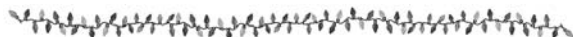




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A Coast Guard Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through each state,
Loyal Coast Guard families were beginning to celebrate.
Just then from the White House came an urgent call,
A crisis had arisen that would affect one and all.
In fact, the U.S. State Department was totally frantic:
Santa Claus had just landed in the Atlantic!
It was foggy as ever; Rudolph had made a blunder.
Santa, sleigh and eight reindeer were all going under.
Although stockings were hung by chimneys with care.
Poor Santa could only gurgle, "I'll never get there."
When what to his wondering eye should appear:
A fleet of Coast Guard cutters with the rescue gear!
The officers and crew were lively and quick,
a lucky break for good ole Saint Nick.
With a nod from the captain. they went right to work,
Rescuing all, including Rudolph, who felt like a jerk.
Poor Santa was soggy, but as anyone could see,
He was very grateful to the U.S.C.G!
And we heard him exclaim as they towed him from sight,
"If it weren't for my age and weight, I'd enlist tonight!"

- Author unknown

