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FM CCGDEIGHT NEW ORLEANS LA//D//
TO AIG 8930
BT
UNCLAS //N16790//

SUBJ: HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS OF THE EIGHTH DISTRICT
AUXILIARY

1. IN 1934, THEN CDR RUSSELL WASCHE ENVISIONED A RESERVE PROGRAM THAT COULD BE USED TO HELP MONITOR THE RAPIDLY GROWING RECREATIONAL BOATING COMMUNITY. IT WAS NOT, HOWEVER, UNTIL ADM WASCHE WAS NAMED COMMANDANT THAT H.R. 5966 WAS ENACTED TO "ESTABLISH A COAST RESERVE TO BE COMPOSED OF OWNERS OF MOTORBOATS AND YACHTS." THIS WAS THE LEGISLATION THAT LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE AUXILIARY AND THE NAME CHANGED TO THE AUXILIARY IN 1941 BY SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

2. THE AUXILIARY HAS SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN THE SUBSEQUENT SEVEN DECADES AND WITH SUPERB RESULTS IN THE EIGHTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT. THIS 26-STATE AOR IS HOST TO OVER 10,000 MILES OF INLAND WATERWAYS AND 1200 MILES OF COASTLINE. IMPACTING OUR AOR IS A WIDE RANGE OF NATURAL DISASTERS INCLUDING FLOODING, TORNADOS, AND HURRICANES. MEANWHILE, MAJOR OIL SPILLS HAVE THREATENED TO CRIPPLE THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AND DAMAGE THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. IN EACH OF THESE INCIDENTS THE AUXILIARY HAS STOOD SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH ITS ACTIVE DUTY AND RESERVE COUNTERPARTS, BRINGING TO THE RESPONSE COMMUNITY LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, DIVERSE SURFACE AND AIR ASSETS, AND A WILLINGNESS TO SIMPLY GET THE JOB DONE.

3. ALWAYS READY TO ASSIST, YOU PROVIDED OUTSTANDING SUPPORT TO SECTOR OHIO VALLEY DURING THE SONS 07 EXERCISE AND OPERATION TALL STACKS 2006, THE LARGEST GATHERING OF STEAMBOATS IN THE WESTERN RIVERS. AFTER NATURAL DISASTERS, YOU SELFLESSLY OPENED YOUR HOMES TO ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS NEEDING A PLACE TO LIVE. DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE, YOU OPENED A REGIONAL EXAM CENTER IN THREE MAJOR CITIES THAT ARE STAFFED PRIMARILY BY AUXILIARISTS. IN 2007 AND 2008 ALONE, YOU CONDUCTED 4871 PUBLIC APPEARANCES RESULTING IN HIGHLY POSITIVE COAST GUARD EXPOSURE FOR OVER 6 MILLION CITIZENS. YOU ALSO SPENT OVER 27,000

HOURS ON SAFETY PATROLS, AND CONTRIBUTED AN INCREDIBLE 835,000
ADDITIONAL HOURS OF GENERAL ACTIVITIES.

4. TODAY, THE COMMANDANT RECOGNIZED THE AUXILIARY WITH A UNIT
COMMENDATION FOR THE LAST DECADE OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE.
PLEASE ACCEPT MY PERSONAL "BRAVO ZULU" FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

5. ADMIRAL MARY E LANDRY, COMMANDER EIGHTH COAST GUARD
DISTRICT,

SENDS.

6. INTERNET RELEASE IS AUTHORIZED.

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