



Coast Guard Aviation Association

The Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl



Celebrating a Decade of Achievement

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 CGAA/AOP has achieved as the result of a large investment of member “*sweat equity*” and *financial commitment* in our most recent decade. Together we will far surpass even this level of support of Coast Guard forces and the preservation and display of Coast Guard aviation history.

REVIEWERS OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL SEE MANY EXAMPLES OF DIRECT AND SIGNIFICANT INDIRECT SUPPORT TO THE COAST GUARD AND TO COAST GUARD ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL, PRESERVATION OF HISTORY AND AND MEANINGFUL PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS

THE CG AVIATION ASSOCIATION IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS AND MORE

From its founding in 1977 through 2000, the association grew steadily in membership, accomplished much more than camaraderie while remaining totally volunteer and laying the keel for the recent decade. A very brief summary of early years includes:

- ◇ supporting expansion of the Coast Guard Exhibit at the National Museum of Naval Aviation
- ◇ publishing a CG Aviation History Book and encouraging and assisting several authors of books describing various aspects of CG aviation history
- ◇ expanding the CG Aviation Hall of Honor (formerly Hall of Fame)
- ◇ providing direct support to several lasting monuments to CG aviation personnel
- ◇ conceiving and funding annual Flight Safety and Rescue Awards
- ◇ opening membership to all CG aircrew and pilots and supporters
- ◇ continuing annual gatherings (roosts)
- ◇ improving the association journal PTEROGRAM
- ◇ granting funds to the CG Academy Cadet Aviation Club
- ◇ And More ...

AS FOR THE MOST RECENT DECADE...

2001

- Continued annual funding support as before
- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) at Fort Lauderdale, FL featuring CGAS Miami
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion “Gus” Shrode Flight Safety Award, Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award and Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award

2002

- Donated Maintenance funds for HH-52 1378 and HU-16 2129 at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park at Mobile, AL
- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) at Mobile, AL featuring ATC Mobile
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion “Gus” Shrode Flight Safety Award, and the



Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing and Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Awards

- Inducted Commander Gilbert Brown, USCG (Ret.), aviator 795, into the CG Aviation Hall of Honor

2003

- Launched project to develop an electronic repository of Coast Guard aviation history
- Established a world class CG Aviation History web site (<http://uscgaviationhistory.aoptero.org>)
- Improved and expanded the association home web site (www.AOPtero.org)
- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) at Elizabeth City, NC featuring CGAS, ALC and ATTC
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion "Gus" Shrode Flight Safety Award, Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award, and the Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award
- Established, funded and presented the annual Chief Oliver Berry Aviation Maintenance Award
- Obtained IRS tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status
- Donated funds for Vietnam Veterans monuments at the CG Academy and Cape May Training Center

2004

- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) at Sacramento, CA featuring CGAS Sacramento
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion "Gus" Shrode Flight Safety Award, Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award, Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award and the Chief Oliver Berry Aviation Maintenance Award
- Obtained historic RD-4 Dolphin CGNR 128, funding its transport for display at the National Museum of Naval Aviation
- Coordinated donation of more than \$28,000 by 100 members for the Coast Guard Pylon at the Monument to a Century of Flight at Kitty Hawk, NC
- Published a special edition of the PTEROGRAM which chronicled the valor of the highly decorated CG aviators who served as volunteers in combat rescue and recovery operations in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict
- Publicized and participated in Change of Watch Ceremonies for the Enlisted Ancient Albatross and aided reception funding.

2005

- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) at Savannah, GA featuring CGAS Savannah
- Inducted the aforementioned Southeast Asia combat rescue aviators into the CG Aviation Hall of Honor
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion "Gus" Shrode Flight Safety Award, Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award, Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award and the Chief Oliver Berry Aviation Maintenance Award
- Established an electronic Coast Guard Aviation Roll of Valor on the association's aviation history website listing CG recipients and citations, by precedence, of the Silver Life Saving Medal and above (including Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross)...more than 600 listings have been researched thus far by association members, a formidable and continuing task necessitated by the absence of an official Coast Guard record except for the Coast Guard Medal
- Solicited and obtained more than 100 Coast Guard Air Station Patches, new and old, for a CG Museum display at New London, CT
- Members responded to association solicitations by contributing more than \$37,000 to CG Mutual Assistance to help Coast Guard members and their families impacted by hurricane Katrina

2006

- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) at Traverse City, MI featuring CGAS Traverse City
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion "Gus" Shrode Flight Safety Award, Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award, Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award and the Chief Oliver Berry Aviation Maintenance Award
- Launched an ongoing project seeking to see a Coast Guard HH-52A accepted for display by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum which would be the first ever Coast Guard aircraft so displayed...obtained three airframes from Army storage facilities and transported them to the CG Aviation Logistics Center at Elizabeth City, NC...work pends
- Working in conjunction with the Coast Guard Historian's office, association volunteers researched the first fifty Service Records of early (deceased) CG aviators, discovering significant historical data...with a goal of researching five hundred records



- Publicized and participated in Change of Watch Ceremonies for the Ancient Albatross and aided reception funding

2007

- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) with professional discourse at Falls Church, VA
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion “Gus” Shrode Flight Safety Award, Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award, Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award and the Chief Oliver Berry Aviation Maintenance Award
- Researched and submitted documentation to support the posthumous award of a Legion of Merit to the late Captain Samuel Martin, U.S. Army Medical Corps, for his life sustaining service to survivors during the rescues by CG helicopters and PBY aircraft following the 1946 crash of a Sabena Airlines commercial airliner in Newfoundland...the award was approved and presented to the children of Doctor Martin at ceremonies held at CGAS Clearwater...the ceremony premiered a video portrayal of the historic rescue operation conceived and funded by the association
- Commissioned for display at the Coast Guard Academy a fine art painting depicting the HH-52A rescue of Olo Yumi survivors during the 1980 mass exodus from Cuba known as the Mariel Boatlift Operation
- Provided encouragement and financial support to a Coast Guard aviation exhibit at the Aerospace Museum of California at Sacramento, CA...the exhibit was conceived, designed and begun by association members and supporting friends who labored to restore HU-16E 7209 to mint condition for display at the museum
- Presented Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant, USCG with an honorary membership in the association

2008

- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) with professional discourse at Astoria, OR featuring CGAS Astoria
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion “Gus” Shrode Flight Safety Award, Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award, Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award and the Chief Oliver Berry Aviation Maintenance Award
- Provided support to association member initiatives to establish an Ancient Albatross “Hall” at CGAS Miami to serve as a tribute to each Ancient Albatross of the Coast Guard
- Furnished historical background and data to an Academy class project to commission a fine art painting to depict Coast Guard aviators performing combat rescue operations in Southeast Asia in the nineteen sixties...this was an example of many ongoing formal requests received by the association for detailed aspects of Coast Guard aviation history...the association is recognized globally as an important resource for such information
- Conceived and began an ongoing project to trace all Coast Guard aircraft by model and CG number from the beginning of Coast Guard aviation to the present day
- Inducted retired Master Chief Aviation Survivalman Larry E. Farmer and the late Chief Aviation Machinist Mate Oliver F. Berry into the 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 facility commanding officers
- Commissioned an aviation intern historian to research and index information related to CG aviation in the collections at the National Museum of Naval Aviation
- Publicized and participated in Change of Watch Ceremonies for the Ancient Albatross and aided reception funding

2009

- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) with professional discourse at Elizabeth City, NC featuring CGAS, ALC and ATTC
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion “Gus” Shrode Flight Safety Award, Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award, Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award and the Chief Oliver Berry Aviation Maintenance Award
- Furnished support for the 30th anniversary memorial ceremony remembering the loss of HH-3F 1432
- Commissioned and supported the dedication at the Coast Guard Academy of a fine art painting depicting hurricane Katrina rescue operations
- Provided extensive historical information, data and advice to the Museum of the Albemarle in assisting the establishment of a large Coast Guard Aviation exhibit in the museum...served as



a helpful interface and liaison 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"

- Provided funding for the construction of large museum quality models of the NC-4, MF Flying Boat and a C-130 for initial display at the aforementioned museum
- Located and funded the purchase and transport to ALC Elizabeth City, NC of an HH-52A helicopter in relatively good condition for restoration to meet museum standards and hopefully completing the project to display the first CG aircraft ever in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum
- Facilitated solicitation of significant funding from members supporting the 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 during the Vietnam war
- Assisted and participated in the 75th Anniversary celebration of CGAS Salem, MA, by the Winter Island Park Authority
- Inducted Commander Frank Shelley, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 633, into the CG Aviation Hall of Honor
- Presented legendary golfer and former CG Petty Officer Arnold Palmer with an honorary membership
- Publicized and participated in Change of Watch Ceremonies for the Ancient Albatross and aided reception funding

2010

- Conducted an annual gathering (roost) with professional discourse at Jacksonville, FL featuring HITRON
- Funded and presented the annual Captain Marion "Gus" Shrode Flight Safety Award, Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award, Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award and the Chief Oliver Berry Aviation Maintenance Award
- Donated together with individual member contributions more than \$11,000 to the CG Foundation financial disaster fund for families of the crew of the loss of HC-130H 1705
- On request, made a well received presentation on "What the association is doing for the LCPO, aviation enlisted personnel and CG aviation" at a conference of Leading Chief Petty Officers
- Helped to sponsor and assisted with the 25th Anniversary of the CG Rescue Swimmer Program
- Executed a Letter of Agreement with the Association of Naval Aviation regarding an ANA scholarship fund available to sons and daughters of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation personnel killed on active duty, and committed to an annual association contribution to the fund of \$1,000
- Facilitated, donated funds, and assisted in the acquisition of a former Air Force HU-16E in Texas for transport to CGAS Clearwater for display...funded the travel of four volunteer CG CPO's to disassemble components for ground shipment and paid \$6,500 toward the shipping expense... when reassembled and painted as HU-16E 1023 (assigned to CGAS St. Petersburg at the 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 repainting HC-131A 5794 at the Weisbord Aviation Museum at Pueblo, CO enhancing the image of the Coast Guard

Membership

Eligibility: Current and former USCG members who have flown in CG aircraft under official flight orders (pilots, aircrew, observers, etc.), including exchange pilots of other military services and foreign governments. The Executive Board will also approve for associate membership others who support the interests and goals of CG aviation and Coast Guard Aviation Association.

Dues: Annual Active Duty Members \$15, Annual All Others \$20, Life Membership \$250

Membership applications for new members are printed in each PTEROGRAM (CGAA periodical), and are available on line at www.AOPtero.org — select 'Member Services,' then 'Membership Renewal', then click under 'Dues Payment' for the simple on line application.

Coast Guard Aviation Association P.O. Box 222905 Chantilly, VA 20153-2905

*A charitable, educational organization
501 (c)(3) of the*



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