chief Dave Carpenter, Inverness Township Fire Chief Dan Socha, Avionics Electrical Technician Nick Thomas, Cheboygan County Sheriff's Deputy Ron Fenlon, Lt. Chad Thomas (pilot), Lt. Skylar Swenson (co-pilot), and Inverness Township Firefighter Marty Sarrault, who co-ordinated the event.

**By Mike Fornes**  
**Cheboygan Daily Tribune**  
 Posted Mar 09, 2012 @ 09:09 AM

**Suggested Stories**

Cheboygan, Mich. — When it was all over, Inverness Township Fire Chief Dan Socha watched the Coast Guard helicopter fly away from the grounds surrounding the fire hall and smiled.

"This was terrific training," Socha said. "It took a lot of coordination to get these guys to come here from Air Station Traverse City. It was great of them to do it and we appreciated it very much."

Read more **HERE** in Friday's edition of the Daily Tribune

**From the Web**

Report: Lava Boat: cruise ship sold for scrap (FOXNews.com - Travel)

Florida Keys: The End of the Road (Away.com)

Giant Spider Crab Sheds

**INSIDER FROM PAGE ONE**

**NMC to host Career Fair**  
**TRAVERSE CITY**  
 Employers and job seekers are invited to participate in NMC's sixth annual Career Fair, scheduled from 3-5 p.m. March 7 at the Hagerty Center on NMC's Great Lakes Campus.

**DUTY**  
**FROM PAGE 1-A**

Employers from professional and occupational fields will be recruiting for career-track positions, seasonal and entry-level opportunities, as well as internships, service learning and networking opportunities.

In previous years up to 80 employers and 500 job seekers have participated in the Career Fair, the only event of its size in northwest Michigan.

Employers may register online for booth space at [www.nmc.edu/careers](http://www.nmc.edu/careers). There is a \$25 registration fee, waived for nonprofits. Participants should bring multiple copies of their resume and dress in business attire. For more tips on job fair preparation, review the job-seeking tools at [www.nmc.edu/careers](http://www.nmc.edu/careers).

**Logo competition**  
 Buzzella is also striving to involve area high school students with the Coast Guard base.

"Every air station has its own logo (for its uniform patches)," he said. "It's a tradition that every station designs its own."

The current Traverse City logo is outdated, so Buzzella and his team have launched a logo competition with area high schools throughout the greater Traverse City area can compete, he said.

All entries must follow specific design criteria: the patch should include the traditional "Cherry Wings" and designate Traverse City as a Coast Guard City, among other

guidelines.

The air station will vote on the logos sometime in late April or early May, with the winning school honored sometime in June, he said.

In addition to working with the school system, the Traverse City Coast Guard air base works to support the community in another, less obvious way, Buzzella said.

"Our economic footprint in the community is around \$8.5 million," he noted. "The unit has a \$2.1 million budget and the remaining \$6.2 million comes from the members of the Coast Guard, their spouses and children living in the area — purchasing housing, clothing, groceries, travel expenses and more."

Through a federal bid process, the air station also hired Big Kahuna Charters, a local company, to support the Coast Guard's training program with the use of boats on the water.

The air base is also working with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to provide support to tribal enforcement and enforcement of fishery laws, Buzzella said.

**Active service**  
 Perhaps one of the biggest ways the Coast Guard has immersed itself in the community is through volunteerism.

Buzzella himself sits on the board of directors for the United Way, American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters and is a member of Rotary Charities. In addition, executive officer Scott Langum serves on local boards for the Boy Scouts and Kiwanis Club.

Crews from the air station participate in the Special Olympics and are a regular participant in the annual United Way Day of Caring, providing roofing for Boy Scout Camp

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Photo Special to the Insider  
 Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella (commanding officer) and Cmdr. Chris Chase (operations officer) of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, are presented with the "Outstanding Agency Award" by Lois Arnold, president and CEO of Special Olympics Michigan, at the Hall of Fame Awards Banquet last November. The crew of Air Station Traverse City received the award for their consistent efforts in support of Special Olympics.

Grellick, said Langum.

Air Station Traverse City is expanding its partnership with the Cherry Festival as well, and offered space on the base to store the nearly 25,000 toys collected through the recent Toys for Tots program. They also work with the Naval Sea Cadet Program which involves young boys and girls in community service and volunteer opportunities.



Photo Special to the Insider  
 Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City is shown gathering canned goods for their display as part of last month's Construction 2012 to benefit the Fisher Fred Foundation's annual Frost Bite Food Drive. Pictured (from left): Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City Commanding Officer Joseph Buzzella and members of the Air Station's Anchor Club: Patty Buzzella, Garrett Chase, Courtney Allen, Nel Learning, Christine Stalsenburg, Carmen Langum and team engineer Bob Verschaave.

An Open House is held annually for community members to visit the base, view the helicopters and other equipment that perform rescue searches and other missions throughout the Great Lakes.

One of the most memorable volunteer opportunities came just a few months ago, when a crew from the Coast Guard worked with other organizations to assist local resident Larry Poulin in a World War II veteran who was also a prisoner of war in a Japanese camp.

"His house was in disrepair," Langum said. "The crew came together with other groups for a 'three-day work party' to make repairs to Poulin's home, from his roof to siding, flooring, landscap-

ing and more, he said. Additionally, a veterans' advocacy group secured a continued care service for Poulin.

"We were just a piece of (it)," Langum said. "It was one of the most amazing outpourings of generosity I've ever seen — an indicator of why Traverse City is such an amazing place."

Buzzella agreed.

"There are many areas that stand out and make Traverse City special," he said, "(along with) its sense of community, patriotism and its charity. The majority of events I've seen seem to be linked to some sort of charity. It's a special place in this country, one of the reasons

why (many Coast Guard members) want to serve here and retire here."

For his part, Buzzella hopes that the Coast Guard base has been a positive contributor to the region's community.

"I only have two years here," he said. "Each day I come to work or am out in the community, if I can't have a positive impact I feel like I've lost a day."

*Editor's Note: This spring, look for an in-depth article detailing the day-to-day duties of Coast Guard Air Station TC.*

Contact Katie Bedard-Goytowski at [katieybedard@gmail.com](mailto:katieybedard@gmail.com)





Dale, you were one heck of likeable guy, with your outgoing personality and crazy fast-talking southern accent. You brightened up every room and made people laugh. From when I first met you in '86, you were always "that guy" that everybody loved - not a bad thing to say about anybody - not a bad bone in your body. You loved flying. Men never stopped talking about how much you loved your family. Most importantly, you loved life & it showed in everything you did. You'll be missed my friend.  
- Kyle

D.T. - YOU WERE THE FIRST PILOT I MET WHEN I CHECKED INTO SAVANNAH AND SINCE THAT DAY I HAVE ADMIRERD YOU AND BEEN PRIND TO HAVE HAD THE HONOR OF FLYING WITH YOU. YOU LOVED LIFE AND MADE EVERY ONE BETTER JUST BY BEING YOURSELF. YOU ARE TRULY MISSED, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN. MAY GOD SPEED AND FOREVER BLESS THOSE YOU'VE LEFT BEHIND.  
- Ryan All

Pickle, we had fun on the Swan Team  
- Henry D



Congrats on making Chief, it was great working with you in Mobile. You will be sorely missed. - ASIC D, Al



# MILITARY Coast Guard helicopter crashes in Alabama

## Rescue swimmer killed, three others reported missing

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—As divers searched the muddy bottom of Alabama's Mobile Bay, a salvage ship was dispatched Wednesday to the sunken wreckage of a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter that crashed on a training mission, leaving one crewmember dead and three others missing. Officials said the search would continue through the night throughout the choppy bay in the hope of finding survivors.

The MH-65C helicopter crashed Tuesday evening near Point Clear, Ala. One crewmember was found unresponsive and later declared dead, the Coast Guard said.

The crewmembers were outfitted with survival gear called "dry suits" for the water that officials said was around 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Chief Petty Officer John Edwards said all the crew members received extensive training in emergency escape. He declined to say how long a person could typically survive in a dry suit in 60-degree water, but said, "They look at beyond the survivability charts." The man who died was a rescue swimmer, said Capt. Don Rose, commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector Mobile. Rose said rescuers tried to revive the rescue swimmer when they found him, but were unable to. The three missing crewmembers were the pilot, the co-pilot and the flight mechanic.

Names of the four crewmembers have not been released. Divers swam to the wreckage in about 13 feet of water, but were unable to gain access to its fuselage.

# COAST GUARD COMPASS

OFFICIAL BLOG OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD

## Remembering the crew of CG-6535

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012

Posted by [Christopher Lagan](#)



Coast Guard Aviators, Training Center Mobile, Ala., and family members pay their respects during a ceremony honoring the salute and memorials of Coast Guard helicopter 6535. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.

Earlier today the Coast Guard bid farewell to four of its own. In a memorial service held in Hangar 2 at [Coast Guard Aviation Training Center Mobile, Ala.](#), the service paid tribute to the crew of [Coast Guard helicopter 6535](#) – Lt. Cmdr. Dale Taylor, Lt. j.g. Thomas Cameron, Chief Petty Officer Fernando Jorge and Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Knight.

"Dale, Tom, Nando and Drew answered the call," said [Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Bob Papp](#). "They stepped forward and dedicated their lives to helping others – the only thing stronger than their desire to fly, was their desire to serve. And, they did serve – they served all of us."

On Feb. 28, 2012, a Coast Guard helicopter, designation 6535, [went down in Mobile Bay, Ala.](#) during a training flight. The bodies of Taylor, Cameron and Jorge were recovered from the crash site. The search for Knight continues.

On behalf of the Coast Guard family, we want to thank our readers for the outpouring of support from the public, particularly [the community of Mobile](#), over the past week. Your thoughts and prayers for our shipmates and those they left behind are both a testament to the careers of these brave Coast Guardsmen and an inspiration to those who choose to wear the uniform in service to and defense of the United States.

Below are photographs from today's ceremony. You can also view or download [video](#) of the memorial service on the U.S. Coast Guard website.



Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Bob Papp addresses those gathered to pay their respects to the crew of Coast Guard helicopter 6535. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.

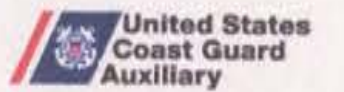
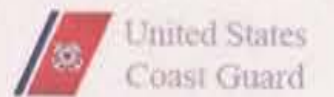
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Lt. Cmdr. Dale Taylor was the aircraft commander for Coast Guard helicopter 6535. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.



Lt. j.g. Thomas Cameron was the pilot assigned to Coast Guard helicopter 6535. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.



Chief Petty Officer Fernando Jorge was the rescue swimmer assigned to Coast Guard helicopter 6535. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.



A member of the U.S. Coast Guard Band plays "Taps" outside of Hangar 2 at Coast Guard Aviation Training Center Mobile, Ala., during the memorial service for the crew of Coast Guard helicopter 6535. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.



EMERGENCY TRAINING

# Search and rescue tips

By MIKE FORNES  
 mike@cheboygantribune.com

**INVERNESS TOWNSHIP** — When it was all over, Inverness Township Fire Chief Dan Socha watched the Coast Guard helicopter fly away from the grounds surrounding the fire hall and smiled.

"This was terrific training," Socha said. "It took a lot of coordination to get these guys to come here from Air Station Traverse City. It was great of them to do it and we appreciated it very much."

The Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Team met at the Inverness Township Fire Department No. 1 for a training seminar and the Coast Guard arrived by helicopter to discuss various techniques and procedures.

"They landed the helo right behind the fire station," Socha said. "We saw some of the new equipment they have for finding people and animals in a house fire. It is incredible how the image stays right with the camera, so you don't lose the person you are looking for under blind con-

SEE SEARCH, A6



Members of the Cheboygan County Search and Rescue Team were trained by a Coast Guard crew from Air Station Traverse City. Pictured left to right are Tuscarora Township Fire Chief Dave Carpenter, Inverness Township Fire Chief Dan Socha, Avionics Electrical Technician Nick Thomas, Cheboygan County Sheriff's Deputy Ron Fenlon, Lt. Chad Thomas (pilot), Lt. Skylar Swenson (copilot), and Inverness Township Firefighter Marty Sarrault, who co-ordinated the event.

COURTESY PHOTO

## SEARCH

From A1

conditions." The Search and Rescue Team is comprised of volunteers from each fire department in Cheboygan County. The squad has responded to more than 100 incidents since it was organized in 2004 by Sheriff

Dale Clarmont. The team handles cases involving lost hunters, missing snowmobilers and water-related accidents and has responded to drownings, fires and other calamities assisting the Cheboygan County Dive Team, Sheriff's Department and various fire departments and other area law enforcement agencies.

## INVERNESS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW waived in downtown drug case

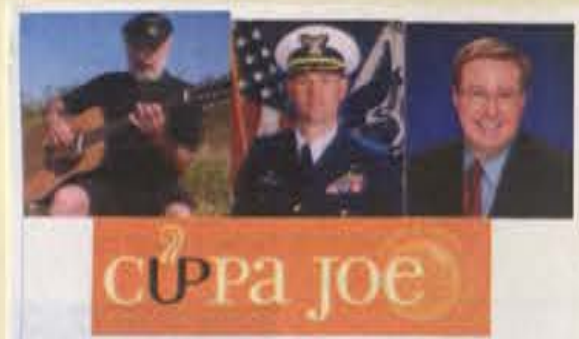
By MIKE FORNES  
 mike@cheboygantribune.com

**CHEBOYGAN** — A husband and wife each waived preliminary examinations Wednesday in Cheboygan County 89th District Court in connection with felony drug charges.

Agents from the Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement Team, commonly known as SANE, say they discovered crystal methamphetamine, U.S. currency, prescription drugs and other drug paraphernalia in a raid at a Division Street apartment in Cheboygan believed to be a delivery location for drugs imported from Las Vegas, Nev.

Bound over to 53rd Circuit Court are Keriann Long, 45, and Richard Long, 47, both of Cheboygan. The pair are facing two counts of delivery of crystal methamphetamine, conspiracy to deliver crystal methamphetamine and for maintaining a drug house.

Keriann Long was also charged in connection with po-



**CUPPA JOE**

## The Ticker's Ode to Joes

by Carrie Henderson

Fresh from the Obscure American Holiday file: Today is National Joe Day — a day to celebrate the average Joe. Never one to turn down an opportunity for celebration, *The Ticker* salutes some local Joes who, it turns out, are anything but average.

### Commander Joe Buzzella

As commander of the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Joe Buzzella is the highest local "Guardian of the Great Lakes," but did you know he's originally from Miami? South Beach flash notwithstanding, Buzzella says a TC post has always been his top choice. "When the officer called and offered me Traverse City, before he could finish his sentence I said, 'I'll take it.'" Why? "The love of country and the respect for the armed forces are unlike anywhere I have served. There are many fine Americans here," he says. Buzzella's two-year term in TC will end next summer, and he'll be assigned a new location — but don't expect him to be gone long. Buzzella says he plans on retiring here.

### St. Joseph Catholic Church

Founded in 1880, St. Joseph Catholic Church on Old Mission Peninsula is thought to be the first Catholic church in TC. Rev. Monsignor Edwin Thome has been celebrating Mass there for almost a decade. He tells us the church, currently in a 1908-built church building, is raising money to build a bigger, better multi-use structure about a mile south of its current location on Center Road. Construction on the multimillion dollar building will begin this summer, and should be finished next year. The current historic church will stay intact for small weddings and funerals.

### Joe Charlevoix

Joe Charlevoix has been forecasting weather for WPBN TV 7&4 for almost a decade. He works mornings, which means hitting the sack by 8 p.m. He says he's been fascinated by weather since he was a toddler and admits to "bringing weather maps for show and tell in kindergarten." His last name, however, is no stage name; it's really Charlevoix, and he hails from the Upper Peninsula. Despite his big-weather weather background Up North, he counts among the fiercest storms he's seen — and covered — here: the 2002 Boyne City tornado, the 2008 flooding in Mason and Manistee counties, and the big weekend-long blizzard that just this month swept through the north.





# REGION/OPINION

NEWS FROM NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

Sunday, April 15, 2012

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR (231) 933-1472

## PINEWOOD DERBY



Left, spectators and members of the Tiger Cub Den look on Saturday during the Boy Scouts of America Bay Trails District Pinewood Derby finals at the United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City hangar. Below left, racers register. Below, racing continues. Bottom, cars are arranged after being inspected.



To see more photos of the Pinewood Derby finals, visit [Record-Eagle.com/photogalleries](http://Record-Eagle.com/photogalleries).

Photos by Keith King



### Traverse City Air Station commander details flight to aid freighter crewman on Lake Superior

Published: Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 6:06 PM Updated: Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 6:07 PM

By Heidi Fenton | [hfenton@mlive.com](mailto:hfenton@mlive.com)

NORTHERN MICHIGAN -- Falling snow and sleet meant tougher conditions Tuesday when a Coast Guard crew flew out to pick up a man who fell ill aboard a freighter on Lake Superior.

But the medical rescue unfolded smoothly, said Joseph Buzzella, commanding officer of the Coast Guard's Traverse City Air Station.

The Traverse City station received a call at about 1 p.m. Tuesday with information about a man suffering from a medical condition aboard a 634-foot vessel moving across northern Lake Superior.



A Coast Guard helicopter today rescued a man who fell ill aboard a freighter.

The initial message came from the Rescue Coordination Centre in Ontario and spread to the Coast Guard's Sault Ste. Marie Sector. Authorities determined a medical evacuation was the best option.

Since Traverse City offered the closest air station, a crew — which included two pilots, a flight mechanic and a medical technician — prepared for flight aboard an MH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter.

Air Station Cmdr. Scott Langum said the crew took off early Tuesday afternoon and stopped in Houghton, Mich., to refuel before heading out over Lake Superior.

Crew members found the Sam Laud vessel about 30 miles from the Keweenaw Peninsula around 4:30 p.m.

They picked up the man in need of help—an unidentified crew member aboard the freighter—and transported him to Portage Health in the Upper Peninsula city of Hancock.

The helicopter crew made one more stop to refuel and then continued on for a return flight to Traverse City.

The crew member's condition today was not available, but "the last report when we transferred him (to hospital care) was he was doing better," Langum said.

The freighter's final destination was a port in Silver Bay, northeast of Duluth, Minn.

Langum was not sure what day that port call was scheduled to take place.

Buzzella credited his crew's efforts Tuesday to continued training that helped things run smoothly despite falling snow and ice.

"We typically are ready for the call in almost any conditions," he said.

According to Buzzella, the Traverse City station handles about 200 search and rescue cases each year — most in the summer months when water recreation peaks.

The station handles rescues on Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and the northern part of Lake Huron.



# TRaverse CITY RECORD EAGLE

2011 MPA NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

June 12, 2012

TUESDAY

75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.75 SUNDAY

MEL GEE

## Cherry Fest legend dies

BY LORAIN ANDERSON  
landerson@record-eagle.com

TRaverse CITY — "Time goes by, but I keep moving," Mel Gee told a reporter in 2006.

He stood at the corner of Front and Union with his bullhorn and announced the Cherry Festival Royale Parade bands, floats and other entries.

"This is my home, right here," he said.

On Saturday, friends, fans and city leaders will gather to pay

tribute to Gee, who died Friday at 84 after a life filled with music, song and Cherry Festivals.

Gee was a festival volunteer "ambassador" for 58 of his 84 years.

"He was a treasure, a really special guy, and he'll be missed," said Trevor Tkach, executive director of the National Cherry Festival.

Tkach said the festival committee already is working on a number of ways to pay tribute to

Gee during this year's festival.

Tkach visited Gee last week at Munson Hospice House and officially named him parade marshal emeritus in honor of his years of service.

Gee served as Cherry Royale Parade marshal in 1996 and in 2004 was Heritage Parade Marshal. He also was a longtime supporter of Traverse City's high school bands and music



Record-Eagle file photo

Mel Gee announces the arrival of floats at the intersection of Front and Union streets in 2006 during the Grand Royale Parade.

SEE GEE PAGE 2A

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FREE TRAVERSE



Toast the return of summer at the 2012 Traverse City Wine & Art Festival, June 30. PAGE 3-A

BENZIE



Recycled refuse hits the fashion runway. PAGE 1-B

LEELANAU



## PROUD Partnership

USCG, city and festival strengthen ties to community

By KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
Contributing Writer

TRaverse CITY — The National Cherry Festival and the United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City have long enjoyed a partnership for the parades and air shows during the region's busiest week of celebration.

This year that partnership has expanded to include not only the parades and air shows, but much more.

As in past years, the Coast Guard will be providing flyovers and will be towing one of its helicopters during the parade, with Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City members and their families walking behind it, said Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr., Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. Navy Sea Cadets will also be a part of the parade. The station also plans to

be a larger part of this year's air show, scheduled for the weekend of July 7-8.

"We have always integrated the Coast Guard as much as we can," said Trevor Tkach, executive director of the National Cherry Festival. "The base has always been very helpful with air shows. They are very critical to (its) success."

This year, the Black Diamond Jet team will be back by popular demand, Tkach said. Last year the private jet team was known by a different name but has added two more jets, MiGs, to the team.

"Being a private jet team gives them a little more flexibility as to what they can do," he said, though everyone in the team has military experience.

Besides the Black Diamonds there will be the "world's largest team," Team RV, said Susan Wilcox Olson, media relations for the National Cherry Festival. This part of the show will have 12 planes in the air at a time.

The Coast Guard will also have a cutter, the CGC Neuh Bay, that will be center stage

PLEASE SEE USCG/2-A



In keeping with tradition, a helicopter from Air Station Traverse City will be towed along the parade route during this year's Cherry Festival. However, instead of having Coast Guard members march in formation, this year they are invited to walk with family members behind the aircraft.



Photo by Jeff Ruffel  
Commander Joseph Buzzella, with his wife Patty, son Joey and daughter Maegan participated in the 2011 Cherry Festival parade.

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### Dive teams search for possible drowning victim in Cadillac

by Lauren Amstutz

Posted: 06.08.2012 at 6:33 PM

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#### Father saves child, then drowns

Read more: Local News: <http://www.upnorthlive.com/Upnorthlive/Drowning-Lake-Mitchell-Cadillac>

CADILLAC — The Westford County Sheriff's Office, Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Coast Guard are searching for a body of a missing man who drowned in Lake Mitchell.

Sheriff Gary Finstrom says the man jumped off a pontoon boat to save his child who was in the water. He was able to get the child back on the boat, but then he went under. The sheriff says the child was wearing a life jacket, but do not believe the father was.

U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City is assisting in the search with a helicopter crew, according to Commander Joseph Buzzella.

Crews plan to search until dark, and then will continue efforts in the morning.

7&4 News has a crew on the scene. We'll bring you more details as soon as they become available.



### Great Lakes Coast Guardsmen help with rescue in Minnesota floods

Posted: 06.22.2012 at 2:39 PM

save send print

Read more: Local: Weather: Water Issue: Outdoors: Military: News: US Coast Guard: Great Lakes Coast Guard: Minnesota Floods: Duluth Floods: Minnesota State of Emergency: Flooding: Severe Weather in Minnesota: Severe Weather Duluth Minnesota

DULUTH, MINNESOTA — The Coast Guard has rescued 15 people this week in Minnesota after major thunderstorms flooded the area in and around Duluth, Minnesota earlier this week.

Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton declared a state of emergency after more than twelve inches of rain fell in Northeastern Minnesota.

Coast Guard helicopter and boat crews are conducting harbor patrols and assisting in response efforts.

Some residents in the area have been without water for two days.

There were no immediate reports of major pollution, deaths or serious injuries.

#### RELATED LINKS

- Feet of sand leave farms wasteland after flooding





**WINGS**

FROM PAGE 1-A

might need.  
 "It's my way of saying 'thank you,'" she said.  
 The new award is a chance for the USCG to reciprocate that type of civilian service.

"With Traverse City as a Coast Guard City (the Cherry Wings award) is great opportunity to give back to the city that gives so much to the Air Station, and award someone for outstanding support," Buzzella explained. "Christine is the first recipient, and her name will be put on a plaque of perpetuity that

will stand in the halls of Air Station Traverse City. We will continue to do this every year."  
 Last week's ceremony was part of the Cherry Festival's Heroes Day Concert, which featured the NME Concert Band and the Cherry Capital Men's Chorus performing a variety of popular tunes from all decades.

Heroes Day honors all first responders - police, firefighters and EMS personnel as well as the military, said Tom Haase, executive director of Heroes Day. Each year, a special tribute is given to one group of veterans or first responders, and this year - in honor of the 50th year since American troops arrived in Vietnam - Heroes Day offered special recognition to those veterans.

In addition, one person is chosen every year to represent that special group, along with all heroes.

For 2012, Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition President Jack Pickard was chosen. Haase presented Pickard with a 2012 Heroes Day Medal, as well as one to Stalsonburg, who as a former fire chief of Buckley, Ariz., was also recognized as a "Hero."



Photo by Katie Bedard-Goytowski

U.S. Coast Guard Commander Joseph Buzzella awards Christine Stalsonburg with the first-ever Cherry Wings Award, an honor given by Air Station Traverse City to a community member who has shown significant support to the Coast Guard. A special ceremony with Admiral Parks was planned for later in the week on base.

# TOP FLIGHT

Stalsonburg receives inaugural Cherry Wings Award

BY KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
 Contributing Writer

TRAVERSE CITY - Local realtor and military supporter Christine Stalsonburg was awarded the first-ever Cherry Wings Award last week by U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City Commander Joseph Buzzella.

The award is given to someone in the community who has "provided exemplary support to the men, women and families of Air Station Traverse City," Buzzella said.

Stalsonburg was the organizer of the 2011 "Decades Remembered" event last year, and this past Christmas season she

funded and coordinated a breakfast with Santa for children of the air station.

Buzzella went on to say that Stalsonburg also shows support for military spouses, and this year for Military Spouse Appreciation Day she provided flowers and chocolates for each active duty spouse to give to their spouses at home.

The Air Station has "sincere appreciation" for everything Stalsonburg has done, he stated during the presentation.

Stalsonburg herself was "speechless" upon receiving the award.

"It is an incredible honor to be able to give to those who give so

much to our country," she said. "I can't imagine what it's like to have to go to a new community every two to three years. It's nice to be able to make them feel welcomed and appreciated."

In addition to her other contributions, Stalsonburg - a local realtor - has made it her mission to help military families with their housing transitions, working to find the best fit for them in the area.

She also gives each military family a 30 percent rebate from her own commission to use toward their down payment, closing costs or anything else they

PLEASE SEE WINGS 2-A



Traverse City Coast Guard Station

On July 9th, Lt. Commander Kyle Young gave my two families with my grandchildren a wonderful private tour of the TC Coast Guard Station. He was informative, and the kids loved every second of it. He allowed them to sit in the helicopter and ask questions and they were so proud they were allowed to put on a helmet! It really made an impression on them. Rowen (Age 6) Marin (age 4) and Karl (age 4) are still talking about it. Plus, the adults, Mandy, Carol, Jessie, and Collin also learned a lot about our area and our Coast Guard! We are proud to have you here.

During the Cherry Festival fly-overs, all the kids pointed to the helicopters and said, "There's Kyle!"

It was a wonderful experience and I hope you let Kyle Young know how much it meant to us. Especially Karl, who swears he is going to be a pilot!

Thank you very much,

*Carol Bliss*  
 Carol Bliss  
 3206 Pembroke Drive  
 Traverse City, MI 49685

*Rowen*

*Thank you so much!  
 Jessie*

*Thank you for  
 the tour & your  
 service - Mandy*

*"Marin"*

*"Karl"*





Thank's for the tour of  
your base! WE REALLY APPRECIATE  
THE TIME YOU SPENT TAKING US  
BEHIND THE SCENES AND ANSWERING  
EVERY QUESTION.

Michael Andrew  
Dena  
Karin  
Bo F  
Brad  
Darius  
Taylor  
Liam

Angela  
Kawich

Chris



W54

THANK

Thank

YOU

you

COAST

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FROM: OLD MISSION!

TS OF AMERICA, TROOP 30  
CHURCH ♦ TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49684

July 28, 2012

I and honored to announce that on Thursday, Aug. 16th, 2012 the  
I to the following outstanding young men of our community:


James B. Turkette  
3202 Veterans Dr.  
9690 Traverse City, MI 49684

nd I personally Invite you to attend the Court of Honor Ceremony,  
in Thursday, Aug. 16th, at 7:00 pm, in the pavillon at Silver Lake  
ake Rd, Traverse City, Michigan.

As Chairman of Troop 30, I would appreciate any acknowledgements or resolutions that you may wish to  
bestow on these young men, be forwarded to them directly.

Please contact Mr. Stein regarding your availability to attend this Court of Honor on Aug. 16th.

Chris Stein 231-922-8145  
2634 Ra Wa Si  
Traverse City, MI 49684

Respectfully Yours,  
  
Richard M. O'Neil  
Chairman, Troop 30

"Because Character Counts"







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Photo by Katie Bedard-Goytowski  
 Commander Joseph Buzzella stands in front of the newly painted hangar at Air Station Traverse City, proudly representing its new cherry wings signage, a symbol of the relationship between the Coast Guard and Traverse City.

## 'A Special Place to Live and Serve'

### Local Air Station celebrates anniversary of U.S. Coast Guard

BY KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
 Contributing Writer

TRaverse City - Aug. 4, 1790 is a big day for the United States Coast Guard - it's the day that then-Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton brought into existence the Revenue Cutter Service, the precursor to what is now known as the Coast Guard.

When the government was in its infancy, it needed to find ways to bring revenue and fund the new government," said Coast Guard Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr., currently of Air Station Traverse City. To do so, the Service stopped inbound ship traffic to collect tariffs. Later, after the Life Saving Service and the Lighthouse Service were created, all programs were consolidated into the U.S. Coast Guard.

Today, the Coast Guard is tasked with protecting the United States borders, maritime interests and environmental assets, in addition to completing search and rescue missions, providing legal authority and



maintaining small boat stations and air stations along the coastline all over the country.

And here in Traverse City, the Coast Guard has had a presence since 1946, when it took over a naval base designed to test drone aircraft during World War II.

Air Station Traverse City's area of responsibility covers Lake

Superior, Lake Michigan and the northern portion of Lake Huron, said Buzzella. The remaining southern half of Lake Huron, along with Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, are covered by Air Station Detroit, the only other air station in the Great Lakes.

Between the two, the Coast Guard monitors 94,250 square miles of water and 10,210 shoreline miles he added. In addition to the year-round air stations and small boat stations along the Great Lakes' coastlines, Air Station Traverse City mans an air facility in Waukegan, Ill. near Chicago from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with two crews and a

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 PLEASE SEE GUARD/2-A

### FROM THE FRONT GUARD

#### Air Station

Detroit mans a similar facility in Muskegon.

It might surprise many that out of all the air stations across the entire country, both Detroit and Traverse City hold the top two slots of search and rescue hours flown for the month of January.

And warmer months mean even more activity. "We've been busy this summer," Buzzella said. "They've been busy all year. This fiscal year, since October 2011, Air Station Traverse City has flown 165 cases and saved or assisted 36 lives across the Great Lakes, said Operations Officer Chris Chase.

#### Above and beyond

In addition to search and rescue, the base assists in other projects across the country, like the Red River flooding in North Dakota, the horrific Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010 and various deployments to southern borders year-round.

"The unit flies over

3,000 flight hours a year," Chase said. "Roughly 40 percent of that is training for search and rescue."

This year, the base is adding to its already-packed schedule by supporting the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, Buzzella said.

"It was the United States' second war for independence - and a big part of the war was here in the Great Lakes."

Unit members will be active throughout the region participating in a variety of celebrations and events.

Closer to home, the members of Air Station Traverse City participate in a variety of community events, through volunteering, coaching and working with organizations like the YMCA and Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

"The community supports the Air Station, and the Air Station supports the community," Buzzella said.

In 2010, Traverse City was named the 10th Coast Guard City by the United States Congress, he said. "I challenged the city commissioners to do something with the title."

A city ordinance was voted in to create a Coast Guard City Committee.

### Check out GTI online:

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File photo by Dave Lahn  
 A pilot from Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City meets with visitors during an open house held at the facility during a recent National Cherry Festival.

"The goal is to assist Traverse City in becoming and looking like a Coast Guard City, and to support the men, women and families of Air Station Traverse City," he said.

So far, the group, which meets twice a month in a public forum, has "accomplished a lot."

The committee, which

has been around since August 2011, is trying to make the Coast Guard's position in the community "more visible," said Coast Guard City Committee Chairperson Joe Muha.

"We've done quite a bit. We are charged with creating promoting and implementing some programs and services

to augment the Coast Guard services. We are trying to educate the community that we are a Coast Guard City and what the responsibilities are for people that live in a Coast Guard City. We like to acknowledge what the Coast Guard does and how valuable they are in our community," Muha

explained.

As Traverse City is currently only one of only 13 Coast Guard Cities across the nation, Muha hopes that the committee will help promote more "permanent recognition" of the designation.

"We are working on a large sculpture" that will hopefully be placed somewhere downtown, he said. "We are trying to implement a signage program at every entrance to town. We have developed a logo for the committee and have developed stickers - tattoo stickers for children and bigger ones that we would like downtown businesses to put in their store windows, stating that they support the Coast Guard and are proud to be a Coast Guard City."

Being a Coast Guard City "connects the CG men and women with the community more than ever before," Buzzella said, "though there has always been great relationship between Traverse City and the air station."

"There is a high level of patriotism (here) and it's a great place for the Coast Guard. It makes Traverse City a very special place to live and serve."

# REGION/STATE

NEWS FROM NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

Saturday, August 4, 2012

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR (231) 933-1472

### CAMP

## Campers get taste of flight

BY CAROL SOUTH  
 Special to the Record-Eagle

TRaverse City — The Grand Traverse Youth Aviation Camp is a day of all things aviation, plus a flight around the region.

Free camp sessions — scheduled for Aug. 4 and Aug. 11 — are open to youth ages 8-19. Up to 120 students can participate in either or both sessions.

The camp is designed to expose young people to aviation, and more than just flying. Aviation career possibilities outside of a plane's cockpit can include everything from engineering, airport management and air traffic control to flight attendant, design and aircraft maintenance.

"It's a pretty amazing field with a myriad of options," said Bill Donberg, assistant chief flight instructor at Northwestern Michigan College's aviation division.

The camp is hosted by NMC, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 234, Aviation Exploring Post M22, the United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City and Youth Aviation Adventure.

Camp officials hope to fire up participants' imaginations about science and aviation, which by extension boosts interest in technology, engineering and math subjects and careers.

"Because of diminishing public perception of what's going on

### GT Youth Aviation Camp

- Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Aug. 4 and Aug. 11, flight around Grand Traverse Bay to be scheduled in groups.
- 2800 Aero Park Dr., Traverse City
- Ages 8-19 may attend either or both sessions.
- Free; pre-registration is required and space is limited.
- More information or to register, call Bill Ross at (269) 924-7300.

in aviation and space, kids are losing that excitement and interest," Donberg said. "There's the Mars landing and the privatization of space; stuff is going on but kids aren't aware of it."

Camp participants on Saturday will rotate among nine stations. Adult professionals at each station will describe different aspects of aviation and potential careers, including airport operations, helicopters, instruments, aerodynamics, power plants and instruments. Hands-on activities include building a small glider and a challenge to see whose covers the most ground.

Next Saturday, the camp offers a flight over the Grand Traverse Bay.

Last year, the aviation camp was limited to scouts, who could



Special to the Record-Eagle/Carol South  
 The Grand Traverse Youth Aviation Camp invites interested young people ages 8-19 to enjoy learning about aviation, space and related careers. The camp also includes a flight over the Grand Traverse Bay. Here, Bill Donberg, assistant chief flight instructor at NMC's Aviation Division, and Northwestern Michigan College aviation student Steven Kligman stand by one of the college's planes.

earn an Aviation merit badge. More than 80 youth participated, including both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Participating scouts in 2012 can also earn this merit badge.

"It was very well-received," said Mark Ewing, unit serving executive for the Bay Trails District of the President Ford Council. "Kids got to earn their merit badge, plus they were able to fly over northern Michigan."

The Grand Traverse Youth Aviation Camp is a natural extension of the Aviation Exploring Post M22. The post is sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 234, Northwestern Michigan College and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. Launched in February and geared to youth ages 14-20, Aviation Exploring members delve into a variety of aviation and space topics.

### Lost swimmer



Record-Eagle/  
 Keith King  
 A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter flies overhead as a Leland Township Fire and Rescue boat travels on Lake Michigan Thursday, searching for a missing swimmer near Leland.

## 16-year-old is missing and believed drowned

BY BRIAN MCGILLIVRAY  
 bmcgillivray@record-eagle.com

LELAND — A 16-year-old Lake Leelanau teen is missing and believed drowned after the strong current of a Lake Michigan rip tide swept him into deep water, authorities said.

The youth was playing with siblings in shallow water "pretty close to shore" at Van's Beach in Leland when the incident occurred in the early evening Thursday, Leelanau County Sheriff Mike Oltersdorf said.

"A family member tried to

assist but the current was too strong," Oltersdorf said. "It's definitely a drowning."

The sheriff's marine patrol, area fire department rescue teams, and the U.S. Coast Guard responded and searched the area from boats and the air but were unable

to locate the swimmer. The regional dive team was also called in and they searched until dark, Oltersdorf said.

Divers will resume the search today at first light, Oltersdorf said.

The victim's name is not being released at this time.



Wings of Mercy



Record-Eagle photos/Jen-Michael Shump

Above, Kelsey Stobb, 4, of Holland, talks to Wings of Mercy pilot Randy Kitzman, of Traverse City, following her plane ride during the 8th annual Wings of Mercy Fly-In Benefit at Cherry Capital Aviation. The event included a pancake breakfast and the chance to fly with some of the pilots, who provide free air transport to distant medical facilities for people who need treatment but have limited financial means. Six Wings of Mercy pilots and their planes were on hand, as well as Northflight EMS and representatives from Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. The organization has flown about 3,000 flights over the past 20 years.



Money raised at the annual event goes to offset fuel costs, which currently run around \$6.90 a gallon.

HELICOPTER TRAFFIC

Coast Guard begins intense training regimen

FROM STAFF REPORTS

TRAVERSE CITY — Area residents can expect to see more of the U.S. Coast Guard's helicopters as the Traverse City air station begins an intense procedural training and certification regimen.

Helicopters will conduct more flights over East and West Grand Traverse Bay and Cherry

Capital Airport through Sept. 21 as part of the program, Coast Guard officials said.

The annual standardization and certification visit will test air crews on search and rescue operations and in-flight emergencies. Cherry Capital Airport is the only nearby airport with the facilities necessary to allow pilots to land their aircraft in simulated emergencies, offi-

cialists said.

"We understand that this training period may be an inconvenience for local residents who are not accustomed to the increased activity, but it is absolutely necessary for our crews to maintain their skills," Lt. J.G. Jim Okorn, spokesman for the Traverse City station, said in a prepared release.





# REGION/OPINION

NEWS FROM NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

Sunday, November 18, 2012

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR (231) 933-1472



## TOTS IN TOYLAND



Top, the prop wash of an MH-66C Dolphin helicopter from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City blasts a crowd waiting for Santa Claus' arrival to kick off the Toys for Tots campaign at Great Wolf Lodge. Above, Santa Claus greets a crowd in the lobby of the Great Wolf Lodge. Last year's campaign collected about 25,000 toys that were distributed to about 8,000 children in the area.

### 37TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES MARINERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

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### PATCH

FROM PAGE 1-A

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"We had to incorporate the Coast Guard City title," she said. But, "I wanted to

put in the Great Lakes, not just Michigan, because they are the Guardians of the Great Lakes."

Schade also chose the shape and colors - which included a gold banner, orange stripe and blue border.

"It was an oval before - it has never been a shield," she said of her choice to use the new shape.

At the ceremony, Schade,

who is planning to attend NMC next year and intends to take art classes, was featured with her design this summer in the Cherry Festival's parade, and was also interviewed on five different radio stations last week, heard by more than 300,000 listeners in the Grand Traverse area.

"She did a fantastic job," Buzzella added.



## PATCH OF DISTINCTION

Photo courtesy of Coast Guard Air Station TC

Cmdr. Joseph Buzzella, commanding officer at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City is shown with Sarah Schade (center), winner of the air station's patch design contest, and Sarah's mother Beverly Schade.



### Schade takes top honors in Coast Guard design contest

By KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
Contributing Writer

TRAVERSE CITY - Grand Traverse Academy senior Sarah Schade was given a special honor by United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City last week.

Schade took first place in the Air Station's first-ever Air Station Patch Design Competition this past spring, and a special ceremony was held during her school's homecoming assembly on Friday, Oct. 26.

The station has had the same logo for more than 15 years, and when Traverse City became an official Coast Guard City in 2010 (the tenth in the nation, out of just 14 now), a move was made to change the patch and align it with the Coast Guard City distinction, according to Coast Guard Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr.

"No one outside Coast Guard Air Stations has ever designed one - until now," Buzzella said.

The air station offered the competition to all high schools in Traverse City and Schade's design,

a shield depicting the five Great Lakes, Cherry Wings and the words "Guardians of the Great Lakes," was one of the designs a panel of Coast Guard members presented to the entire base, and won when voted on by 137 men and women of Air Station Traverse City, he added.

"Not only will Sarah's design be produced on patches for uniforms, what's even cooler is that her design is mounted on the west end of Traverse City's Coast Guard Air Station hangar with Sarah's name and school. It will be up there for a very long time," explained Buzzella.

Schade's design will also be featured on Coast Guard merchandise available for purchase at the Coast Guard Exchange store located at the air station, which is open to the public.

While Schade was required to enter the competition as a requirement for an art class, the young artist said she was interested in doing so anyway.

"It will look good on a resume," she said. Schade, who has always

PLEASE SEE PATCH 2-A



# REGION/OPINION

NEWS FROM NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

Sunday, November 18, 2012



## Mariner's Hymn

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

*Eternal Father, Strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to thee,  
For those in peril on the sea.*

*O Saviour, whose almighty word  
The winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walk'd'st on the foaming deep,  
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O sacred Spirit! Who didst brood  
Upon the chaos dark and rude,  
Who badd'st its angry tumult cease,  
And gavest light and life and peace;  
O, hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O Trinity of love and pow'r!  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
and ever let there rise to Thee,  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

## Mariners Memorial Service November 9, 2012

Noon



### Cadet Procession

**U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter Flyover**  
Courtesy of Air Station Traverse City  
Weather/Search and Rescue permitting

**Welcome from the Master of Ceremonies**  
Cadet Jason Surface, Propeller Club President

**Raising of the Flag and National Anthem**  
Griffin Battalion, United States Navy Reserve  
National Anthem performed by Holly Olszewski

**Invocation**  
Father Iakovos Olechnowicz

**Superintendent's Welcome**  
RADM Jerry Achenbach

**Speaker**  
RADM Michael N. Parks  
Commander Ninth Coast Guard District

**Vessel Roll Call & Tolling of the Admiral's Bell**  
Cadets Wes Clanton and Chuck Langton

**Mariner's Hymn**  
Soloist Holly Olszewski

**Flower Placement & Invitation**  
Cadets Robert Arnone and Henry Kimberlin

Please join us in Room 111 immediately following ceremony for refreshments  
Propeller Club will have challenge coins available for purchase.

Record-Eagle/Jon-Michael Stump

Top, the prop wash of an MH-66C Dolphin helicopter from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City blasts a crowd waiting for Santa Claus' arrival to kick off the Toys for Tots campaign at Great Wolf Lodge. Above, Santa Claus greets a crowd in the lobby of the Great Wolf Lodge. Last year's campaign collected about 25,000 toys that were distributed to about 8,000 children in the area.

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By KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
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REGION/STATE

NEWS FROM NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR (231) 933-1472

Long Lake Elementary School honors veterans



Record-Eagle photos/Keith King

Long Lake Elementary School students enjoy recess Tuesday near a United States Coast Guard MH-65C Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Traverse City. Tours of the helicopter were given to students prior to the school's monthly assembly.

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Dennis Pitkavish, a United States Air Force veteran, introduces himself to Long Lake Elementary School students Tuesday as veterans are acknowledged during the school's monthly assembly. Pitkavish was invited to the event by his grandson, Ethan Carsten, a student at the school.



Veterans and United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City crew members proceed into the Long Lake Elementary School gymnasium.



Veterans, Long Lake Elementary School students and others face the American flag during the singing of the "Star-Spangled Banner."

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Shopping with a Purpose



Photos by Katie Bedard-Goytowski

Elementary school students from Silver Lake and Westwoods stand with their heroes, ready to begin shopping for Toys for Tots. Traverse City's Meijer store donated \$10,000 for the group to spend. Northwest Michigan Toys for Tots is still seeking out crucial donations for this year, said Director Maggie Kent. "This year is our biggest challenge yet."

Meijer, little 'elves' and local heroes team up to help children in need

By KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI

NORTHERN MICHIGAN - Those visiting Meijer of Traverse City early Friday morning on Nov. 30 were in for a special sight. Santa Claus and a group of his special "elves" were hard at work, picking out toys for local children in need.

The group of "elves" included students from Westwoods and Silver Lake elementary schools, as well as some community heroes - 14 participants from the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, City Police, State Police and Coast Guard Air Station. TC met with the more than 60 students to check some

gifts off the Toys for Tots wish list.

"Each kid works with the heroes (to pick out presents)," said Mike Kent, board member for Toys for Tots. "We need their expertise - they know what's cool."

The toys were purchased with \$10,000 donated from the Meijer Traverse City store. It's a tradition of the store to partner with Toys for Tots, said John Spaulding, store director. "We all know what it's like to wake up Christmas morning and open a toy," he said. "No one should miss out on an experience like that."

"Meijer has been a generous supporter," Kent noted. "And while the event means a joyful Christmas

morning for the recipients of those toys, the participating children also learn a valuable lesson about giving to others.

"It's good for them to give back to the community," said Silver Lake Elementary parent Michele Conway, whose two children participated this year for the second time. "On Christmas Day, they're not only celebrating with our family but other families as well. They're proud to shop with their heroes."

The event links the community together, Spaulding added, through relation-

ships between the students, heroes and their schools.

"This is one of my favorite days," he said. Besides events like the one at Meijer in Traverse City, more than 100 toy collection sites have been organized all over the region (Northwest Michigan Toys for Tots covers Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties), said director Maggie Kent.

Northwest Michigan Toys for Tots also has community partners like Toys R Us and Fox Motors, "plus we receive in-kind donations

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Santa Claus came to Meijer on Friday morning to lend a hand and spend time with the students while they shopped for Toys for Tots.

from Bill Marsh, Two Men and A Truck, the Record Eagle, TV 7 & 4, WLDL, WKLT, The Fox FM and ESPN Radio. Great Wolf Lodge and GT Packaging," she added. "The toys donated in the five-county area stay in the five-county area," she stated, "although, if there is a need somewhere in northern Michigan we will share toys with other counties, ensuring that every child has a Christmas. We haven't had to ever do that, but we will if necessary."

PLEASE SEE SHOPPING/2-A

Coast Guard's 'Christmas Ship' Returns to Chicago

Dec 05, 2012

U.S. Coast Guard (By Chief Petty Officer Alan Haral)

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reared.

During their journey in 1912, Schuenemann encountered a strong November storm. High winds and seas battered his ship and cargo of more than 5,000 trees. By the time he reached the area off of Kewaunee, Wis., members of the Kewaunee Life-Saving Station had spotted the ship low in the water with tattered sails and flying its flag at half mast to signal that it was in distress. Logs from the station show a surfman spotted the Simmons at 2:50 p.m. and alerted station keeper Nelson Crate. However, Crate found the station's gas tugboat had left earlier in the day and, around 3:10 p.m. telephoned the Two Rivers Station, located just south of Kewaunee. A power boat was launched on what was thought to be a rescue mission, but the Simmons was not seen again.

One hundred years after that fatal journey, the Coast Guard and the Chicago maritime community continue to re-enact bringing trees to deserving families in Chicago.

Capt. Dave Trull, founding member of Chicago's Christmas Ship Committee, was instrumental in resurrecting the tradition back in 2000 when the original Mackinaw proudly served as the first Christmas ship.

Enter to win a new car! Enter for a chance to win a Chevrolet Camaro Z06 Coupe! And you could also instantly win a \$100 Gift Card! Enter here.

During the transit down Lake Michigan each year, the Coast Guard and a member of the Christmas Ship Committee aboard the ship conducted a solemn wreath toss near the wreckage of the Rouse Simmons, which was located in 1971.

Cdr. Michael Davanzo, commanding officer of Mackinaw, addressed the crew on the buoy deck amid howling winds and freezing temperatures, drawing comparisons to the weather the crew of the Rouse Simmons must have experienced. He talked with the crew of 60 about the importance of continuing and honoring traditions established by vessels on the Great Lakes.

Leading the ceremony was Petty Officer 2nd Class Nichol Billow, a food service specialist. During the ceremony, she read the names of those lost, and rang the ship's bell for each name. The ceremony concluded with moment of silence from the crew. An aircrew from Air Station Traverse City also participated by conducting a wreath toss into lake Michigan near the Chicago Lighthouse before performing a fly-over.

After performing seasonal buoy retrieval operations, the Mackinaw arrived at Navy Pier to an official welcome on Friday, Nov. 30, in preparation for the public ceremony and tree offload the next day. Davanzo provided a history of the Christmas Ship tradition to the crowd in attendance before Rear Adm. Mike Parks, 9th Coast Guard District commander, congratulated the Christmas Ship committee and pledged the Coast Guard's continued support to a great event that brings joy and the spirit of Christmas to so many people in Chicago.

The two-day event culminated with hundreds of youth volunteers and the crew of the Mackinaw unloading the evergreens for distribution into various communities throughout Chicago. While it took nearly five hours to unload the more than 1,300 trees, the smiles from the deserving families as the Christmas Ship tradition



## Great Lakes Shipmate of the Week: Chief Warrant Officer John Leaming, Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City

Posted by YN1 Ray Prell, Friday, December 21, 2012



Chief Warrant Officer Leaming accepts the Department of Homeland Security's Chief Financial Officer Award for Exemplary Service as a Supervisor.

Proficiency is a goal that has been identified by Adm. Bob Papp, commandant of the Coast Guard, as being critical to the success of the service. Proficiency is not a new concept for our service, though. The

Coast Guard has a proud tradition of proficiency as a multi-mission service, enforcing laws and treaties as well as executing complicated search-and-rescue missions. Proficiency ensures efficient mission execution, reduced stress and higher morale.

Chief Warrant Officer John Leaming is a shipmate whose dedication to proficiency has improved the life of those he interacts with both on and off duty.

Leaming, a native of Maine, reported to Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City in the summer of 2010 after a successful tour as supply officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Alex Haley, homeported in Kodiak, Alaska. Ready to reprise his role as supply officer at the air station, Leaming hit the ground running and immediately began making positive and tangible impacts to his new unit.

A superior financial planner, Leaming dove right into the role of contracting officer and comptroller of the air station, smoothly and efficiently supervising the supply shop of four storekeepers, as well as a team of 10 food service specialists who run one of the most highly acclaimed galley in the 9th Coast Guard District. The positive impact he has on his unit does not stop there — Leaming educates and mentors his subordinates and ensures an accurate inventory of aviation parts worth almost \$5 million.

Leaming is not one to just sit in his office and keep the books. Always looking for ways to improve unit readiness, he was critical to the success of several projects with both unit and Coast Guard-wide impact. He and his dedicated team of storekeepers spearheaded the contract for a commercial training vessel for aviation personnel, increasing unit aviation proficiency 40% by significantly increasing the number of helicopter/boat hoist training evolutions.



Leaming, posing for a photograph as Northwestern University mascot "Willie the Wildcat" promotes the Coast Guard to the public.



"John is a superior officer whose sound decision-making and leadership have contributed invaluable to the success of this unit," said Cmdr. Joe Buzzella, Air Station Traverse City's commanding officer.

Leaming takes the quality of life for his shipmates seriously. Always ready to execute at a moment's notice, Air Station Traverse City's Supply Department processed \$81,000 worth of procurement requests at the end of fiscal year 2012, purchasing many quality of life and base infrastructure enhancements that will benefit unit personnel for years to come.

Leaming's outgoing, gregarious and entertaining personality cannot be constrained only to his role as

supply officer. Finding ways to contribute in other areas, Leaming is a boost to morale and a model of Coast Guard pride. During off-duty hours, he can often be found at a local food charity, helping community members in need. He might also be seen cracking jokes while playing volleyball with the Coast Guard team in a local league or demonstrating his prowess as a cutterman in a 'rain gutter regatta.'

Prepare to set sail! CWO John Leaming volunteers his time to help local children with their 'rain gutter regatta.'

Witnesses have said the gait and mannerisms of the Easter Bunny at the local spouses club resembled those of Leaming. Most notably, his performance as "Willie the Wildcat" during a flyover of a Northwestern University football game in Chicago was witnessed by 40,000 people, giving a sense of the fun-loving yet professional Coast Guardsman that is John Leaming.

"John is a leader to be emulated, both personally and professionally," said Lt. Jason Blyth, who works with Leaming in the Supply Department.

Leaming is a humble soul who does what he does because he loves it. His contributions are invaluable to Air Station Traverse City and the Coast Guard, and they have not gone unnoticed. He was recently awarded the Department of Homeland Security's Chief Financial Officer Award for Exemplary Service as a Supervisor — a job well done and a fine achievement for a very deserving shipmate!

## VETERANS

### Nonprofit ranch aims to support vets and families

BY MICHAEL WALTON  
mwatson@record-eagle.com



Record-Eagle/Michael Walton

TRAVERSE CITY — Members of the U.S. Coast Guard raised an American flag to half-mast over Reining Liberty Ranch on a rainy afternoon.

Veterans and other members of the community watched the ceremony, a sort of unofficial opening for the nonprofit ranch that hopes

Veterans, volunteers and their families watch members of the U.S. Coast Guard Color Guard raise a flag over Reining Liberty Ranch.

to offer veterans and their families a place to find support and solace.

The ranch is the brainchild of

Traverse City residents Becky and Dennis Bigelow. They spent their own money — Becky Bigelow

SEE VETS PAGE 5A

## VETS

### Nonprofit ranch aims to support veterans, families

FROM PAGE 1A

would not say how much — to purchase property and a farmhouse for the ranch on Silver Pines Road.

Becky Bigelow said her family history spurred the project. Her father was a World War II veteran, and she personally experienced the therapeutic benefits of forming a relationship with a horse.

"Earlier in my life I had a rough period," Becky Bigelow said. "That horse got me through a rough time. I was able to form a relationship with that horse when I could not form one with anyone else."

Now Becky Bigelow and dozens of other volunteers, including active duty Coast Guard members, are working to get Reining Liberty Ranch fully operational by March or April.

The nonprofit organization will offer services like therapeutic horseback riding, a veteran's garden and educational programming, Program Coordinator Debbie Caperton said.

But the ranch also can be a place for veterans and their families to meet with other veterans who understand the difficulties confronted by many former service members.

Jonathan Reed, an Army veteran who served in Iraq in 2005-06, described himself as a volunteer at the ranch who wears many hats.

Reed, of Traverse City, returned from Iraq suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and a brain injury that went undiagnosed for three years. Reed said he sustained the brain injury in a car accident. He was riding in a Humvee at night without headlights when his driver's night vision goggles went out.

Reed helped the driver fix his goggles, but the Humvee crashed into a concrete barricade and violently threw Reed against the vehicle's interior.

Reed entered the VA health system and began receiving care for his ailments once he returned home, but he struggled with social isolation and forming connections with others.

"That's kind of where the ranch has been a big help," he said. "Socializing, becoming comfortable with strangers."

Reed said he enjoys his ranch chores, including helping other veterans cope with some of the same problems he encounters today.

"It's always kind of a similar story," Reed said. "People don't know what to do. You see that hope in people's voices when we tell them what to do... I really do enjoy that outreach with veterans."

Becky Bigelow said that's what the ranch is all about.

"This is about honoring them as warriors, but also helping them move back to society," she said.



**Officials say most ice-related accidents avoidable**

Brandon Hubbard (231) 439-9374 bhubbard@petoskeynews.com

3:41 PM EST, January 4, 2013

Subfreezing holiday weather has not derailed a familiar winter tragedy in Michigan already this year.

advertisement

Sixty-three-year-old Don Thorpe of Holly, died after falling through thin ice on Hartwig Lake in southeast Michigan on Dec. 31, marking the first fatality in Michigan this season.

In Northern Michigan, the Emmet County Sheriff's deputies responded to a distress call for two snowmobilers who had gone through the ice last weekend on Crooked Lake near Ponshevaing.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources officers also responded recently to calls for a similar incident for snowmobilers in distress in Presque Isle County.

The early season accidents highlight the high risks fishermen and others take when trying out the ice early into the winter.

Sgt. Joe Molnar, law enforcement officer with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in Gaylord, has been out on the ice this season in the lakes closer to his headquarters and sees a potential hazard.

"When the ice first started to form on our lakes we got an inch or so, and then dumped on with all that snow on top of the ice, which then puts a lot of weight on the ice,"

Having a mixture of ice mixed with snow forms a weak structure, commonly referred to as "honeycomb ice," Molnar said.

The DNR encourages people to avoid going on ice if they feel it does not look safe and, if they do go out on the water, use a spud to gradually check the ice. And, for people inching to get those sleds on the ice, officers suggest using some serious caution.

"I don't feel any ice would be safe enough right now for a snowmobiler or off road vehicle," he added. "There might be lakes that do have sufficient ice, but definitely in this early season go out on your own risk and be careful."

While experts say ice is never safe, but there are ways to minimize the risk.

"We always get a few people who go through (the ice)," says Emmet County Sheriff Pete Wallin.

Wallin put out a public advisory Thursday with key ways to stay safe.

Among those tips are: Always tell someone where you are going; wear bright clothing and a flotation device; and bring emergency gear such as a cellphone or whistle.

In addition to personal protections, local law enforcement has snowmobiles, a search and rescue team, as well as special flotation devices to deploy in an emergency.

Responders are also standing by at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City.

The service members have 30 minutes to have their helicopters in the air, but generally are far below that — under 20 minutes. The station is responsible for all of Lake Michigan, portions of Lake Superior and Northern Lake Huron.

"We have a rescue swimmer on board the aircraft and he is trained to go down through the ice to rescue someone who has fallen through," says Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, officer in charge of Coast Guard Station Traverse City.

Traditionally, rescue divers remain attached to the aircraft. If there is a complication, the helicopter crews have the ability to pull the diver back up with a hoist cable.

Although there have not been any ice rescues for the station yet this season, Buzzella and his station have been training for those scenarios.

"What we advise people to do when they go out on the ice that they dress properly and that commonsense should prevail when on the ice," Buzzella said. "There is really no safety on the ice, you have to assume that anywhere you go on the ice is going to be dangerous."



BY JACKIE ANDERSON

Carol-Ann Monaghan is one busy woman. Traverse Bay Family caught up with her recently at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, where she is a Yeoman in the administrative office. As a career military member, working toward her MBA degree at Davenport University and planning a spring 2013 wedding, she took time to tell us a bit about her career path and lifestyle.

**CHOOSING THE COAST GUARD**

"When I finished my undergrad degree at Oakland University, I couldn't find a job. It was my step-dad who suggested I take a look at the military." After researching all the services, Carol-Ann chose the Coast Guard. "It was the only branch where women could do every job available, and I liked that."

Boot Camp was memorable, to say the least. Carol-Ann modestly describes her first day of Boot Camp in Cape May, New Jersey as "quite a shock," but came through both the physical demands and classroom challenges with flying colors. Then this 28-year-old Lake Orion native moved on to her first posting at Coast Guard Station Ludington.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

Carol-Ann reports that the Coast Guard really looks out for 'Coasties' and their families.

Although there's no housing available on base, many Coast Guard families take advantage of "pass-along" rentals or homes when they transfer to the Traverse City Air Station. There are plenty of activities offered, from motorcycle safety courses to the annual Corn Maze trip for families, as well as Coast Guard discounts at local businesses. Carol-Ann took the family-friendly atmosphere a little further, meeting her fiancé Luke (a Coast Guard flight mechanic) during her posting at Air Station in Traverse City.

Carol-Ann and Luke hope to have a family one day, despite the challenges of maintaining two Coast Guard careers. The Coast Guard makes every effort to station spouses within 50 miles of each other, so the couple may find themselves posted to Oregon, Washington or California — anywhere near a coast!

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

Carol-Ann plans a career in the Coast Guard, and will eventually choose between pursuing a path to the rank of Warrant Officer, or applying for Officer Candidate School. Her current progress toward an MBA would give her a head start in advancing in the Officer Corps, after completing OCS. Whatever the choice, she enjoys her work. "I like being in the admin-

istrative office, because I get to meet everyone on base when I prepare transfer orders and payroll records. I enjoy talking with people and helping when they're in transition." Spring and summer are the busiest times in her office, but Carol-Ann still finds time to work out 3 or 4 times a week, staying in shape for Coast Guard fitness tests.

If she had a chance to "do-over" her career choice, would Carol-Ann still join the Coast Guard? "Absolutely! Coasties are great people, and it was a great decision for me... I'm happy and I love my life!"

**PROFILE & PASSIONS:**

**The Great Outdoors:** Camping, snowmobiling and motorcycling are at the top of her outdoor to-do list. Carol-Ann is the proud owner of a new Suzuki GSXR600 motorcycle.

**A Furry Family:** Two dogs and two cats round out Carol-Ann's household.

**Reading, Reading & More Reading:** "I love fiction - I can get lost in it!" Thanks to a Nook e-reader birthday gift, she keeps up with the latest from favorite author Julie Garwood.

**Movie Buddies:** Carol-Ann and 19-year-old niece Jaclyn have made it to first night showings of every Harry Potter and Twilight movie.

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**Higher Ground**



Photos by Katie Bedard-Goytowski  
 Local Amelia Earhart enthusiast Larry Inman presented the aviatrix's history and mysterious disappearance to a packed room at the Zonta Club of Traverse City's monthly program luncheon last week. Inman discussed possible scenarios that would explain her disappearance in 1937, and discussed current research that is still being conducted to solve the mystery. Here, he is pictured with two photos from his extensive collection of Amelia Earhart memorabilia, many of which are original photographs.

**Zonta event honors Earhart, emerging opportunities for women aviators**

By KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
 Contributing Writer

TRAVERSE CITY - It's been a mystery for more than 75 years. Pilot Amelia Earhart's disappearance into the Pacific Ocean, along with her plane and navigator, Fred Noonan, on July 2, 1937, captivated the attention of people around the world. Some still search for answers today.

Local resident Larry Inman, an Earhart research expert, has "a real deep passion for Amelia Earhart, and a fairly large personal collection of items," he said. For the past 20 years, he has been "working on theories of where the plane is and what happened on July 2, 1937."

That fateful day, Earhart, along with Noonan, was nearing the end of her equatorial flight around the world, "the most difficult flight of any navigator," Inman said.

She was flying from New Guinea to Howland Island when the Lockheed Electra encountered unfavorable weather conditions that made navigating difficult. To make



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From left, recent graduate of NMC's flight program Abigail Smeltzer, 21, who recently received her commercial pilot's license, stands with Coast Guard pilot Lieutenant Katie Pelkey and US Coast Guard Auxiliary Air Observer Diane Walker. All three were featured guests at Zonta's annual Amelia Earhart Luncheon last week.



**Pinewood Derby**



Record-Eagle photos/Jeri-Michael Stump  
Cub Scouts from the four dens of Grand Traverse Area Pack 31 watch their annual Pinewood Derby Saturday in the hanger at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. The 61 scouts received their kits during the pack's Christmas party in December, and had a chance to use the air station's wood shop and knowledgeable service members to cut their cars out of a block of wood. Each den raced four times, once on each lane of the track, with winners heading to the district derby on March 13. Ryan Quandt set the track record with a time of 3.015 seconds.



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**TRAVERSE**



Local photographer seeks to capture 'pure essence' of nature. PAGE 3-A

**BENZIE**



History Project celebrates Women through special film, art exhibit. PAGE 1-B

**LEELANAU**



'Talk About Art' to host acclaimed local writer Aaron Stander. PAGE 1-B

**SPORTS**



Photo Special to the Insider  
The 50 kids and 50 counselors of the Great Lakes Burn Camp had a blast during their Winter Camp in northern Michigan last weekend. Part of their time was spent at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. "It's all about them," said Burn Camp Director Mike Longenecker. "This is great for their well-being and self-esteem."

## Locals offer time, talent to support Great Lakes Burn Camp

By KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
Contributing Writer

TRAVERSE CITY — The Great Lakes Burn Camp spent its annual weekend in northern Michigan this past week. The 50 campers, ages 6 to 17, along with their 50 counselors, were hosted by a bevy of organizations over three days.

"We spent the whole weekend up north," said Mike Longenecker, director of the Camp.

Last Friday the group visited Petoskey's Winter Sports Park, sledding and ice skating, he said. That night, Bear Creek Resort threw them a pizza party.

On Saturday, the crew headed over to Challenge Mountain, where they learned how to ski and snowboard, and spent time sledding, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and more. Those that passed a test for skiing and snowboarding

were able to experience Boyne Mountain and try out their new skills, he added. They also had a pool party and played video games at Boyne Valley Lodge, where they were staying.

And last Sunday, the group enjoyed their "favorite" event.

On that day the kids and counselors of the Great Lakes Burn Camp were hosted by Air Station Traverse City for the second year in a row, experiencing an afternoon of bounce houses, games, dancing, snacks and an all-around good time.

"It was the favorite event the whole weekend for these kids last year," Longenecker said.

The Air Station's hangar is an ideal location for such an event, said U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander Kyle Young, Air Station Traverse City's Assistant Engineering Officer.

"We're really just an opportune location." Besides the venue, the Coast Guard brings something else to the table.

"We have a wonderful volunteer program," Young added. Coast Guard members and their families "recognize the amount of community support we get and like to give back."

And give back they do.

"The kids get positive role models (by coming here)," said U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer Cody Thorpe, who is also involved with the Great Lakes Burn Camp. "The volunteers had such a major impact on them last year. It's a huge positive thing for them to realize their scars don't matter."

the Central High School Key Club also joined in the fun, Young added.

Plus, Thorpe said, multiple local businesses donated to the group's activities.

Citing his role with the group, Thorpe also noted that because of his experience working with the Great Lakes Burn Camp, he was able to serve as a "liaison" in the region, building relationships and helping to secure donations and community support for the event.

The pizza, pasta and salad were donated by Mancino's Pizza, he said. Mrs. Fields donated a giant cookie cake. Moomers offered up ice cream and Grand Traverse Pie Company donated their signature specialty.

Folled Hair Lounge of downtown Traverse City donated their talents — doing hair and makeup on many of the campers, and Northwoods Tattoos designed temporary skin art

**Shared support**

The volunteers were made up of not only Coast Guard members and their families, but six members of

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for the kids as well.

Cherry Wings Realty provided snack bags, Thorpe noted, and several local businesses donated funds for the many bounce houses, which came from Acme Party Works out of Novi.

While the Air Station hosted the event, the Great

PLEASE SEE CAMP/2-A

**BUSINESS**

## State Theatre leads local push to hire veterans

BY MARTA HEPLER DRAHOS  
[mdrahos@record-eagle.com](mailto:mdrahos@record-eagle.com)

TRAVERSE CITY — The Traverse City Film Festival and the State Theatre have instituted a new affirmative action employment policy for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan wars and are urging northern Michigan businesses to do the same.

At a Skype press conference Tuesday morning, festival founder and theater president Michael Moore unveiled the policy, which he said reaches out to returning veterans and welcomes them back into the community with "real" employment and training. More than 200,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were unemployed in February, he added,

including some in the area.

"One of the most difficult things for our troops when they return to civilian life is find employment," said the filmmaker, whose father served with the 1st Marine Division in World War II.

Moore said the theater already is seeking to hire and train a veteran for a full-time projection position with benefits and has posted the job with local veterans groups and at active and reserve duty headquarters. He encouraged area businesses to post the policy on their premises and to let customers know their businesses are friendly to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

He also urged community members to wear buttons proclaiming "I Shop Where Veterans Work"

and to sign an online petition of support for the program at <http://tinyurl.com/cot9lw8>.

"We're all Americans," he said. "We're all in the same boat. We're going to sink or swim together."

Moore said the move to hire and support veterans was prompted, in part by the high suicide rate among returning veterans, which he called a "failure of communities."

"We need to do whatever we can to make life good for people who are returning to Traverse City," he said.

United States Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City Cmdr. Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr. applauded the program and said veterans bring "an incredible amount of skill sets to their communities."



Record-Eagle/Marta Hepler Drahos  
**Traverse City Film Festival founder and State Theatre president Michael Moore is urging community members to wear buttons proclaiming "I Shop Where Veterans Work."**

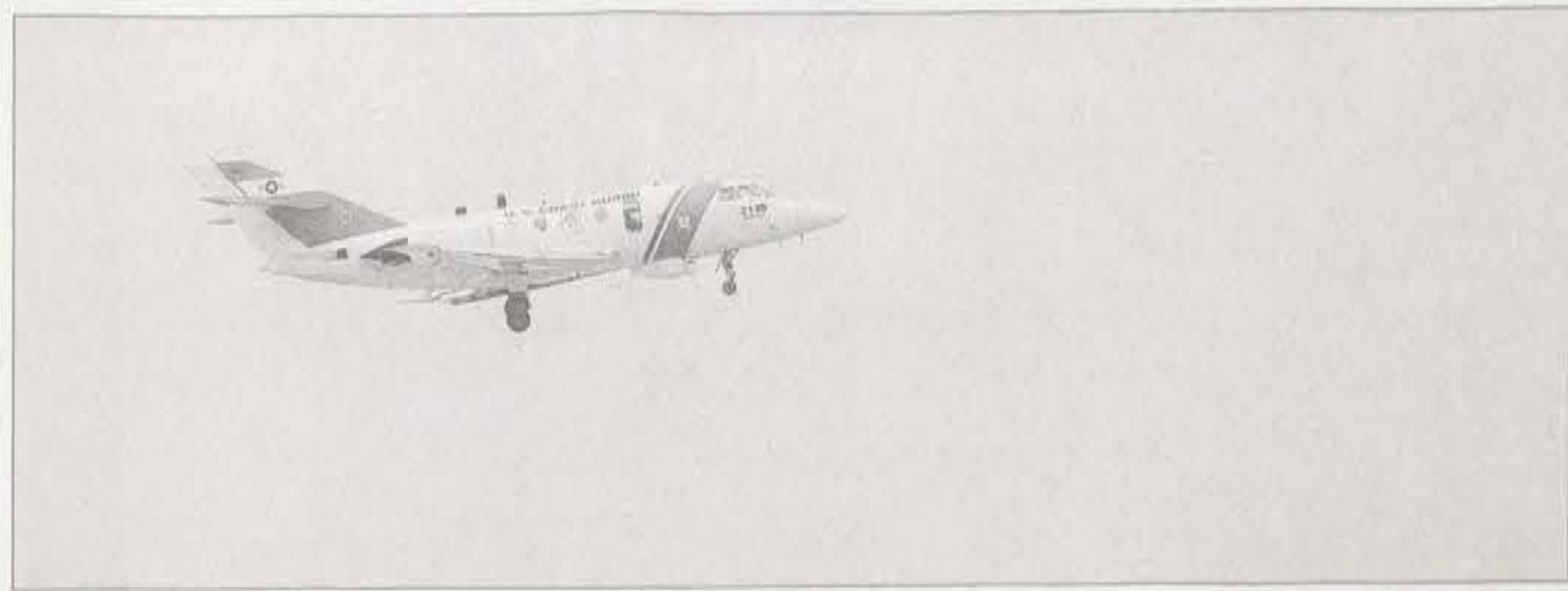
"We support the hiring of veterans," Buzzella said. "It's another great day to be in Coast Guard City."

"We Hire Veterans" Affirmative Action Employer posters are available at the State Theatre and online at [statetheatretrc.org](http://statetheatretrc.org). Buttons also are available at the theater.

For more information, visit [statetheatretrc.org/veterans.com](http://statetheatretrc.org/veterans.com).



## Coast Guard plane retires to Traverse City



Record-Eagle photos/Keith King

A United States Coast Guard HU-25 Falcon jet performs a flyover near a runway at the Cherry Capital Airport on Thursday before landing at U.S.C.G. Air Station Traverse City. The jet, which flew from U.S.C.G. Air Station Cape Cod, will be retired, with plans for it to be displayed.

Captain David Throop, commanding officer of United States Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, shakes hands after landing in Traverse City in the plane. Throop was formerly a commanding officer of U.S.C.G. Air Station Traverse City.



Spencer Vince, left, United States Coast Guard Avionics Electrical Technician 2 (AET2), and Joe Supple, U.S.C.G. Aviation Maintenance Technician 3 (AET3), attach a tow bar Thursday before performing a final inspection on the jet.



Photo Special to the Insider

## Cookies for the Troops

More than 2,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies were recently packed at the American Legion Hall in Traverse City. They are destined for two Michigan National Guard Units in Afghanistan. The efforts were made possible by Operation American Soldier, Girl Scout Troop 1037, Rolling Thunder Michigan Chapter 1, Meredith and Amanda Allen, American Legion Post 35 and local citizens. Pictured at the packing event are (back, from left): John Stock of Rolling Thunder, American Legion Commander Neil Homing, USCG Commander Joe Buzzella, Jason Gillman, Sheriff Mike Borkovich, County Commissioner Charles Fenny, Representative Wayne Schmidt, Richard Rizzo and (front) Jason Allen, Calvin Murphy of Rolling Thunder, Meredith Allen, Amanda Allen, Kelli Trudell, Goldstar Mother Starla Owens, Tot Tondreau and Venus Tondreau.

## SUNDAY

CEREMONY

# VETERAN APPRECIATION



Record-Eagle photos/Jen-Michael Stump

Eastern Elementary School third graders say the Pledge of Allegiance during Thursday's Veteran's Appreciation Ceremony in the school gym. Students interviewed 19 local veterans who served in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, respectively, for a video presentation during the ceremony, and read letters and presented each veteran with an appreciation package and DVD of their interview.



Eastern Elementary School third grader Will Phillips presents World War II veteran Theodore MacTavish an appreciation package during Thursday's Veteran's Appreciation Ceremony in the school gym.



evacuations. None have compared to that nerve-racking experience in Alaska, but he says that's to be expected.

"Here, you have thousands of recreational boaters on the water on a summer day," he explains. "But up in Kodiak, we were it; going on a rescue was the equivalent of flying from New York to Los Angeles, and we were the only asset. It would be six to eight hours, minimum, before someone else could get there."

### Advice from the expert

Yet even among recreational boaters in America's heartland, things can go wrong. As a USCG Aviation Survival Technician, Cotturone is qualified to teach survival skills both at sea and on land, and he has several tips for boaters that can help keep them safer — and make the rescuers' job easier.

First of all, Cotturone says most boaters do not carry the safety equipment they need. Or, if they do, it's not easily accessible in the event of an emergency.

"Wearing a PFD isn't as cool as wearing a T-shirt or going shirtless," he comments, "but remember, although we have to take off within 30 minutes of getting the call, it may take 15 to 20 minutes for the call to get to us. Then we have to fly. So you could be in the water for an hour. And what if you hit your head on the way in?"

In addition to wearing a PFD, or having an inflatable PFD somewhere on your person, Cotturone also recommends having a signaling device. He underscores the importance of this for paddlers.

"Not everyone can afford a personal EPIRB," he says. "So pick up a strobe light for \$15 or \$20! Without one, the odds are stacked against you already. And keep it near you — not down below, and if you're in a kayak, not in the front compartment. If you fall out and the boat drifts away, the strobe won't help you."

That strobe light is critical. Since USCG rescuers use night-vision goggles, a strobe going off in the water will be immediately apparent.

"From Traverse, we can see the glow of Chicago's city lights across the clouds with our night-vision goggles," Cotturone advises. "Your strobe will look like the sun at 20 miles, and it's going to last you all night. Of course, with a personal EPIRB, we'll know everything; we'll call your wife before someone else does. But if you're not going to do that, get the strobe — \$15, AA batteries, no inspections. Just do it."

Cotturone suggests attaching a strip of Velcro for your strobe onto the shoulder of your PFD. That way, if you pass out due to hypothermia, the strobe still will be above water, calling attention to your predicament.

"And for the anti-PFD wearers, put it in your pocket," Cotturone says.

For paddlers who are out on the water clad in wetsuits, make sure you have reflective strips on your suit.

"How easy do you think it'll be to find that black wetsuit at night?" Cotturone asks. "We never get overdue calls in the middle of a sunny day. We get them at sunset, or at night. We'll be searching for you with a spotlight, and the reflective gear will light up like a Christmas tree."

"All these things help you out, but they also help me out," he adds. "We have three crews, six hours apiece, that will come looking for you. If you take these steps, boom, it'll be done."

He also stresses the importance of putting together a float plan and making sure to leave it with a trusted friend or family member on shore. If you find yourself overdue but not in an emergency situation, be sure to contact that person immediately with your status. Otherwise, he or she may initiate a search, which means those Coast Guard assets will be tied up looking for you rather than responding to someone who might really need help.

And, of course, if your point person doesn't hear from you, he or she can make sure the Coast Guard comes to your aid. When it comes to safety at sea, Cotturone says, be prepared for the worst.

"People always say to me that they hadn't thought about what could happen, or that they didn't want to spend the money on safety gear," he observes. "But every horrible story begins with, 'I was just going out for a little while...'"

At press time, 32-year-old Cotturone was facing his final 17 months in the Coast Guard. Rather than moving on to another air station after his four-year tour, he chose to add a one-year extension in Traverse City; he's planning to exit the service for good in August 2014.

What's next? Cotturone plans to work as a real-estate agent and enjoy civilian life in Michigan with his wife and two daughters, ages 6 and 2.

"We really fell in love with Traverse City," he says simply. "We want to stay here forever." **L8**



Cotturone, pictured at left with his wife and two daughters, ages 6 and 2, plans to leave the U.S. Coast Guard in 2014 to pursue a civilian life in Traverse City, Michigan, the community where he is currently stationed and has called home since 2009. Above, Cotturone (on the ground) is all suited up for on-duty responsibilities. See more exciting USCG training images at [cavi.uscg.mil](http://cavi.uscg.mil).





BLACKHAWKS FORCE GAME  
7 AGAINST WINGS. PAGE 1B



High: 73 Low: 57  
Page 8B

TRAVERSE CITY  
**RECORD EAGLE**

2012 MPA NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

**TUESDAY**

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CEREMONIES

# A DAY TO REMEMBER



Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Stump

An honor guard from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City presents the colors during Monday's Memorial Day Community Service at Veteran's Memorial Park in Traverse City.

## Memorial Day time to honor vets, country

BY MATT TROUTMAN  
mtroutman@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — Don Nixon still jumps at the sound of a Memorial Day gun salute.

The Korean war veteran, 84, transports back to the battlegrounds of what some call the "Forgotten War" where thousands of soldiers died in the cold and mud.

"It's something you never forget," Nixon said. "When you're in a combat situation you can get killed at any time. It's just with you all the time."

Nixon doesn't want the memories to fade, even if he remains reluctant to talk about his experiences.

He was one of hundreds who listened to Sgt. Major Martin Wilcox give the keynote speech at the first Memorial Day ceremony to be held in the new Grand Traverse Veterans Memorial Park. The annual ceremony is organized by the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition.

Wilcox, a Kingsley resident who retired after 32 years in the Army, said many veterans lived through experiences others would say are best forgotten, but he remains proud to be a veteran.

"All veterans, famous or not, played a key part in keeping the United States free," he said. "Honoring them today is a small price for us to pay for the lives that they gave to the United States."

Wilcox was flanked by a circle of granite stones etched with the names of 500 local soldiers. The ceremony honored members of each branch of the armed services who lost their lives.

■ For more photos from today's ceremony, see Page 2A  
■ As budgets shrink, memorials to veterans fall into decay. Page 6A



At right, the crowd listens as "Taps" is played by Don and Ben Sattler. At right, American flags collected by Boy Scout Troop 31 sit on a table before a flag retirement ceremony.

SEE HONOR PAGE 2A



# GRAND TRAVERSE INSIDER

6 Issue 02 Serving Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie & Northern Manistee counties www.GrandTraverseInsider.com



Courtesy Photo  
Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr. and his family (from left) Patty, Laurn, Joey and Maegan, enjoy a family photo in the hangar of Air Station Traverse City

## Buzzella cherished time in TC, building partnerships within the community

By KATIE BEDARD-GOYTOWSKI  
Contributing Writer

**REGION**—His bags may be packed, but he's not ready to go quite yet. "I wish I had one more year."

Commander Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr., who has been the commanding officer of Air Station Traverse City for the past two years, is gearing up for a change of station this month.

But he's certainly happy with what has been accomplished during his watch.

"My focus was readiness, quality of life, partnership and community," he said. "Those are my guiding principles."

To augment and maintain readiness, Air Station Traverse City, under Buzzella's direction, worked to "build proficiency," he said. "We went out and acquired a contract boat locally" to allow Coast Guard members to work on hoisting throughout more of the winter season. They used to have to travel south to do the work for five to

six months out of the year, he said, but with the local boat, now only have to do it three months out of the year.

So far, Traverse City is the only place to obtain such a contract, but other air bases have "seen the value of it," he said. "They're trying to get one in Detroit."

Plus, he added, "It was nice to be able to award the contract to a local charter company."

To improve the quality of life, Buzzella oversaw many

renovations of the work and living spaces at the Coast Guard base.

"There's a long list of things we did," he said. "I'm very passionate about quality of life for the men, women and families of Air Station Traverse City."

The Coast Guard spent more than \$800,000 to upgrade the HVAC system on base, he added, "so our folks could be comfortable. They need to be comfortable so they could be well-

PLEASE SEE BUZZELLA/2-A

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## FORUM

# Serving Traverse City was a pleasure

BY COMMANDER JOE BUZZELLA

It has been my greatest pleasure to serve as your Coast Guard Air Station Commander for the past two years. I looked back on my time here and came to the realization that although there are many wonderful years ahead for my family and myself in the Coast Guard, nothing will top our experience living in this great Coast Guard City.

I leave this command assignment with no regrets — and that is a good place for an outgoing Commanding Officer to be. Every day in command, I wanted the Air Station leadership to ensure three things: that we were providing the Guardians which Great Lakes deserve; that we were having a lasting positive impact on the lives of our personnel and their families; and that our Air Station was making a difference in the Traverse City community. I felt that a day without having an impact on another person's life or somewhere in the commu-

nity was a day wasted. Words can't express the respect and passion that I have for the Coast Guard men and women of

Air Station Traverse City. In my 27 years of service, I have never seen a group of Coasties that have demonstrated, every day, such a great sense of purpose, unending dedication, and genuine pride in saving lives, protecting the Homeland and serving their community. They are an elite courageous group that is ready for the call and will never let the citizens of the Great Lakes nor our nation down. I can assure you, Worldwide and here locally, I have watched them face down danger, work tirelessly through holidays, weekends and nights; risk their lives to save a life; chase down

drug runners; battle hurricanes; stop the illegal flow of migrants; brave the harshest of weather; respond to catastrophic flooding. I have seen them laugh and cry but most moving to me is the way they care for each other.

When it came to ensuring that the Coast Guard families were getting the support they needed, the community of Traverse City came to my rescue.

The Air Station could not maintain the levels of response and readiness that we provide the Great Lakes without the overwhelming support and services provided by the Traverse City community — it would be impossible. Each day this wonderful community, through action, defines the meaning behind the "Coast Guard City" title bestowed upon it by our U.S. Congress in 2010.

I often say that Traverse City is a place out of a storybook. I have never experienced a community that displays such "off the chart" levels of pride, patriotism and charity.

I see no better place to retire than with my family on East Bay, watching the helicopters I once flew, fly over my home, a place where those helicopters are woven into the fabric which makes Traverse City the greatest place to live.

Until we meet again, thank you, God bless America and God bless Coast Guard City Traverse City.

Semper Paratus — Always Ready!

**About the author:** Commander Joe Buzzella served two years, from May of 2011 to June of this year, as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. His next assignment is with the Naval War College in Washington D.C.

**About the forum:** The forum is a periodic column of opinion written by Record-Eagle readers in their areas of expertise. Submissions of 500 words or less may be made by emailing letters@record-eagle.com. Please include biographical information and a photo.



Buzzella

## FROM PAGE ONE

### BUZZELLA

FROM PAGE 1-A

rested." Smith Hall, which houses overnight rooms for station personnel, as well as the dining hall, is currently under renovation, he said. The hard work has paid off.

Recently, Commissioned Warrant Officer John Learning of Air Station Traverse City was awarded a Department of Homeland Security Chief Financial Officer Award for Excellence, the 2012 Supervisory Award for Exemplary Performance, Buzzella said.

The award is given to "an individual who has displayed outstanding management of U.S. taxpayer's money, who has been a good steward," he explained.

The Traverse City Coast Guard base was also awarded the 2012 STAN excellence award, competing against all other air stations with MH-65 aircraft. "It's a big deal," Buzzella said, borne out of "two weeks of intense evalua-

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tion. We beat out all the others."

Commander Buzzella is also proud of the many partnerships that Air Station Traverse City has cultivated.

"We expanded our memorandum of understanding with the Odawa tribe," he said, noting that they work with tribal enforcement officers to provide support in fishery law enforcement.

"We have a great relationship with the Great Lakes Maritime Academy — we assist with cadet development."

They also have a partnership with the local fire department.

"Partnership is about force multiplying," he said. "If all agencies have to come together (for an emergency), we should have a partnership already established."

Air Station Traverse City has also taken an even greater step to become involved in the community.

"We have very strong partnerships in education with the Traverse City Area Public Schools," he said, which includes mentoring students at Traverse Heights Elementary.

The local Coast Guard has also sponsored countless events at the base, he said, including events with the Great Lakes Burn Camp for the past two years, activities with the Robin's Nest group from Michael's Place and acts as the "sorting hub" for Toys for Tots during the holiday season.

"The Pinewood Derby

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(was here) for the second year this year," he said. "I'm really proud and happy to see the scouts' Pinewood Derby looking to be a permanent part of Air Station Traverse City."

Members of the Air Station also opened up the wood shop and helped scouts with their cars, he said.

The station's executive officer is on the National Cherry Festival board, and Buzzella himself sits on boards for the YMCA, Rotary Commission, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Coast Guard City Commission.

The Coast Guard City Commission is one of Buzzella's proudest accomplishments.

"The Coast Guard City Commission was established soon after I took command," he said. "We meet once a month and establish projects to make Traverse City look like a Coast Guard City."

Traverse City was named a Coast Guard City in 2010. To recognize this designation, Buzzella and his team worked to create a new air station uniform patch, though a competition in the community.

Grand Traverse Academy student Sarah Schade won the contest with her design, he said.

"We think we're the only air station where we went out into the community (for a design)," he said. "That was a lot of fun to award that to a community member."

Although the list of



Courtesy Photo

Commander Buzzella has enjoyed participating in many festivals and events across the region. Here, he hands out treats to visitors during last year's Cherry Festival parade.

accomplishments under Buzzella was admirable, he wanted to do more.

"I wanted to establish an association of Coast Guard retirees," he said. "There are hundreds of (them) here. I wanted to kind of organize that."

He also wanted to continue building relationships with the Maritime Academy and the tribe.

"We cherish our relationships with the tribe, with the Chamber, Big Brothers Big Sisters, United Way, the YMCA," he said.

And on a more personal note, the Buzzella family is wishing for more time in the region.

### Return trip

"This is the hardest move our family has ever had to go through," the Commander said. "The kids are thriving here. It's been the finest experience for me, my wife and my kids. The kids love it here, Patty loves it here. We love the community — I'm glad I was able to serve two years here, rather than not at all."

But they'll be back — the family has purchased a home on East Bay.

"This is the finest place I've ever served," Buzzella said. "We've lived all over the country — I've never seen a community display

the amount of pride they show, never seen patriotism shown the way they show here. And charity — there's so much giving. People want to give."

And Buzzella's family has joined right in. "My wife is a Big Sister with a girl in the community — she loves it," he said. "The kids have all participated in packing boxes for troops (overseas). My wife volunteers at Father Fred every Friday."

The next stop for the Buzzellas? Washington, D.C., where the commander, now a captain select, will be attending the National War College.

"I've always wanted to go, I'm excited about it," he said. But, "the two years I've been here — I feel like I've peaked in my career. Going forward, I don't think anything will top this experience. People have said the National War College will be the finest experience (of my career). This will be tough to top."

But even if he'd like to stay, he can't.

Air Station Traverse City is the largest base that a commander can run, and tours are only for a two-year duration.

"It's (Air Station TC) one of the most highly desired units," he said.

Others wanted him to

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# LIFESAVER

For Coast Guardsman Luke Cotturone, dangling from helicopters above perilous seas and plucking boaters from the icy drink is all in a day's work.



by Heather Steinberger

**T**he commercial vessel had lost its steering and grounded on the rocks. It was effectively beached, but sheer cliffs prevented the crew from climbing to higher ground and to safety. When the U.S. Coast Guard helicopter arrived from its base in Kodiak, Alaska, the air temperature hovered at a frigid 10 to 15 degrees with a biting wind and a wild current ripping through the waterway just offshore.

U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technician (AST2) Luke Cotturone rose to the challenge. One of the USCG's elite rescue swimmers, he leaped from the chopper into the icy seas, determined to put the struggling crew into the rescue basket, one by one.

"The vessel was listing far on its side, and it was getting hit by the waves," Cotturone recalls. "Every time I'd get someone, I'd have to try not to get trapped under the hull. And we were in a waterway between two islands. The water was moving ridiculously fast, and it was freezing over.

"I got pretty bad frostbite on my face," he continues. "When I was getting the last guy, some water cleared my mask, and I realized the water was warmer than the air."

Audiences around the world are mesmerized by such harrowing tales of rescues at sea. They watch blockbuster movies like "The Perfect Storm" and popular TV shows such as "Deadliest Catch" and "Swords on the Line," and they try to imagine what it would be like to free-fall from a helicopter into a seething ocean, to battle the elements while manhandling often panicked survivors into the rescue basket, and to feel the knife-like edge of your own physical and emotional limits.

For Cotturone, however, it's all part of the job.

Now based in Traverse City, Michigan, he remembers that episode in distant Alaska as being one of the most intense of his professional life. But, he explains, he has trained and planned for such experiences, and as a younger man, he couldn't wait to get out there.

### Survivalist roots

Cotturone grew up on a farm in Suffolk, Virginia, surrounded by military life in the Virginia Beach region. Although he didn't come from a boating family, he spent a lot of time surfing, and he was a competitive swimmer; he says he's been comfortable in the water all his life.

Originally he wanted to join the U.S. Marines, but he "fell into the Coast Guard."

"That was in the year 2000, so it was pre-9/11," he explains. "There was no real act of war at that time, and the armed forces were just training. But the Coast Guard had duties every day.

"I joined the military to get away from home," he adds with a laugh. "So what did they do? They stationed me on a 270-foot cutter in Portsmouth, Virginia!"

While serving on the cutter, Cotturone became interested in what his next steps might be. "I wanted to know who



the Coast Guard elite were," he explains. "It's not like the Navy SEALs; you can't just jump online and learn all about them. And when you serve on a ship, you don't meet any."

After three and a half years, Cotturone finally had a chance to find out. He attended rescue swimmer training school at the Coast Guard Air Station in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, which started with the four-month Airmen Program.

"The program is sort-of a prep school that shows what the day-to-day job is like for rescue swimmers," he explains.

After the Airmen Program, it was time for Aviation Survival Technician "A School," a 17-week program that involves eight to 10 hours per day of intense workouts in and out of the pool. Cotturone's day would start before 7 a.m. As soon as the instructors arrived, he comments wryly, the fun would begin—the heavy-duty business of pushing beyond the limits of human endurance.

"They want you to be exhausted, hungry, thirsty," he says. "We'd go on a 5- to 12-mile run, then head for the pool, where we'd fall from the tower that simulates a helicopter, and instructors would drag us to the bottom and try to rip our masks off. It was, ah, hard to put them into the basket!"

If getting dragged to the bottom of a pool by several instructors sounds unreasonable, Cotturone points out the

Each U.S. Coast Guard rescue swimmer must complete the four-month Airmen Program and 17-week Aviation Survival Technician "A School." At left, a swimmer is completing coursework off Tybee Island, Georgia. In his class of 12 students in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Luke Cotturone (pictured above) was one of just four to graduate.



difficulties inherent in simulating rescues at sea. There's no way, in a pool environment (unless James Cameron is involved), to recreate heavy seas, roaring winds and currents, and a 40- to 80-mile-per-hour rotor wash. So every pretend survivor must be a panicked survivor.

It's perhaps unsurprising that the rescue swimmer training school has an approximately 75 percent dropout rate. In Cotturone's class of 12, only four people graduated. Yet Cotturone says he never let himself even consider the possibility of not completing the course.

"I never thought I couldn't do it," he muses. "Nothing is impossible."



### Tips from a Real-life Rescue Swimmer

- Wear a PFD or have an inflatable PFD somewhere on your person.
- Consider purchasing a personal EPIRB or, at the very least, a strobe light. Attach it to a Velcro strap on the shoulder of your PFD or keep it in your pocket.
- If you're a paddler who wears a wetsuit while on the water, attach reflective strips to your suit. (And again, attach your strobe light to your PFD's shoulder. Do not put your strobe light in your kayak's front compartment or anywhere out of reach.)
- Create a float plan for every outing, and leave it with a trusted person on shore.
- If you're overdue but not in an emergency situation, contact that person immediately so he or she doesn't initiate a search.
- Make sure that person knows if you are overdue and have not been in contact, he or she should get in touch with the Coast Guard.
- Be aware of activities, such as setting off fireworks, that can look like an emergency from a distance. Don't do them. Every time the Coast Guard launches, that's one less asset available for a real emergency.
- Contact your local USCG-Auxiliary and have your boat's safety gear inspected. To learn more, visit [CGAUX.ORG](http://CGAUX.ORG). —H.S.

After a long pause, he laughs and adds, "More than anything, I didn't want to disappoint my dad. Plus, I knew I couldn't go on in my career knowing that I couldn't do it."

So Cotturone did it. And he says he couldn't wait for the day he could exchange the Groundhog Day atmosphere of training for real-world scenarios.

### Duty calls

In 2005, the real world was waiting with a vengeance at the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Kodiak. But before he could face it, Cotturone had to attend a three-week Emergency Medical Technician course.

"We had a six-month EMT college course jammed down our throats in three weeks," he recalls. "That was the hardest thing for me, because I couldn't just muscle through it. I had to pass the test."

While at the air station, Cotturone also had to learn all the helicopter's systems and limits and participate in a check-ride to become Basic Airman Qualified. He also had to do a separate rescue-swimmer check-ride. The entire process took six weeks; then he could embark on his official four-year tour in Kodiak.

Cotturone admits he wasn't happy when, in 2009, he and his family were transferred to Traverse City, Michigan.

"My wife and I kind of came here kicking and screaming," he acknowledges. "We were done with snow and wanted somewhere warm. Then we fell in love as soon as we parked the car! It's another world here; it's like nowhere we've ever been."

"I grew up in a place with salt water that was dirty brown," he continues. "Here it's so clear, like the Caribbean. It's not sticky, it's not salty, there are sandy beaches, and the people are amazing. My parents are always blown away when they visit here. Everyone's so nice."

During the typical Great Lakes summer, Cotturone will spend six to 10 hours of every 40-hour work week airborne, participating in a search. He says flare sightings and uncorrelated maydays are the two most common reasons for initiating searches.

"With the flares, it's usually people on the beach who contact us first," he explains. "With the maydays, it's a call that's received, but the person hung up and didn't respond to further attempts at contact. It's like calling 911 and then hanging up; a sheriff is going to come to your front door. We can tell what tower the call hit first, which helps us figure out where to look."

In most cases, the mysterious flares and maydays are not emergencies. Sometimes the flares are fireworks, and sometimes the maydays are the result of kids playing around with their parents' radios. But, Cotturone says, the U.S. Coast Guard treats every scenario as if it's a real emergency.

To date, he has participated in seven Lake Michigan rescues that required airlifts, including requested medical

### Optimus 360 by SEASTAR

SeaStar Solutions, formerly known as Teleflex Marine, offers a joystick steering/shift/throttle control system it calls the Optimus 360. Years in development, the system was first introduced in 2012 and uses state-of-the-art electronics to provide 360-degree maneuvering capabilities when docking, negotiating a crowded area or loading the vessel onto a trailer.

Optimus 360 works with mechanically controlled twin outboard engine applications. As the operator moves the joystick, a series of actuators and SmartCylinders respond instantly to independently steer each outboard, shift gears, and apply throttle as needed to provide pinpoint accuracy — all without the use of bow thrusters. In addition to reduced steering effort, the skipper can electronically customize steering characteristics, including variable wheel resistance in response to engine RPM.

The aim is for boaters to enjoy their time on the water without the worry and hassle that often accompanies routine tasks like pulling up to refuel at the dock, squeezing into a narrow slip, and launching/retrieving at a busy launch ramp.

While the Optimus 360 is a new technology, its development is firmly rooted in SeaStar Solutions' long-standing tradition of engineering and manufacturing marine steering and control products. The Optimus system received a prestigious 2012 Innovation Award from the National Marine Manufacturers Association.

[SEASTARSOLUTIONS.COM](http://SEASTARSOLUTIONS.COM)



trims the engines back out to a factory-preset point so that they're mostly level with the bottom of the boat.

Furthering the joystick experience, there are several high-tech features that come standard with the system, including a fully integrated Mercury autopilot with waypoint sequencing so you can easily chart your course, and a control pad for activating Skyhook®, Mercury's patented 'hovering' system. Activating it will keep your boat firmly rooted against wind and current or while waiting for a spot to open at the fuel dock. It can also be used to get yourself together while shaping up for docking maneuvers and is a real advantage to offshore fishermen, all but eliminating the need to try and anchor in deep water or move off a wreck site where the bite is on. VesselView allows accessing and monitoring of all your boat's systems, as well as being able to set the cruise control. And finally there's Auto Heading, which links its electronic compass onto the boat's heading, keeping it on course with one-degree adjustments available from the joystick and 10-degree tuning from the control panel.

One bit of redundancy that's built into the system covers a rather familiar scenario — and one that none of us want to deal with while away from the dock. Given the amount of electronics we've become accustomed to using on a regular basis — chartplotter, radar, sounder, radio, entertainment center, bilge pump, lights, and lots of other electric gear — a situation might arise where there's a depletion of your cranking batteries' power. If the Mercury system identifies this is happening, it will automatically raise the idle rate of the engines and bring the charge current up. Other features include one power steering pump and one



steering cylinder per engine, just in case there's a problem with one of the engines. There's also a guardian mode that kicks in so as not to allow the engine to operate outside of accepted parameters. And there are anti-collision cables between all multiple engine applications. A docking mode provides precision maneuvering.

Mercury Marine's R&D was focused and determined with this technology. "We've had multiple validation cycles and tests, punishing the product way before bringing it to the consumer level," Chapman explains.

With everything I've seen and experienced, the company has done its homework. The result is a user-friendly system that brings a new level of comfort to the outboard sector — one that just might get those on the fence about handling a boat down off of it and onto the deck and at the helm.

For more information, contact Mercury Marine at 820-929-5892 or visit [MERCURYMARINE.COM](http://MERCURYMARINE.COM). —L.S.