




THE INDEPENDENT

East Hampton • Southampton • Riverhead • Southold • Shelter Island

[Coast Guard Aux NEWS](#)

November 11, 2009

Coast Guard Auxiliary News



By Vincent Pica
Division 18 (ISR) Captain, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Sponsorship of this column is available. All fees raised will be donated by The Independent to Division 18 of The USCG Auxiliary for use in boating safety.
For information call Jim Mackin @ 631.324.2500

First in War, First in Peace, First in Service

With Veterans' Day being an annual rite of passage and US forces engaged in open combat and not-so-open combat in various theaters around the globe, it is never too late, too soon or too often to note the service of our veterans. Division 18 DISR stands in gratitude to those of us who served in the armed services and in respectful memory of those of us who have passed over the bar...

The table shows the breakdown by service:

US Navy	15
US Army	7
US Navy Reserves	4
USCG Reserves	3

USCG		3
US Air Force	4	
US Army National Guard		2
US Army Reserves	1	
US Army Air Corp	1	
US Air Force Reserves	1	
US Marine Corps	1	
Royal Naval Reserves		1

Not surprisingly, most served in the sea-borne services but every service is represented. More than the numbers, however, they have defended their Nation on the Asian, European and American continents. They have also done so on every ocean – on, above and under it – as well as flown over many a battle field. They have trained with and often had to use weapons from side arms on up, all the way to nuclear weapons.

They have been recognized for service and valor many times, including the Navy Cross.

Names and actions that have been storied through this Nation's 20th century history are found in the records of the veterans of USCGAux Division 18 (1SR):

The Manhattan Project,
 USS Saratoga,
 USS Wakefield's evacuation of British subjects from Singapore,
 USS Kitty Hawk,
 Polaris,
 the Alaska Highway,
 the Battle of the Bulge,
 Leyte,
 Normandy,
 World War II,
 Korean Conflict,
 Viet Nam War,
 Panama,
 Somalia,
 Desert Storm...

What causes someone to "re-up" in what Captain Boyton has called "the Minutemen of the 21st Century"?

Honor, respect, devotion to duty.

Listed below are those members of division-18 who have answered the bell, yet again.

Flotilla Name Branch(es) of Service Years

18-02 Adam, Bill US Coast Guard
18-02 Bloom, Norm US Army Air Corp, US Air Force '43-46, '50-51
18-02 Gregorio, Scott US Navy, US Navy Reserves '92-96, '96-9
18-02 Kallmeyer, Paul US Air Force 10 yrs
18-02 Keckeisen, Joseph US Navy, USNR 56 -'60, '60-'62
18-02 Manton, John Royal Naval Reserve, Merchant Navy '47-'50
18-02 Marmon, Brad US Army '43-46
18-02 Walter, Richard US Navy
18-03 Andre', Richard US Army National Guard '69-75
18-03 Brady, Thomas* US Marine Corps RIP
18-03 Epperlein, Paul US Navy Reserves '61-69
18-03 Eittle, Robert US Army
18-03 George, Ralph US Navy
18-03 Goodman, Alan US Navy
18-03 Warner, Phil US Navy, US Coast Guard Reserves '54-58, '59-69
18-06 Adkins, Harold US Army '43-46
18-06 Bigrow, John US Air Force '74-78
18-06 Blevins, John US Navy, US Navy Reserves 70-'73, '73-'76
18-06 Field, Van* US Coast Guard Reserves '42-46, '51-52, RIP
18-06 Fisher, Brian US Navy, USCG 61-'65 USN, '66-'67
18-06 Frontino, Anthony US Navy '69-75
18-06 Furnell, Fred US Navy '69-73
18-06 Nelson, George US Navy '62-70
18-06 Sandberg, George US Navy Reserves, USCG Reserves '66-75, '76-82
18-06 Wallace, Jay US Army, US Air Force '41-45, '50-53
18-08 Christianson, Dan US Navy, US Navy Reserves '62-'69, '69-'83
18-08 DeMeo, Roy US Coast Guard '40-45
18-08 Landis, Henry US Coast Guard
18-08 Stickle, Robert US Naval Academy, US Navy '61-66
18-08 Sueiro, Michael US Army Reserves 26 yrs
18-08 Wiggan, Merlon* USAF Reserves, USAF National Guard '58-'86, RIP
18-08 Young, Peter US Air Force, US Army '62-66, '66-90
18-08 Prato, Sal US Navy '58-62

* In grateful memory...

And some of their service details...

Name Comments

Adam, Bill WW-II
Bloom, Norm WW-II, Korea
Gregorio, Scott USS San Jacinto (CG-56) (Petty Officer Second Class, Surface Warfare)
Kallmeyer, Paul Captain
Keckeisen, Joseph served aboard vessel that launched the first POLARIS MISSILE at sea
Manton, John 4th Officer on the (troopship) HMTS "Empire Ken"
Marmon, Brad WW-II, Manhattan Project, Combat Engineer Battalion in Leyte
Walter, Richard WW-II, Lieutenant
Andre', Richard 242nd Signal Battalion, 42nd Infantry ("Rainbow") Division. Cryptography
Brady, Thomas Viet Nam, Navy Cross, **RIP, in grateful memory**
Epperlein, Paul USS Kitty Hawk, CVA 63 USS Kitty Hawk, CVA 63 DCA OOD
Ettle, Robert Viet Nam
George, Ralph WW-II, submariner
Goodman, Alan Viet Nam
Warner, Phil PO2c PO1c
Adkins, Harold WW-II Infantry South Pacific
Bigrow, John US Air Force
Blevins, John Vietnam (1972) aboard the USS Hector AR-7 (WWW.USSHector.com).
Field, Van WW-II, ET1c, **RIP, in grateful memory**
Fisher, Brian Helo copter squadron 4, did a det 81 on the USCG Eastwind Operation Deep
Freeze
Frontino, Anthony Attack Squadron 75 (VA-75) U.S.S. Saratoga
Furnell, Fred EN2, USS Kittywake ASR 13 USS Howard W. Gilmore AS16
Nelson, George submariner, First Class Petty Officer, completed seven Polaris Submarine war patrols
Sandberg, George Merchant Marine Viet Nam Service Medal
Wallace, Jay T4 Staff Sargeant, built Alaska Highway, Battle of the Bulge
Christianson, Dan Viet Nam, submariner operator/instructor at a nuclear prototype
DeMeo, Roy WW-II, USS Wakefield carrying evacuees from Singapore Dec 8, 1941
Landis, Henry WW-II, Normandy, and the "Bulge", Desert Storm and Somalia
Stickle, Robert Flew the DEW line out of Argentia Newfoundland in VW-13
Sueiro, Michael Transportation Officer
Wiggin, Merlon emergency response engineering team commander Gabreski Field, WHB,
in grateful memory
Young, Peter Flying duty combat air ops Vietnam, Command, staff positions,

Southeast Asia

U.S. and

Some, such as Van Field, RIP, had been members of USCG Forces in one form or another for over 50 years. Others, such as Bill Adam, are multi-generational – his grandfather served in the Revenue Cutter Service in the 19th century...

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2009@aol.com or go direct to Lisa Etter, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."