

"From the President of the United States of America

June 19, 2009

I send my warmest regards to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in celebration of your 70th anniversary of service to our Nation.

Formed by an act of Congress on June 23, 1939, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has distinguished itself through gallant service in support of the U.S. Coast Guard and the safety of our Nation's recreational boaters. Today's 29,000 Auxiliarists, and the legions of those who have gone before them, have willingly sacrificed their time and resources to save hundreds of lives, conduct thousands of search and rescue missions, and prevent millions of dollars in property loss.

In the wake of staggering national challenges posed by the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in 2005, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary selflessly served millions of hours to protect our citizens and improve maritime safety and security. Members of the Auxiliary have always displayed unparalleled devotion to the welfare of America's recreational boaters through public education programs, vessel safety checks, and marine dealer visits. These efforts have proven invaluable to accident prevention and the vast enjoyment of our Nation's coasts, rivers, and lakes.

I congratulate you for your steadfast commitment to the highest standards of citizenship, patriotism, and community service. On behalf of all Americans, I wish you all the best for a memorable celebration. May you continue to find happiness and fulfillment in your many contributions to our country.

//s//Barack H. Obama, President."