

Coast Guard Aviation Association

The Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl



Celebrating An Era of Achievement

Ancient Pterodactyls plucked creatures from the sea. So have we and do we still.

See "Who, What, and Why We Are" on Page 15

A wise man once stated, "Don't tell me how hard you have worked.-tell me what you have achieved." Here is but a *small example* of what the over 2,000 members of CGAA/AOP have achieved as the result of a large investment of member "*sweat equity*" and *financial commitment* from ourselves and our sponsors in this century. Together we will far surpass even this modest level of support of Coast Guard Aviation and the preservation and display of Coast Guard aviation history.

From its founding in 1977 through 2000, the association grew steadily in membership, accomplished much, and set an ambitious course for the future. A very brief summary of early years includes:

- *Supporting expansion of the Coast Guard Exhibit at the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola*
- *Publishing a Coast Guard Aviation history book*
- *Encouraging and assisting several authors of books in describing various aspects of CG Aviation history*
- *Expanding the CG Aviation Hall of Honor (formerly Hall of Fame) at Aviation Training Center, Mobile, AL*
- *Opening membership to all Coast Guard pilots, aircrew, flight surgeons, and supporters of Coast Guard Aviation*
- *Enhancing recognition of exemplary performance and professionalism at annual gatherings ("Roosts")*
- *Publishing the association journal "PTEROGRAM" three times per year (now in digital format)*
- *Granting funds and professional support to the Coast Guard Academy Cadet Aviation Club*
- *Creating and funding the annual presentation of the Captain Marion "Gus" Shrode Flight Safety Award*

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THIS CENTURY

2000

The association assisted in the fund raising and historical research efforts to erect an Aviation Memorial at Coast Guard Base Elizabeth City, NC honoring all those who have perished while flying missions in Coast Guard Aircraft. The association and individual Pterodactyls donated. The association initiated sponsorship and funding for two rescue awards to be given annually, one for a fixed wing crew and one for a rotary wing crew. An aircrew in each category is selected by the Commandant as the rescue crew of the year. To merit the award, the acts or performance of the rescue mission must be accomplished in a manner above that to be normally expected. The Rotary wing award is known as "The Captain Frank A. Erickson Aviation Crew Rescue Award." The fixed wing award is known as "The Commander Elmer F. Stone Crew Rescue Award."



2001



Conducted an annual gathering (roost) at Fort Lauderdale, FL featuring **CGAS Miami**, and funded and presented the "Captain Marion 'Gus' Shrode Flight Safety Award," along with the Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award and Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award. The Ancient Order obtained IRS approval as a 501 (c)(3) organization to enable future operations while continuing annual funding from dues as before.

2002



Conducted annual roost featuring **CG Aviation Training Center Mobile, AL**; donated funds to the maintenance of HH-52A 1378 and HU-16E 2129 at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park at Mobile, AL. Inducted Commander Gilbert Brown, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 795, into the Coast Guard Aviation Hall of Honor.

2003



Conducted annual roost at Elizabeth City, NC featuring **CGAS, ALC and ATTC Elizabeth City**; launched project to develop an electronic repository of CG aviation history; improved and expanded the association home website (www.AOPtero.org); established world class CG Aviation History website (<http://uscgaviationhistory.AOPtero.org>); established, funded, and presented the annual "Chief Oliver Berry Aviation Maintenance Award."



Donated funds for Vietnam Veterans monuments at the CG Academy and the Cape May Training Center.



2004



Conducted annual roost at Sacramento, CA featuring **CGAS Sacramento**; obtained historic RD-4 Dolphin CGNR 128 for display at the National Museum of Naval Aviation; coordinated donation of more than \$28,000 by 100 members for the Coast Guard Py-lon at the Monument to a Century of Flight at Kitty Hawk, NC; published special edition of PTEROGRAM researched by a member who chronicled the valor of highly decorated Coast Guard aviators who served as volunteers in combat rescue and recovery operations in Southeast

Asia during the Vietnam conflict; helped promote and participated in Change of Watch ceremonies for the Enlisted Ancient Albatross and assisted with reception funding.

2005



Conducted annual roost at Savannah, GA **featuring CGAS Savannah**; inducted Southeast Asia combat rescue aviators into the Coast Guard Aviation Hall of Honor; established digital Coast Guard Aviation Roll of Valor listing Coast Guard recipients and citations, by precedence, of the Silver Life Saving Medal and above (including the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross) on the association's aviation history web site; more than 600 listings researched thus far by association members; solicited and obtained more than 100 new and old Coast Guard Air Station patches for a Coast Guard Academy Museum exhibit; raised more than \$37,000 for CG Mutual Assistance to help CG members and their families personally impacted by hurricane Katrina.

2006

Conducted annual roost at Traverse City, MI **featuring CGAS Traverse City**; launched ongoing project (Phoenix) seeking a Coast Guard HH-52A accepted for display by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (first ever Coast Guard aircraft to be so displayed). Obtained and transported three airframes from Army storage facilities to CG Aviation Logistics Center Elizabeth City, NC; in conjunction with Coast Guard Historian's office, association volunteers researched first fifty Service Records of early Coast Guard aviators, discovering significant historical data. Goal is to research five hundred records; promoted, assisted with reception funding, and participated in Change of Watch ceremonies for CG Ancient Albatross and Enlisted Ancient Albatross.



2007

Conducted annual roost with professional discourse **featuring CGAS Washington** at Falls Church, VA; researched and submitted documentation to support posthumous award of Legion of Merit to the late Captain Samuel Martin, U.S. Army Medical Corps, for life-sustaining service to survivors during miraculous rescue by Coast Guard helicopters and PBY aircraft following 1946 crash of Sabena Airlines commercial airliner in Newfoundland. CGAS Clearwater award ceremony premiered a video conceived and funded by CGAA portraying this historic rescue operation; commissioned fine art painting depicting the HH-52A rescue of M/V *O/o Yumi* survivors during the 1980 mass exodus from Cuba known as Mariel Boatlift Operation for display at the Coast Guard Academy; recognized Academy Aviation Club advisor MSTCS Vikki Cates, upon transfer; provided financial support to Coast Guard aviation exhibit at Aerospace Museum of California at Sacramento, CA. Exhibit conceived, designed and begun by association members and supporters who labored to restore HU-16E 7209 to mint condition for display at museum; presented Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant, USCG, an association honorary membership.



2008



Promoted, assisted with reception funding, and participated in Coast Guard Ancient Albatross Change of Watch ceremony when Ptero RADM Dave Kunkel (Ancient Al #20 and Aviator #1726) was relieved by Ptero VADM Vivien Crea (Aviator #1820). Four former Ancient Al's, RADM Deese Thompson (#10), VADM Howie Thorsen (#13), VADM Dick Herr (#17), and RADM Jim Olson (#19) attended. Also in attendance were our first enlisted Ancient Al, Ptero ADCM Jim Woltz and our current enlisted Ancient Al Ptero AMTC Pete MacDougall (#8). Conducted annual roost with professional discourse at Astoria, OR **featuring CGAS Astoria**; supported association member initiatives to establish Ancient Albatross "Hall" at CGAS Miami to serve as tribute to each Ancient Albatross



of the Coast Guard; furnished historical background and data to Academy class project to commission a fine art painting to depict Coast Guard aviators performing combat rescue operations in Southeast Asia in the 1960s...an example of many ongoing formal requests received by the association for detailed aspects of Coast Guard aviation history...CGAA is recognized globally as important resource for such information; conceived and began ongoing project to trace all Coast Guard aircraft by model and CG number from beginning of Coast Guard aviation to present day; inducted retired Master Chief Aviation Survivalman Larry E. Farmer and the late Chief Aviation Machinist Mate Oliver F. Berry into Coast Guard Aviation Hall of Honor; organized and conducted an extremely well received Coast Guard Heritage Tour at Arlington National Ceremony for attendees at a conference of Coast Guard air station commanding officers; commissioned aviation intern historian to research and index information related to Coast Guard aviation in collections at National Museum of Naval Aviation.



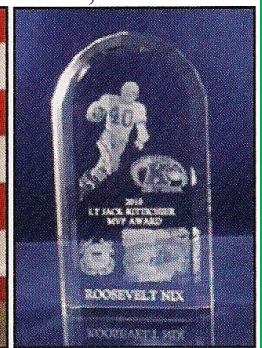
2009

On August 10th, legendary golf great Arnold Palmer was presented with an honorary lifetime membership in the association. While serving in the Coast Guard prior to turning to professional golf, "Arnie" inquired about and considered applying for flight training but decided to complete his enlistment and turn pro instead. President Mont Smith presented Arnie with a certificate of membership, a proclamation and other memorabilia to mark the occasion. Conducted annual roost with professional discourse at Elizabeth City, NC featuring CGAS, ALC and ATTC Elizabeth City; supported the 30th anniversary memorial ceremony remembering the loss of HH-3F 1432; commissioned and supported the dedication at Coast Guard Academy of a fine art painting depicting hurricane Katrina rescue operations; provided extensive historical information, data and advice to Museum of the Albemarle to establish large Coast Guard Aviation exhibit in the museum; served as helpful interface with active duty Coast Guard personnel and assisting corporate representatives...near a year's volunteer effort contributed materially to a magnificent and popular public exhibit titled "Out of the Blue"; funded construction



of large museum quality models of NC-4, MF Flying boat and a C-130 for initial display; located, purchased and donated to ALC Elizabeth City, NC an HH-52A helicopter in relatively good condition for restoration to museum quality to complete "Phoenix Project" to display the first Coast Guard aircraft ever in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum; solicited significant funding from members to fund Jack Columbus

Rittichier Memorial at Kent State University honoring the late Lieutenant Jack C. Rittichier, USCG, killed while commanding a Jolly Green Giant combat rescue mission in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict; hosted CG Academy Cadets for dinner at member homes during summer Cadet Aviation Training programs at Elizabeth City, NC; assisted and participated in the 75th Anniversary celebration of CGAS Salem, MA, conducted by the Winter Island Park Authority; inducted Commander Frank Shelley, USCG (ret.), Aviator 633, into the CG Aviation Hall of Honor. Contributed \$8,000 to families of lost crew of HH-65 6505 which crashed in



Hawaii on the evening of 4 September 2008; provided funding and helped with design and construction of perpetual memorial that CGAS Barbers Point dedicated to the aircrews of HH-65A 6505 and HH-52A 1420 who were lost on 7 January 1982. Promoted, participated in, and funded Ancient Albatross Change of Watch ceremonies and



reception when Ancient Albatross (#22), Ptero RADM Gary T. Blore, Aviator 1850, relieved Ptero VADM Vivien S. Crea, Aviator 1820, on 1 October.

2010

Conducted annual gathering (roost) with professional discourse at Jacksonville, FL featuring the **CG Helicopter Interdiction Squadron**; donated more than \$11,000 to CG Foundation financial disaster fund for families of crew of HC-130H 1705 lost near San Diego; made presentation to Leading Chief Petty Officer conference on "aviation enlisted personnel and CG aviation"; helped sponsor 25th Anniversary of the CG Rescue Swimmer Program; committed to donate an annual contribution of \$1,000 to Association of Naval Aviation Philip H. Jones scholarship fund available to sons and daughters of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation personnel killed on active duty; facilitated, donated funds, and assisted in acquisition of an HU-16E formerly on display at a Texas museum for transport to CGAS Clearwater for display. Funded travel of four volunteer CG senior enlisted to disassemble aircraft for ground shipment and matched \$6,500 contribution of anonymous donor for shipping expense when reassembled and painted as HU-16E CGNR 1023 (aircraft assigned to CGAS St. Petersburg at time of the loss



of HU-16E 1240 on a nighttime rescue mission in 1967), its public display will help to inform and remind citizens of an important aspect of CG aviation history; contributed \$1,000 for materials to assist volunteers in Colorado to repaint HC-131A 5794 at the Weisbrod Aviation Museum at Pueblo, CO. The aircraft appearance had degraded while on display outside and with new paint will move to an inside display area greatly enhancing the image of the CG; CGAA was invited to participate in a tour of the Sikorsky Aircraft manufacturing facility in Bridgeport, CT with Sergei Sikorsky, CDR Stewart Graham (helicopter pilot no. 2), the Enlisted Ancient Albatross, and three 1/c cadets from USCGA who were interested in applying for CG Flight Training; the Clearwater HU-16E is nearing completion for a May 2011 dedication ceremony.



Supported The USCG Rescue Swimmer Program's 25th Anniversary Reunion.



First six CG Rescue Swimmers:
(L to R) #5 Ptero ASMCM Joseph (Butch) Flythe, Jr. P-2939, #6 Ptero ASMCM Larry Farmer P-2898, #1 Ptero LCDR Steve Ober P-2947, #4 Ptero ASM1 Matt Fithian P-2938, #2 Ptero LT Kelly Gordon P-2959, and #3 Ptero LCDR Rick Woolford 2779.



Poster by Bryan D. Snuffer, CG Artist

2011

Conducted the 35th annual gathering (Roost) at Aviation Training Center, Mobile, AL honoring the men and women of ATC Mobile, the 'Cradle of Coast Guard Aviation,' and celebrating the Centennial of Naval Aviation. Funded and presented the annual CAPT Marion 'Gus' Shrode Flight Safety Award, the Chief Oliver F. Berry Aviation Maintenance Award, and the CDR Elmer Stone Fixed Wing and CAPT Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Awards.



Conducted a ceremony at Air Station Clearwater celebrating the Centennial of Naval Aviation, the dedication of Air Force HU-16E O-17176 (renumbered HU-16 E 1023), the re-dedication of the 2007 HU-16E 1240 memorial, 35 years since the movement of the Air Station from St. Petersburg to Clearwater, and the 60th Anniversary of the first HU-16 (#1240) delivered to the Coast Guard.



Mourned the loss of the Last of the Ancient Order's 'Founding Four,' Ptero Norm Horton, Aviator 187, Helo Pilot 246, at age 93 on 21 May.

Restoration of HH-52A CGNR 1415 was completed by the crew of Air Station Port Angeles and it was displayed at the Seattle Museum of Flight.



VADM John Currier (L) (#23), Aviator 1877, relieved RADM Gary Blore (#22), Aviator 1850, as the Coast Guard Ancient Albatross.



The CGAA Executive Board authorized a Phoenix Task Force to lead the effort to help approach the larger aviation industry sector in a major fund-raising campaign to restore an HH-52A for display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air & Space Museum. Every CGAA member was encouraged to become an 'aggressive advocate' for this project.

Refurbishing of HC-131A CGNR 5794 was completed and the aircraft displayed at the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum. A crew of "Colorado Coasties" was headed by Ptero ATCM (ret) Tom Mulford and included Pteros Mike Andres, Dave Elliott, Grace Kessler, James Reid and Tom Rich. The CGAA donated \$1,200 towards the project.



A model of HC-130H CGNR 1452 was completed after over 720 hours of hard work by Ptero Bob Workman, Aviator 914, the Pterodactyl resident model builder, and it was hung on 17 February over the CG Exhibit at the Aerospace Museum of California.



The HC-130 CGNR 1705 Memorial was dedicated at AirSta Sacramento on 29 October. Strong support from the Command, local organizations, the CGAA, local Pteros, and the Van Howd Studio enabled the completion of the Memorial and its dedication on the 2nd anniversary of the mishap.

On 13 November, CG astronaut Ptero Dan Burbank, Aviator 2672, (Left, in photo) expedition commander, along with Russian Cosmonauts Anton Shkaplerov and Anatoly Ivanishin, launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan aboard a Russian Soyuz TMA-22 to spend six months on the International Space Station.



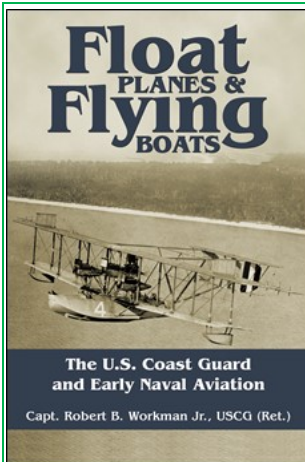
2012

Conducted our annual gathering (Roost) at Air Station Sacramento, CA honoring the men and women of Air Station Sacramento. Funded and presented the annual CAPT Marion 'Gus' Shrode Flight Safety Award, the Chief Oliver F. Berry Aviation Maintenance Award, and the CDR Elmer Stone Fixed Wing and CAPT Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Awards.



On the evening of 28 February, 2012, MH-65C CGNR 6535 crashed in 13 feet of water near Point Clear on the Eastern side of Mobile Bay during a training flight out of Aviation Training Center Mobile. All four of the crewmen perished: LCDR Dale Taylor, LTJG Thomas Cameron, ASTC Fernando Jorge, and AET3 Andrew Knight. The CGAA Executive Board made a \$5,000.00 donation to the Coast Guard Foundation's fund for the CG-6535, designated for the immediate needs of the families afflicted by this tragedy. A memorial service was held at ATC Mobile on 8 March, 2012.





Assisted in the publication, promotion, and sales of the book “**Float Planes & Flying Boats: The U.S. Coast Guard and Early Aviation**” by Ptero CAPT Robert B. Workman , Jr., USCG (Ret.).



On 18 July, the \$23.5 million CDR Stewart R. Graham Hangar was dedicated at Air Station Cape Cod in the presence of hundreds of Coast-Guardsmen, dignitaries, and guests. "What a pleasure it is to be associated with such a grand-slam, good-natured group of people," said Ptero Graham, 95, Aviator 114 and CG Helo Pilot #2. In November, the hangar housed three HC-144A Ocean Sentry aircraft that replaced the air station's fleet of HU-25 Guardian jets which came into use in 1982.

Worked with the CG Historian in the development of a course to teach CG Academy cadets about the heritage, history and tradition of those who came before them that will focus on inspirational individuals, exceptional cases of leadership, and heroism. Provided the CG Aviation History CD and various publications from the Ptero group to the Historian to make sure new Coasties learn from inspirational aviation leaders.

Three new awards were posted on the CGAA Roll of Valor. Each of these 595 awards describe incredible skill and dedication and it is an honor to have them submitted to be shared with the world. **DFC Ptero John H. Powers, III, Aviator 1416**, was cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial fight on the night of 19 to 20 February 1974 as pilot of HH-3F 1484 engaged in the successful evacuation of a critically ill seaman from the merchant vessel GALVESTON, located 136 miles southwest of Annette, AK. **DFC ASM2 Joseph F. Rock** was cited for extraordinary heroism while participating in aerial flight on the night of 28 and 29 December 1988 while serving as Rescue Swimmer aboard HH-3F 1472 engaged in the perilous rescue of two crewmembers from the M/V LLOYD BERMUDA which foundered and capsized 215 nautical miles south of Cape Cod, MA. **MSM Ptero AST1 David A. Gray, P-3132** was cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty while serving as a rescue swimmer aboard several CG HH-60 and HH-65 helicopters during Operation KATRINA LIFE SAVER in metropolitan New Orleans from 01 through 08 September 2005.

2013

Conducted our annual gathering (Roost) at Washington, D.C. honoring two unique aviation commands and missions —Air Station Washington which provides long range command and control transportation for the Commandant and Secretary of DHS and Air Station Atlantic City which provides the 24/7 National Capital Region Air Defense (NCRAD) aerial umbrella in the Washington, D.C. area. Included were a keynote speech by the Hon. Sean O’Keefe, CEO EADS North America, on Risk Management and professional discourse discussions on the State of CG Aviation, the CG and its strategy in the Arctic, Emerging Technologies, CG Aviation Interoperability with many Agencies, the CG and the Just Culture, a Retrospective of CG Aviation: Then and Now, the new CG museum plans, the Management of Risk, and significant SAR cases. A wreath laying ceremony was conducted at the CG War Memorial on CG Hill at Arlington National Cemetery. Funded and presented the annual CAPT Marion ‘Gus’ Shrode Flight Safety Award, the Chief Oliver F. Berry Aviation Maintenance Award, and the CDR Elmer Stone Fixed Wing and CAPT Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Awards.



MH-65C CGNR 6535 Wreath Laying and Memorial Dedication and rededication for HH-52A CGNR-1427 ceremonies were held at ATC Mobile on 1 March. During the late evening darkness of 28 February 2012 LCDR Dale T. Taylor, LTJG Thomas J. Cameron, ASTC Fernando Jorge, and AET3 Andrew W. Knight departed Aviation Training Center Mobile. After practicing instrument approaches to a hover and saving mariners in distress from both a boat and from the dark water, the crew began the transition from a hover to forward flight to return home to ATC Mobile. Tragically, at some point during this challenging transition the aircraft departed normal flight profile and impacted the water. All four Coast Guardsmen were lost in the crash. On the evening of 22 October 1981, LT Raymond T. Brooks, LTJG Robert E.



Winter Jr., AD3 Joe A. Hinton, and AD3 Mark C. Johnson departed Aviation Training Center Mobile on a nighttime instrument training mission. Shortly after takeoff, Air Traffic Control lost radio and radar contact with the aircraft three miles north of the airfield. Another CG HH-52A located the crash site and discovered that all had perished. CG1427 had experienced a catastrophic in-flight failure of the main rotor assembly and had broken apart in flight. Post-crash analysis traced the cause of the mishap to the improper manufacturing of a key main rotor component. All HH-52As were grounded until every aircraft in the fleet was inspected and deemed safe for flight. The



sacrifice made by the crew of CG1427 in service to their country likely prevented another similar mishap.

A dedication of the memorial to the victims of the crash of H-60 CGNR 6017 on 7 July 2010 was held at CG Air Station Sitka.

On 26 April, Pteros Paul Langlois, aviator 1954 and Jeff Davis, aviator 1003, were inducted into the CG Academy 'Hall of Heroes.' Paul received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his daring rescue on the night of Feb. 12, 1997, while serving as aircraft commander of an HH-65A. Jeff received the Navy and Marine



Corps Medal for heroism while serving as a pilot of HU-16E CGNR 2131 on 19 April 1968, when he landed in the semi-protected waters between Panay and Catanduanes Islands, Republic of the Philippines to evacuate the Executive Officer of the USS MAURY (ACS 16)



Ptero Ben Stoppe, Aviator 1646, was appointed as Executive Director to assist the President, officers, and Executive Board of the Association.

Ptero Bruce Melnick, Aviator 1671, a 1972 CG Academy graduate and the first CG Astronaut, was one of five 2013 inductees into the Capital One Academic All-America® Hall of Fame.

2014

Conducted our annual gathering (Roost) at Hyannis, MA honoring the men and women of Air Station Cape Cod. Funded and presented the annual CAPT Marion 'Gus' Shrode Flight Safety Award, the Chief Oliver F. Berry Aviation Maintenance Award, and the CDR Elmer Stone Fixed Wing and CAPT Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Awards.



The CG's 23rd Ancient Albatross, VADM John P. Currier (L), passed on the title of Ancient Albatross on June 4th, to RADM John H. "Jake" Korn, 7th District Commander, during a Change of Watch ceremony at AirSta Traverse City, MI.



Mobile's Battleship Park HU-16E CGNR 2129 was re-painted by Aviation Training Center, Mobile Chiefs after a \$2K Donation by CGAA for upkeep and maintenance on the HU-16E, HH-52 and two utility boats located within the park.



On Friday, 8 August, after an eight-year reign, the CG's Eighth Enlisted Ancient Albatross, Ptero AMTCS Peter G. MacDougall, (L) P-2900, passed on his title to Ptero AETCM Michael F. Ferreira, P-3137, the AirSta Sitka Command Enlisted Advisor, during a Change of Watch ceremony in the CDR Stewart P. Graham Hangar at AirSta Cape Cod, MA.

The U.S. Coast Guard retired the last Dassault HU-25 Guardian from service at CG Sector/AirSta Corpus Christi Hangar 41 aboard Naval AirSta Corpus Christi, TX, during a ceremony on September 23. HU-25D CGNR 2114, which was the last of 41 Guardians in service, accumulated 16,017 flight hours.



On 15 December, the lobby of the USCG's new Rescue Swimmer Training Facility at the Aviation Technical Training Center in Elizabeth City, NC was dedicated to Aviation Machinist's Mate Victor Roulund who had previously been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross "For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight during the early morning of 21 December 1955, as crew member aboard a CG helicopter engaged in the rescue of men, women and children during the flood disaster at Yuba City, CA. With full knowledge of the dangers presented by the raging flood waters and darkness, Roulund displayed outstanding initiative and skill while serving as crewmember and hoist operator for twelve consecutive hours. On one occasion, Roulund was lowered with flashlight and axe to the top of a house trailer where he chopped a hole in the side to rescue a trapped, invalid woman. Although his knees were rubbed raw and his hands lacerated from the arduous task of lifting and pulling the rescued persons into the helicopter from the hoist rescue basket, Roulund persisted in his efforts until relieved.

The CGAA established and is sponsoring (at the request of an anonymous donor), a lifetime achievement rescue swimmer award that will be named the "Victor Roulund Rescue Swimmer Lifetime Achievement Award."



On 19 December, a memorial service was conducted at Air Station Humboldt Bay remembering the tragic loss of CG HH-52A 1363 with LT Donald L. Prince of the CG as pilot; Sub-Lieutenant Allen Alltree, a Royal Canadian Navy exchange pilot as copilot; and James A. Nininger, Jr., an Aviation Electricians Mate second class, serving as crewman on December 22nd, 1964.

On 24 November, the USCG Commemorative Stamp showing an oil painting by artist William S. Phillips of the CG Cutter *Eagle*



with an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter flying above was announced to commemorate two anniversaries for the U.S.C.G. In 1790 Congress authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, to create a maritime service to enforce customs laws, alternately known as the system of cutters, Revenue Service and Revenue-Marine. President Woodrow Wilson signed the Act to Create the Coast Guard on Jan. 28, 1915."

2015

Conducted our annual gathering (Roost) honoring the men and women of Sector/AirSta San Diego. Funded and presented the annual CAPT Marion 'Gus' Shrode Flight Safety Award, the Chief Oliver F. Berry Aviation Maintenance Award, and the CDR Elmer Stone Fixed Wing and CAPT Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Awards. The first award

of the Victor Roulund Rescue Swimmer Meritorious Achievement Award was presented to: Ptero ASMC (Ret.) Larry Farmer, Ptero ASMC (Ret.) Joseph 'Butch' Flythe, ASMC (Ret.) Darell Gelakoska, and ASMC Thomas 'Buck' Beaudry.



On Jan. 27, Ptero Ancient Albatross RADM John H. Korn presented a Distinguished Public Service Award to the National Museum of Naval Aviation. Korn also cut the ribbon of the refreshed and new CG Aviation display that included a Douglas Dolphin RD-4 fixed-wing aircraft that the CGAA purchased for \$5,000 for the museum. It was restored by the museum employees. The CGAA donated \$11K for this project.



Ptero RADM John Korn (R), aviator 2209, who currently serves as the commander of the 7th CG District, the service's senior aviator, passed along the honor to Ptero VADM Charles Ray, aviator 2311, in a ceremony held on 6 April at Air Station New Orleans.



On 13 August, Air Station Traverse City Held a Vietnam Combat SAR Pilot Mural Dedication. Members of the Patriot Guard and Rolling Thunder motorcycle Veterans groups completed an Honor Ride at the hangar to honor our 11 CG Aviators: LT Richard V. Butchka, Aviator 1238; LCDR Joseph L. Crowe, Aviator 1065; LT Lance A. Eagan, Aviator 1060; LT Robert E. Long, Aviator 1452; LT James M. Loomis, Aviator 1179; LT Roderick Martin III, Aviator 1080; CDR Lonnie L. Mixon, Aviator 878; LT James C. Quinn, Aviator 1091; LT Robert T. Ritchie, Aviator 1216; LT Jack C. Ritchie, Aviator 997; and LT Jack K. Stice, Aviator 1234. The dedication was part of the National Vietnam War Commemoration program to memorialize the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War – when regular U.S. combat units were deployed in 1965.



Ptero Master Chief Petty Officer Michael Ferreira (R), P-3137 passed on the title of Enlisted Ancient Albatross to ASTCM Clay Hill, P-3058, during a change of watch ceremony at CG Air Station Barbers Point on Thursday, 20 August.

Ptero Bob Workman completed a model of a CG P5M-2G. It took him 4 1/2 years to make drawings, molds, and then construct and paint the bird. He will be donating it to the CG for display at the new Coast Guard Museum in New London, CT.



2016 – The Centennial of Coast Guard Aviation

Coast Guard Aviation Centennial Mission Statement: *“To celebrate 100 years of distinguished aviation service by the men and women of the United States Coast Guard through historic aircraft restoration, public education, widely attended events and unit-based functions, all designed to recognize Coast Guard Aviation’s unique contribution to our Nation’s wellbeing.”*



On 22 January, Elmer Stone, CG Aviator #1’s, birthday was celebrated at multiple venues to begin the commemoration of the Centennial of CG aviation. RADM Gromlich, CCGD13, hosted in Seattle, AUXAIR members delivered a cake to Station Gloucester (USCG Base 7/10 Pound Island), and CGHQ also celebrated with comments by VADM Charles Michel, the Vice-Commandant, & Pteros RADM Bob Johanson, Aviator 869, & CAPT Joe Kimball (CG-711), Aviator 3211. AirSta Sacramento celebrated the Centennial of CG Aviation on 22 January by hosting seven former Air-

Sta CO's. Many other celebrations were conducted throughout the year at numerous CG venues to mark the Centennial.

Supported the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation's 29th Annual Symposium in May honoring the USCG Aviation Centennial. Over 600 attendees sat in the Museum's atrium, under the Blue Angels in Diamond Formation, as Ptero VADM John Currier (Ret) led them through a brief overview of CG aviation's unique accomplishments since 1916. Ptero John Moseley covered early fixed wing aviation operations with special emphasis on our law enforcement role during prohibition. Scott Price (Acting Chief, CG Historians Office) spoke of early fixed wing operations with Fokker PJ -1/2's and Douglas RD-4's Flying Life Boats and the early DFC's awarded for open sea landings. Ptero Sergei Sikorsky spoke eloquently about his WWII experiences as an enlisted man in the CG. He told how he worked with CDR Frank Erickson to help develop the helicopter into a rescue vehicle. Ptero CAPT Joe Kimball provided the present-day data regarding the status of CG Aviation Operations. CG aircraft operate from 24 Air Stations plus the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL and the Aviation Logistics Center and Aviation Technical Training Center in Elizabeth City, NC. We have approximately 1,000 pilots and 3,000 aircrew/technicians who fly 34,000 fixed-wing and 77,000 rotary-wing hours each year. In regard to the vitally important role of the enlisted personnel in our aviation communities, CAPT Kimball said that our "fix-em & fly-em" policies were the envy of the other military services. Ptero CAPT Bob Workman gave a detailed description of Elmer Stone's service to the USN and USCG. Ptero Bryan Snuffer, P-3066, received the R.G. Smith Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation Art.



NAMF Symposium participants Pteros VADM John Currier (L), Sergei Sikorsky, Bob Workman, CG Historian Scott Price, Tom Beard, John 'Bear' Moseley, and Joe Kimball.

Ptero Tom Beard, Aviator 1104, received the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation's 2016 Arthur W. Radford Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation History and Literature. Beard was recognized as editor-in-chief for the three-time award winning book, *The Coast Guard*, author of *Wonderful Flying Machine*, and has co-authored or edited several other books. He has published more than fifty magazine and journal articles, and has written, edited and contributed to the production of Television documentaries.



On 14 April 2016, over 250 current and former CG leaders, Ancient Al's, Pteros, aviators, aircrewmembers, spouses, and aviation devotees proudly gathered at the Udvar-Hazy Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum, the shrine of aviation, to celebrate the addition of HH-52A CGNR 1426 to its hallowed halls. This 11-year effort was spearheaded by Ptero RADM Bob Johanson, Aviator 869. The CGAA conducted a 'Nametag Project' for the restoration of the 1426. All contributors to the project had their flight suit nametag enshrined in a helmet bag aboard the 1426. Over 210 nametags were submitted and donations exceeded \$34K. There have been 21 crewmembers and five civilians lost in seven Class 1 HH-52A accidents. Those 26 have their nametags (in blue) in the helmet bag donated by Ptero CDR Chris Kilgore, Aviator 1906. The CGAA funded the over \$230K cost of the restoration. At the ceremony, retired CG CDR Ptero Frank 'Pop' Shelley, CGA '49 & Aviator 633, was presented with the Legion of Merit award for his "outstanding meritorious service as the HH-52A Program Manager for the test, evaluation, acceptance and deployment of the Sikorsky HH-52A helicopter from August 1961 to July 1964.



RADM Bob Johanson addresses the audience



On 20 May, a dedication ceremony of the corrected version of CG Aviator #1 and Naval Aviator #38 Elmer Stone's headstone to indicate that he was the pilot of the historic NC-4 trans-Atlantic flight in 1919 and to add some of Elmer's significant awards was conducted at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Ray Stone (86), a 2nd cousin of Elmer, gave permission for the alteration of the headstone and attended the ceremony. The CGAA funded the cost of the headstone restoration and reception.



On 8 June, the CG Foundation celebrated the Centennial of CG Aviation at its annual "Tribute to the Coast Guard in Our Nation's Capital" dinner in Washington, D.C. Ptero Sergei Sikorsky, P-3289, and his wife, Elena, were the honored guests. The CGAA purchased a table for this event. Several members of the Ptero Board and their spouses attended this magical evening.



Ptero ADM (Ret.) Thad Allen presents an HH-52A 1426 Model to Sergei Sikorsky (L).



CGAA Enlisted Ancient Al ASTCM Clay Hill, RS-112, (L) and CGAA President RADM Jim Van Sice.

The CGAA will host its annual gathering (Roost) in Mobile, AL from 27-30 October as the crowning event of the Centennial year and to honor the men and women and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Aviation Training Center, Mobile.





Who, What, and Why We Are



Four retired U.S. Coast Guard aviators were close friends. Captain Marion “Gus” Shrode, CG aviator 527, Captain George Thometz, CG aviator 530, Captain Andy Wall, CG aviator 182 and Commander Norm Horton, CG aviator 187, (all now deceased) often met socially. Their many discussions led them to envision an organization to perpetuate and promote the service and comradeship of all CG air crews. In 1977, **these four buddies founded** The (original) Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl.

Every year since that beginning, the “Pterodactyl” membership of Coast Guard **active duty and retired aviators, air-crew members and supporters** has steadily grown, now numbering more than 2,000. As the organization has matured over the years, its objectives have expanded to embrace the preservation of CG aviation history while directly supporting active duty forces.

The Association is a tax-exempt, non-profit, and all-volunteer entity incorporated in Alabama. Modest individual annual and life member dues and corporate donations fund projects that **support the Coast Guard** in many ways.

A gathering of Pterodactyl members, supporters and guests (a “Roost”) is held each year at various locations, often near a Coast Guard aviation facility. At the annual banquet, **awards are presented to active duty aviation personnel**. These awards were conceived by and are funded by the Ancient Order. Selections are made by the staff of the Coast Guard Commandant.

The Captain Marion “Gus” Shrode **Flight Safety award** is presented to a flight safety officer in recognition of exemplary performance in that role.

The Captain Frank Erickson **Rescue Award** is given to an entire helicopter crew for outstanding performance during a rescue mission.

The Commander Elmer Stone **Rescue Award** is presented to an entire fixed wing crew for outstanding performance during a rescue mission.

The Chief Oliver Berry **Maintenance Award** is presented to an aviation maintenance crewman for exceptional performance.

The Victor Roulund lifetime achievement **Rescue Swimmer Meritorious Achievement Award** is presented to a rescue swimmer for exceptional performance in that role.

In addition to these coveted awards for active duty members of the service, Ancient Order members volunteer time and talent, and funds to **promote and preserve the rich history of U.S. Coast Guard aviation**. Many projects are of direct or indirect benefit to the Coast Guard by helping to **inform the public** about Coast Guard mission performance and enhancing Coast Guard personnel recruitment programs.

Displays and exhibits, including retired aircraft, have been established and maintained at several aviation museums.

A U.S. Coast Guard Aviation **Hall of Honor** is sponsored to recognize and honor those who have made significant contributions to CG Aviation.

A website (**www.AOPtero.org**) presents information about Ancient Order activities, goals and objectives as well as other items of interest including a link to a CG aviation history site displaying an evolving history of stories, units, aircraft, people and awards.

A journal of Pterodactyl activities named **Pterogram** is published three times annually and is displayed on the official Pterodactyl website as well as mailed in print or electronically to the membership.

The business of the Ancient Order is carried out by an elected volunteer Executive Board with an Executive Director, who receives a small stipend annually, and appointed advisors.

Our ranks include not only active duty and retired or former Coast Guard pilots and aircrew men and women of all specialties, but many other supporters of Coast Guard aviation. We are proud of our efforts to not only preserve and display CG aviation history but our **direct support to current active duty aviation personnel and their commands**.

Continued **growth in membership** will lead to even more impressive initiatives and accomplishments in **support of the USCG and the U.S.A.**

SEMPER PARATUS!

Coast Guard Aviation Association P.O. Box 940, Troy, VA 22974-0940

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☐ Exchange Pilot

MAIL TO:

The CG Aviation Association

P.O. Box 940,

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To activate your access to the members-only area on the web site, mail-in registrations must send an email to webmaster@cgaviationassn.org and request access to the members-only area. Be sure to include your full name and email address. Members who join/renew online automatically have access to the members-only area.



The Centennial of CG Aviation has increased the products available in the “Ptero Store”, and the number of orders per day.

To keep up with demand, the new Ptero/Centennial Store has been moved to an online specialty company located in Annapolis, MD. Stoutgear has been in operation for years and has a long history with the Pteros. If you purchased a shirt at a Roost in the last 10 years, it was probably supplied by them. The memorabilia provided by Stoutgear Promotional Products donates the profit to the CGAA. From hats to shirts, embroidery and screen printing, quality products with CG insignia representing the “Pilots”, “Aircrew”, and “Rescue Swimmers”, can be purchased through the Stoutgear/Ptero web store. Stoutgear is pleased to provide such a service to those who have served. StoutGear is easily reached through the “Store” tab at either <https://aoptero.org/> or

<http://centennial-cgaviation.org/> and you can even pay by check if you don't like using credit cards on the internet .

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