

Keeping the Light

Founded in 1789, the United States Lighthouse Service is the oldest of the federal agencies that make up the modern Coast Guard. The vital, yet isolated, occupation of aiding ships navigating in treacherous waters required keepers to endure arduous chores, monotonous maintenance, and horrific storms, all to protect lives at sea. Frequently a family affair during the 19th century, a keeper's wife typically maintained the station in her husband's absence, and children routinely helped with many of the daily tasks. Upon a Keeper's death, his wife often assumed his appointment, making the position one of the first non-clerical jobs open to women, approximately 122 of whom have served their country with distinction in the interest of safety on the waters. A few of these exceptional women are featured below.

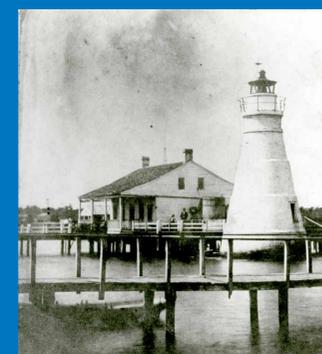


Ida Lewis

Idawalley Zorada Lewis was born in 1842 in Newport, Rhode Island. Her father, Captain Hosea Lewis, was the first keeper of the Lime Rock Light, located on a tiny island less than a mile from the Newport shore. When Ida was sixteen, her father suffered a crippling stroke, and she took over his duties, maintaining the light and caring for her younger siblings, rowing them to shore every day to attend school. In the 39 years that she kept Lime Rock Light, Ida saved approximately 25 people. Accounts of her daring rescues appeared in newspapers, and *Harper's Weekly* christened her *the bravest woman in America*. The public viewed her skills with awe; such seamanship seemed impossible for a woman. Ida received the Silver Life-Saving medal from the Life-Saving Benevolent Association of New York and a monthly pension of \$30 from the Carnegie Hero Foundation. In her honor, the Coast Guard named the first of the Keeper Class coastal buoy-tenders, *Ida Lewis* (WLM 551).

Abbie Burgess Grant

In 1853, Abbie Burgess, then fourteen, moved with her family to Matinicus Rock Light, twenty miles off the Maine coast, where her father was Keeper. Abbie's job as the oldest child was to help maintain 28 Argand Lamps in the Light's double towers, carrying whale oil, which had to be heated in winter to prevent it from congealing, to each lamp, trimming the wicks, and polishing every reflector. In January 1856, supplies ran dangerously low, forcing Keeper Burgess to travel to the mainland. Shortly after he left, a gale moved in, preventing his return, and leaving Abbie in charge. Waves washed over the island, destroying the Keeper's house as the family huddled in one of the towers. Despite it all, Abbie kept the lights burning. She wrote later, *For four weeks, owing to the rough weather, no landing could be effected on the Rock. During this time, we were without the assistance of any male member of our family. Though at times greatly exhausted by my labors, not once did the lights fail. Under God, I was able to perform all my accustomed duties as well as my father's.* The *Abbie Burgess* (WLM 553) out of Rockland, Maine is named in her honor.



Margaret R. Norvell

The daughter of a prominent New Orleans family and wife of a cotton broker who lost his fortune, Maggie Norvell took over the job as Keeper at Head of Passes Light in 1891. Her husband Louis, the original Keeper, drowned that year in an accident, leaving Margaret with two small children. In 1896, she was appointed Keeper of the Port Ponchartrain Light near the town of Milneburg, Louisiana a position she kept her 1924 transfer to the New Canal Light Station. Norvell had an exemplary career saving lives and offering refuge to those in need. In the aftermath of a hurricane in 1903, the lighthouse was the only building standing on the lower coast; Norvell opened her home to over 200 survivors and set about raising funds for aid. Margaret Norvell retired from service in 1932 and died two years later. She once stated, *There isn't anything unusual in a woman keeping a light in her window to guide men folks home. I just happen to keep a bigger light than most women because I have got to see that so many men get safely home.*

Port Ponchartrain Light, near Milneburg, Louisiana

Barbara Mabrity

Barbara Mabrity was the wife of Michael Mabrity who was assigned Keeper of the Key West Light in 1826. When her husband died of Yellow Fever in 1832, Barbara was appointed in his place. She maintained the Key West Light through the hurricanes of 1835, 1841, and 1842, as well as during the Second Seminole War and the Civil War. During the hurricane of 1846, Barbara endured the devastating loss of five of her six children when the lighthouse in which her family and several townspeople were taking shelter crumbled in the fierce winds. Barbara retired as Keeper at the age of 82. The Coast Guard named the coastal buoy-tender *Barbara Mabrity* (WLM 559), based in Mobile, Alabama, in her honor.



Key West Light, Key West, Florida

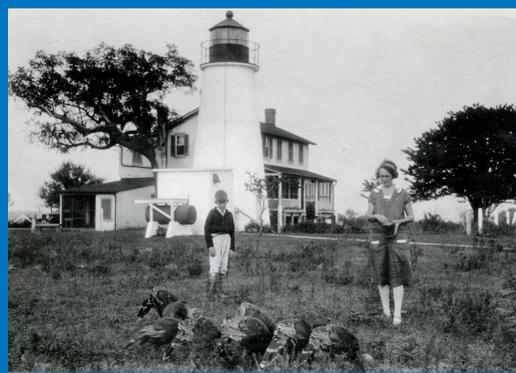


Katherine Walker

The Lighthouse Service built the Robbins Ridge Lighthouse to guide ships through the Ambrose Channel into New York Harbor. Constructed as a man-made island resting on the submerged reef, The lighthouse is isolated and its quarters tiny. When Keeper John Walker brought his wife, Katherine, to Robbins Reef in 1883, she threatened to leave him, *When I first came to Robbins Reef the sight of water, whichever way I looked, made me lonesome. I refused to unpack my trunks at first, but gradually...I unpacked.* Kate became assistant Keeper and earned \$350 per year. Upon John Walker's death in 1886, a search began to replace him. Kate's application raised objections because at just under five feet tall, and weighing less than a hundred pounds, she appeared too weak for such demanding duty. When the male candidates offered the post declined it because of the light's isolation, Kate assumed the duty in 1894. Not only was she able to maintain the light, but she also saved the lives of over 50 people and one small dog. Kate tended the Robbins Reef Light, assisted by her son, until she retired in 1919 at age 73. The Coast Guard named the coastal buoy-tender *Katherine Walker* (WLM 552), out of Bayonne, New Jersey, in her honor.

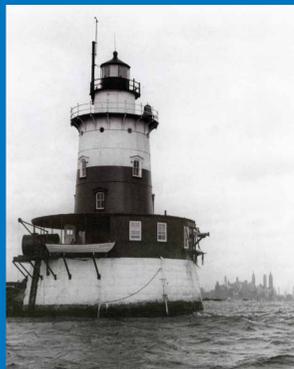
Fannie Mae Salter

Turkey Point Light, Maryland, has the distinction of being tended by women Keepers longer than any other light on the Chesapeake Bay. When her husband died in 1925, Civil service rules regarding her age at first denied Fannie Mae Salter, then 42, his job. She appealed to her senator, who in turn, successfully petitioned President Coolidge. At that time, electricity alleviated many of the more difficult duties, but presented the modern Keeper with new responsibilities. Salter had to man a radio watch and was in constant communication with the Coast Guard, especially during World War II. In addition to her duties as Keeper, she raised three children at Turkey Point and also cultivated a small farm. In 1945, when asked about her retirement, she replied, *I plan to stay as long as the Coast Guard wants me.* She stepped down in 1947, at age 64, the last woman to maintain a light in the United States.



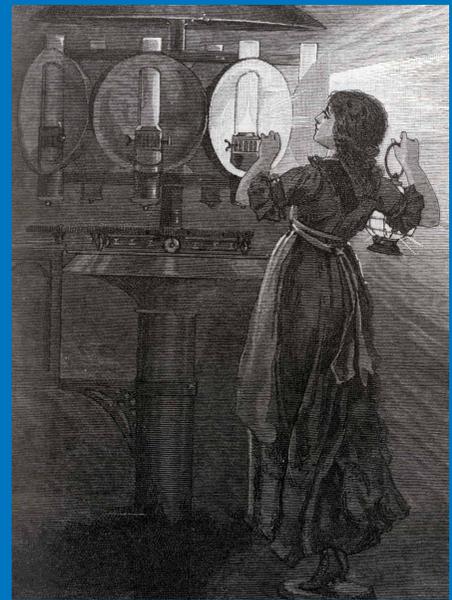
USCGC Barbara Mabrity (WLM 559). Five of the Coast Guard's Keeper Class 175' coastal buoy tenders are named for women lighthouse keepers.

Ida Lewis on her March 29, 1869 rescue. The painting was commissioned by the Coast Guard and painted by artist John Witt.



Robbins Ridge Lighthouse ca. 1920

USCGC Katherine Walker (WLM 552)



Abbie Burgess minding the Argand lamps during the 1856 Nor'easter. From Harper's Weekly.

For more information, go to www.uscg.mil/history

SPARS Lead the Way

We couldn't go to sea, let alone command a Coast Guard cutter. We had no authority over any man in the Coast Guard, officer or enlisted. We couldn't serve beyond the continental limits of the United States. Our command authority was severely limited...since we were untried, we knew that if one failed we all failed. That is why we tried so hard...We note with awe and respect, the widened opportunities the current women who are serving in the Coast Guard have. –Dorothy C. Stratton, CAPT, USCGR (W) upon the 50th Anniversary of the SPARs, 1992



Though women had served their country as lighthouse keepers, that duty, despite its dangers, was considered a civil service rather than a military one. Also, their numbers were in decline, and by the time the U.S. Lighthouse Service merged with the Coast Guard in 1939, only two women existed as official keepers.

A war would finally open the way for women to serve in the Coast Guard. After Pearl Harbor, the need to put men to sea drastically reduced resources on shore; filling these openings with women would allow men to be deployed elsewhere. On November 23, 1942, legislation created the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserves, better known as the SPARs (Semper Paratus, Always Ready). Unlike civilian employees, this group fell under military jurisdiction, subject to the needs of the service. More than 10,000 women volunteered between 1942 and 1946, and African American enlistees entered in 1944.

SPARs endured the same processing as their male counterparts. Basic training included classes, physical education, aptitude tests, physical exams, drill, mess, and watch. In order to accommodate so many applicants several training centers rose up, including the campus of Oklahoma A&M University in Stillwater and the *Pink Palace*-- the Biltmore Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida. In 1943 the Coast Guard Academy established a training facility for a class of fifty SPAR officers, the only service academy to do so for their female reserves. At that time, any qualified woman was eligible to apply for officer training. Aptitude, work experience, personal preference, and needs of the service determined SPAR billets. Besides general administrative duties, assignments included parachute rigging, chaplains' assistants, air control tower operators, boatswains' mates, coxswains, radiomen, and drivers. Several became operators of the then top-secret, long-range aid to navigation known as LORAN.



At the peak of World War II, in the Coast Guard Reserves, one out of every sixteen enlisted, and one out of every twelve officers, was a SPAR. They officially demobilized, however, on 30 June 1946. The Women's Armed Services Act of 1948 integrated women into the military branches though it did not affect the Coast Guard because the Service fell under the Department of the Treasury rather than the Department of Defense. Some SPARs reactivated during the Korean Conflict but by 1956 there were only nine enlisted women and twelve female officers in the Coast Guard. From that point on the Coast Guard Women's Reserve existed on paper but with no formal structure until a Congressional Law passed in 1973 declared that women would be eligible for active duty in both the regular Coast Guard and the Reserves and could serve side by side with men.

Captain Dorothy C. Stratton, USCGR (W)

CAPT Stratton, born in 1889 in Brookfield, Missouri served as Dean of Women and assistant professor of psychology at Purdue University at the start of World War II. In 1942 she took a leave of absence from Purdue and joined the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). Later that year Stratton received orders to proceed to the Office of the Commandant of the Coast Guard where she was tasked with organizing the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. The Coast Guard appointed Stratton the SPARs first director and subsequently transferred her from the Navy to the Coast Guard with a rank of lieutenant commander. As director Stratton oversaw approximately 10,000 enlisted women and 1,000 commissioned officers. She achieved the rank of captain and served until shortly before the SPARs demobilized in 1946. Stratton died in 2006 at the age of 107. In 2008 the Coast Guard named its third National Security Cutter, the USCGC *Stratton* (WMSL-752) in her honor.



Enlisted Women Carry On...

The enlisted form the backbone of any military organization; it is no different in the Coast Guard. As the role of women in the Coast Guard fluctuated in the post-war Service, and with a female officer corps yet to develop, it was left to enlisted women to establish many significant firsts. Some of these groundbreaking women are featured below.



Chief Warrant Officer Elizabeth F. Splaine

CWO Splaine was the first woman to advance to Chief Warrant Officer. Splaine was among those wmen forced out of the Coast Guard upon the dissolution of the SPARs. Splaine decided if she had to go, she'd go fighting. *...I was the first woman Warrant Officer and after I passed the exam and the interviews, and the Secretary of the Treasury had signed my Warrant, I was told that in order to be promoted, I would have to leave the service. [and stay in the reserves] They said there was no place for a woman Warrant. That was in December 1958 and until June 23, 1959 I fought everyone and anyone who would listen to me. THEY didn't have to go home when promoted. I held out for what I thought was my right.* Splaine served as the Administrative Assistant in the Office of Reserve until her retirement in 1971. Splaine died in 2009.

Master Chief Petty Officer Patricia Stolle

YNMC Stolle joined the Coast Guard in June 1974, just shortly after the 1973 legislation passed allowing women to join the regular Coast Guard. She attended basic training at Cape May, New Jersey and attended Yeoman "A" School in Petaluma, California. Stolle's long list of historical accomplishments includes the first female chief petty officer to serve at sea on a Coast Guard cutter and the first enlisted woman since the SPARs to be advanced to master chief petty officer. Stolle and Master Chief Petty Officer Diane Bucci were the first women to be selected for command master chiefs. Stolle retired in 2009.



Command Master Chief Diane Bucci

CMC Diane Bucci joined the Coast Guard in 1975. In 1988 Bucci became the first enlisted woman to command afloat when she became officer in charge of the tugboat USCGC *Capstan*. The *Capstan* patrolled the upper Potomac and Chesapeake Bay conducting search and rescue, law enforcement, aids to navigation, and environmental protection missions. In 1998 Bucci and Master Chief Petty Officer Patricia Stolle became the first enlisted women to advance to Command Master Chief. Bucci retired in 2002.

Lieutenant Commander Debra Chambers Rake Buchanan, USCGR

LCDR Buchanan qualified as the Coast Guard's first female coxswain in 1976 while serving as a BM2. By 1979 she became the first female to hold a BM1 rating in the Coast Guard. Buchanan served on active duty until 1982 and remained in the Coast Guard Reserves while attending California Maritime Academy. Though she remained in the Reserves until the late 1990s, Buchanan also sailed as a Merchant Marine Deck officer, received a law degree, and practiced law in Washington State. Buchanan died in 2008. A shipmate from the *Polar Star* remembers, *I thought she was next to invincible...Her accomplishments intimidated most men, and she never ran from a challenge. She was an amazing combination of a fine lady, a great shipmate and a good officer. She knew how to play hard and how to work hard and will be missed by all who knew her.*



USCGC *Morganthau* and USCGC *Gallatin*

Like the USCGC *Sea Cloud* before them, the cutters *Morganthau* and *Gallatin* served as the proving ground for the continuing development of the Coast Guard as a reflection of the society it serves. In October 1977 both cutters became the first afloat to contain mixed-gender crews. Twelve women were initially assigned to sea duty aboard the two cutters: ENS Debra Gale Snelson, ENS Beverly Gwyn Kelley, YN2 Mary Cox, RM2 Terri Lynn Jones, RM2 Marcia Francis Levine, SK2 Donna Lynn Barger, HC3 Bonnie E. Odom, BM3 Debra Lee Wilson, SN Wanda Jeffries, SN Valerie K. Lawrence, SA Robin M. Jensen, and SA Rebecca A. Post.



Lieutenant Commander Kelly Mogk Larson

LCDR Larson, then enlisted, broke new ground in 1986 as the first woman to complete Navy Rescue Swimmer School to become the Coast Guard's first female rescue swimmer. One of Larson's most memorable missions occurred in 1989 during the rescue of a downed Air National Guard F-4 pilot who had ejected over the Pacific Ocean. Her actions included exposing herself to hypothermic elements to free the downed pilot from his parachute and remaining in the water for a back-up rescue helicopter, allowing the rescue helicopter on scene to immediately transport the pilot for medical care. This rescue earned Larsen an Air Medal and personal congratulations from President George H.W. Bush. In 1993 Larson attended Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Virginia and flight school in Pensacola, Florida. Ten years after becoming a rescue swimmer, Larson earned her second set of aviation wings as a Coast Guard helicopter pilot. Larsen's missions as a pilot included flying in New Orleans during the aftermath of Katrina. She retired from service in 2009.



Officer Candidate School

The Coast Guard's Officer Candidate School (OCS) has been the proving ground for testing and adapting social developments in diversity to the military structure of the service. As OCS provided African American men the first post-war prospect for leadership as officers it also enabled women the same opportunity. Upon the 1973 congressional legislation asserting that women could serve their country alongside men, the Coast Guard became the first service to open its officer candidate program to women. Margaret R. Riley, Lynn W. Smith, Sue E. Jennings, Bonnijill McGhee, and Shelia E. Denison reported to OCS class 2-73 in Yorktown, Virginia. From those first five women of Class 2-73 to today, OCS continues to produce female officers of formidable quality.

Captain Margaret R. Riley

On 8 June 1973, OCS Class 2-73 graduated from their training at Yorktown, Virginia. The entire class was twenty-nine strong. In their ranks at graduation for the first time were five women. One of those women graduates was Margaret R. Riley. During her thirty-year career CAPT Riley served as the Executive Officer of the Integrated Support Command, Boston, Massachusetts and was later assigned to the Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC. She also served as the Commanding Officer of the Supply Center, Baltimore, Maryland; and the Commanding Officer of the Integrated Support Command, Boston and retired in 2003 as Director of the Leadership Development Center at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Riley died in January 2008 following a long illness.



Vice Admiral Vivien S. Crea

Throughout her career, VADM Crea broke new ground for women in the Coast Guard. The first woman to serve as the Vice-Commandant under Commandant Admiral Thad W. Allen, in July 2004, Crea assumed command of the Atlantic Area, a post responsible for Coast Guard activities spanning five Districts, involving over 33,000 military and civilian employees and 30,000 auxiliaries. Crea, as Commander, First Coast Guard District, oversaw all operations in the northeastern United States, from the Maine-Canada border to northern New Jersey. Formerly, she had performed as Director of Information and Technology and oversaw the Coast Guard's Research and Development program. As a Lieutenant Commander, Crea had become the first woman from any service and the first Coast Guardsman to serve as Presidential Military Aide; she carried the "nuclear football" for President Ronald Reagan for three years. An aviator, Crea became the first female awarded the honorary title of Ancient Albatross, a role she held until her retirement in June 2009.



Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara

In June 2008 RADM Brice-O'Hara became the Deputy Commandant for Operations, Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington D.C., a position responsible for the strategic integration of operational missions and the optimization of policy development and mission execution consistent with the Service's national priorities. Brice-O'Hara received her commission upon completion of Officer Candidate School in 1975. Her previous positions have included Commander of United States Coast Guard Fourteenth District in Honolulu, Hawaii; Commanding Officer of Training Center Cape May; Deputy Commander of Activities Baltimore; Commander of Group Baltimore; Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Station Cape May, New Jersey; and Assistant Director of Admissions at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Secretary Napolitano forwarded, and President Obama approved, the nomination of Rear Admiral Brice-O'Hara for promotion to Vice Admiral and for assignment as Vice Commandant. In May 2010, she will relieve and serve as the service's second woman to hold this prestigious position.



Vice Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge

In July 2009, VADM Breckenridge became the first woman to assume command of Coast Guard Pacific Area, encompassing over 73 million square miles throughout the Pacific Basin to the Far East. A 1976 graduate of Officer Candidate School, Breckenridge's previous service included the National Response Center; the Pollution Response Branch of the Marine Environmental Protection Division at Coast Guard Headquarters; Assistant Port Safety Officer and first Group Operations Officer for Group Seattle; and Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Recruiting Command. From 2005-2006, Breckenridge commanded the Eleventh Coast Guard District in Alameda, CA. During her tenure, the Eleventh District stepped up its interagency collaboration leading to record drug seizures, including the M/V GATUN, the largest maritime interdiction in US history; and the arrest of Francisco Javier Arellano Felix, head of the Arellano Felix Drug Cartel.



Captain Beverly Kelley

CAPT Kelley graduated Officer Candidate School in June, 1976. At the time of her commissioning, the Coast Guard was preparing an experiment with mixed-gender crews. Two cutters, *Morganthau* and *Gallatin*, were each staffed with a crew that included ten enlisted women and two female officers. Kelley served as one of these officers. Despite initial misgivings, the experiment was a success. Two years later, in April 1979, Kelley, then a Lieutenant Junior Grade, became the first woman to command a cutter, the *Cape Newhagen*. Kelley continued to make history and break new ground for women in the Coast Guard when she received command of the *Northland* in 1999 and the *Boutwell* in 2000. Kelley's command of the *Boutwell* made her the first woman to command a high endurance cutter. She retired in 2006.



Lieutenant Colleen Cain

LT Cain, a Coast Guard Reservist, received her commission upon completing OCS in 1979. She attended flight school, becoming the Coast Guard's third female aviator and first female HH-52A pilot. On 7 January 1982, at Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii, the helicopter she was co-piloting crashed into the side of a mountain in the Wailua Valley while responding to a distress call from a fishing vessel. Cain, along with two other crew members, CDR Horton W. "Buzz" Johnson and ASM David Thompson, was killed. She is the first female Coast Guard aviator lost in the line of duty. Cain Hall, a 100-room residence at Reserve Training Center Yorktown, was dedicated in her honor 25 October 1985. She is remembered as an exemplary Coast Guard officer, patriot, and human being. *Lieutenant Cain and her fellow crewmembers made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation and fellow countrymen, striving to protect life at sea.*



Captain June McIntee Ryan

CAPT Ryan enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserves in 1982 and attained the rank of Boatswain's Mate Third Class before attending and graduating from Officer Candidate School. Ryan's operational assignments include a Commanding Officer of the *Cape Morgan* of Portland, Maine and Commanding Officer of the *Neah Bay* of Cleveland, Ohio. She served as Group Commander, Charleston, South Carolina; Deputy Group Commander, St. Petersburg, Florida; and Deputy Sector Commander and Alternate Captain of the Port Charleston, South Carolina. Other assignments include Senior Instructor, Maritime Law Enforcement School then located in Yorktown, Virginia and three tours in Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC. Ryan has also served as the Military Aide to the President, only the third woman in U.S. history to do so. She represented the United States of America during many high profile White House events and various International Summits and Head of State meetings. Following the Change of Command, Ryan will report back to Coast Guard Headquarters as the Deputy Director for Response Policy (CG-53).



Commander Diane Durham

CDR Diane Durham, commanding officer of the *Forward*, and her crew were the first American vessel on scene after a catastrophic earthquake devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010. The *Forward* immediately rendered assistance, acting as air traffic control, providing reconnaissance, and assessing port conditions for the incoming international humanitarian effort. Durham received her commission in 1989, following graduation from Officer Candidate School at U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown VA. Her tours afloat include Deck Watch Officer on *Rush*, in Honolulu, Hawaii; Operations Officer on *Decisive* and *Resolute* in St. Petersburg, Florida; and Executive Officer on *Tampa*, in Portsmouth, Virginia. She most recently became Executive Assistant to the Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area.

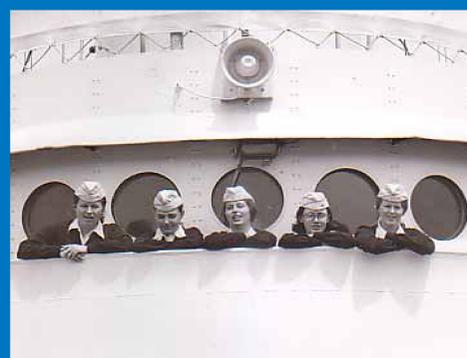


USCGC Forward off the coast of Haiti

CAPT Beverly Kelley aboard the Cayuga

CAPT June Ryan reporting to President Clinton

The first five female Officer Candidates of OCS Class 2-73 aboard the Unimak.



LT Colleen Cain during fire training drills

CAPT Margaret R. Riley

VADM Vivien Crea in her role as the Ancient Albatross



RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara speaking in Cleveland, Ohio



U.S. Coast Guard Academy

In 1975 the Coast Guard Academy became the first service academy to step forward and enroll women with the incoming class in 1976. As these female cadets entered the Academy the service ran trials, notably aboard the *Morgenthau* and the *Gallatin*, providing these women the opportunity for sea duty. These first Academy women experienced diverse reactions to their presence, both in opposition and support, as they broke ground for generations of women to follow. Between 1980 and 2009, 1031 women have graduated from the Academy

The Women of the Class of 1980



Jean Butler



Sue Donner



Mary Jane East



Michele Fitzpatrick



Kathy Hamblett



Linda Johansen



Joanne McCaffrey



Chris Quedens



Tami Rose



Moynee Smith



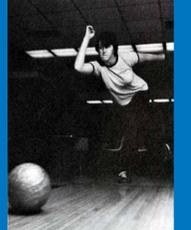
Mary-Lou Southwood



Jody Turner



Karen Tweed



Sharon Willis

They're pioneers, you know. And great people too! They have fought—and won—the good fight. They have earned unqualified acceptance and respect within the entire Academy community. We're confident they'll do likewise as members of the Officer Corps. – Alumni Bulletin, May/June 1980.

Of the fourteen women who graduated with the Class of 1980 three remained and served faithfully over thirty years since graduating : CAPT Joanne McCaffrey, Chief, Civil Engineering, Coast Guard Atlantic Area; CAPT Christine Quedens, Operational Command (OPCOM), Future Operational Planning Branch Chief; CAPT Susan Donner Bibeau, Director of Admissions, U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

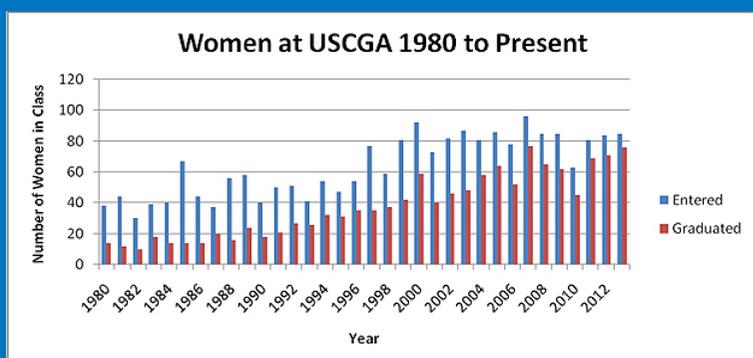
Rear Admiral Sandra L. Stosz

RDML Sandra L. Stosz, a member of the Coast Guard Academy Class of 1982, is the first female graduate to be promoted to Flag rank, and was selected along with RDML Cari Batson Thomas, Class of 1984. Stosz currently serves as Director, Coast Guard Enterprise Strategic Management and Doctrine, responsible for aligning strategy and management functions and enhancing support operations. Stosz has twelve years experience at sea, including command of two vessels, an icebreaking tug on the Great Lakes and a medium endurance cutter that patrolled North Atlantic and Caribbean waters. She and her crews executed many missions such as drug and alien migrant interdiction, fisheries enforcement, search and rescue, polar and domestic icebreaking and ports and waterways security. Recently, as Commanding Officer of the recruit training center in Cape May, New Jersey, Stosz led the development of the "Guardian Ethos," which unifies the enlisted workforce with the common identity of "Guardians."



Captain Anne T. Ewalt

CAPT Ewalt, who graduated with honors from the Coast Guard Academy in 1984, is the first woman to command a seagoing buoy tender. From 1997 to 2000, Ewalt commanded the *Buttonwood*, a cutter responsible for maintaining aids to navigation and maritime safety along the California coastline. In addition to the *Buttonwood*, her assignments afloat included Deck Watch Officer aboard the *Steadfast*, St. Petersburg, Florida; Commanding Officer of the *Cape Corwin*, Maui, Hawaii; Executive Officer of the *Mariposa*, Seattle, Washington; and Commanding Officer of the *Tahoma*, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Ewalt's shore assignments include Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut; Facilities Engineer, Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma, California; and Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown, Virginia. Ewalt presently serves as Chief of Staff for the Thirteenth Coast Guard District, Seattle, Washington.



Captain Denise L. Matthews

CAPT Matthews graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1985 with High Honors and a class rank of 1st out of 193 graduates. She is the first woman to graduate from the Academy at the top of her class. Captain Matthews retired in 2008 with over 23 years of experience in maritime safety and security, incident management and response, environmental management and protection, contingency preparedness, environmental sciences, congressional affairs, and training/education.



Commander Molly Kriz Riordan

In 2004 CDR Molly Kriz Riordan was the first woman inducted into the Coast Guard Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. A 1983 graduate of the Academy, she was an outstanding cadet-athlete, and helped set the bar for women athletes by demonstrating outstanding achievement both at the Academy and throughout her Coast Guard career. A natural leader, she served as team captain or co-captain in both volleyball and softball for three years and was selected to the Division 3 All-New England First Team, becoming the first Coast Guard Academy softball player to ever receive this level of recognition. Riordan served the Coast Guard with distinction for over 20 years, beginning with her first tour on *Jarvis*, completing flight school and completing her career as a Coast Guard aviator with assignments in San Diego, Humboldt Bay and Los Angeles, with her last tour as Executive Officer. She also gave back to the Academy with an assignment as Senior Company Officer from 1995-1998.



CAPT Susan Donner Bibeau, Class of 1980, commanded the Cape Henlopen and was the first woman to command an Island Class patrol boat, Maui. Bibeau, a top cadet sailor, retired in March 2010, after a highly successful nine year tour as Director of Admissions.



Linda Johansen, Class of 1980, was the first female Regimental Commander for any military service academy.



CAPT Judy Keene, Class of 1981, was the first female Commandant of Cadets and prior Commander, Coast Guard Group Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Lucretia A. Flammang, Class of 1981, is the Academy's first female Permanent Commissioned Teaching Staff. She is currently the head of the Humanities Department at the Academy.



Christine MacMillan, Class of 1987, in a unique experiment, able commanded an Island Class patrol boat as a LTJG, and was the second woman inducted into the Academy Athletic Hall of Fame, having played basketball and softball.

RDML Cari Thomas, Class of 1984, is the commanding officer of Training Center, Cape May, New Jersey. As an Alumni Association board member, she helped complete the largest project in their history, construction of the Alumni Center.



Shaping the Future...

Learning from the exceptional women who have come before them, these are a few of the women presently serving who, as leaders of character, embody the concept of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. These women will continue to shape the future of the Coast Guard and its policies, and further encourage new generations of women to follow.

Lieutenant Commander Holly Harrison

After graduating from the Coast Guard Academy in 1995 with a degree in government, LCDR Harrison received the first of her many shipboard assignments aboard the cutter *Storis* in Kodiak, Alaska, followed by an assignment as Executive Officer of the *Kiska* in Hilo, Hawaii. Following her next tour as Protocol Officer for the Commandant, she commanded the *Aquidneck* out of Fort Macon, North Carolina, and then out of Manama, Bahrain, when the ship was deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2003, LCDR Harrison became the first woman to command a Coast Guard vessel in a combat zone. In July 2003, she was awarded the Bronze Star medal in recognition of her *meritorious achievement in combat operations, uncommon bravery, unparalleled leadership, and tactical brilliance*. Harrison is the first female member of the United States Coast Guard to receive this distinguished award. Upon departing *Aquidneck*, Harrison served as the Senior Instructor at the Maritime Boarding Officer School and then established the new Maritime Law Enforcement Academy in Charleston, South Carolina, where she served as Executive Officer. Returning to sea, she was the Executive Officer of the *Legare* before earning a master's degree in public policy from Princeton University. She is currently a Program Reviewer in the Office of Budget and Programs at Coast Guard Headquarters.



Lieutenant Commander Eva Van Camp

LCDR Van Camp grew up in small town Jackman, Maine and graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1997 with a degree in Marine and Environmental Science. Her Coast Guard career includes Deck Watch Officer onboard the *Laurel*, Navigator of the USS *Decatur*, Search and Rescue and Law Enforcement Controller in the District Seven Command Center, Aide to the Pacific Area Commander, Response Portfolio Manager for the Deputy Commandant for Operations' Coordination Staff and Sector New Orleans Chief of Waterways Division. She is currently the Sector New Orleans Law Enforcement Division Chief and oversees four 87' Coastal Patrol Boats and three Search and Rescue Small Boat Stations. Van Camp is a champion for diversity and mentoring. She coordinated the first Pacific Area Women's Symposium, served on the Commandant's Diversity Advisory Council for three years, and was hand selected to serve on the Commandant's Diversity Strategic Group which directly contributed to the Coast Guard's Diversity Strategic Plan. In 2008, Van Camp was awarded the Federal Asian Pacific American Council Meritorious Service award for her outstanding leadership and efforts in diversity.



Lieutenant Commander Corinna Fleischmann

LCDR Corinna Fleischmann graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in May 1998, and was assigned to the *Elm* for two tours as a Deck Watch Officer and Assistant Navigator and as the Operations Officer. From 2001 to 2003, she was a member of the Facilities Engineering Branch at the Academy when she acted in the capacities of the Safety Officer and the Construction Officer. In this latter capacity, she was the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative as well as Civil Engineering Project Manager for the Academy's \$5.2 million dollar construction program including all aspects of the process. In December 2004, she joined the Academy faculty as an Instructor. During her time there, she has been an assistant coach on the men's and women's swim teams, the advisor for both the American Society of Civil Engineering and Society of American Military Engineers student chapters, a member of the SUPT Gender Policy Group. She has also worked with Admissions in several diversity outreach programs. Fleischmann, who holds a professional engineering license in the state of Florida and is certified as a Sustainable Building Advisor, is currently working on her PhD in Environmental Engineering at the University of Connecticut.



Lieutenant Peggy Gross Britton

LT Britton graduated from the Coast Guard Academy with high honors in 2000. Her first duty assignment was onboard the cutter *Elm* in Atlantic Beach, NC, where she acquired a love for the Aids to Navigation mission. In 2002, she transferred to the CG International Training Division (ITD) where she led 34 mobile training team missions to 24 countries, predominately in Central and South America. Britton's next assignment took her to Honolulu, HI, as Executive Officer of the *Kukui*, and then as a Search and Rescue Controller at D14's Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC). In August 2009, Britton assumed command of the *William Tate*, homeported in Philadelphia, PA. She is married to Shawn R. Britton, a civilian mechanical engineer, and they have a son, Evan Kai, born June 16, 2009, in Hawaii. Britton is a role model for balancing her professional and personal life. She is one of very few Commanding Officers afloat who are also mothers. Her leadership was formally recognized in 2007 when she was awarded the Coast Guard's Captain Dorothy Stratton Award, one of the highest leadership awards in the Service.



Lieutenant Anne E. O'Connell

LT O'Connell is a 2002 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy. Her first assignment was to the *Spencer* where she participated in the multi-national UNITAS 44-03 Caribbean Phase, a deployment to the Mediterranean in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, two JIATF South patrols, and Operation Able Sentry. In the summer of 2004, O'Connell took command of the *Chinook*, an 87' patrol boat homeported in New London, CT. While on *Chinook*, O'Connell conducted search and rescue, fisheries enforcement, and homeland security missions in the waters off New England. Following her tour on *Chinook*, O'Connell completed a tour at Coast Guard Headquarters where she served as aide to the Chief of Staff of the Coast Guard and then as aide to the Vice Commandant. In the spring of 2008, she took command of the *Adak*, a 110' patrol boat stationed in the Kingdom of Bahrain. As part of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, *Adak* conducted Maritime Security Operations and Critical Infrastructure Protection in Iraqi waters and along the internationally contested boundary with Iran. O'Connell is presently serving as the Commanding Officer of the *Chincoteague* in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Lieutenant Jeanine McIntosh Menze

LT Menze is the first female African American Coast Guard pilot. Born in Jamaica, Menze learned to fly in 1999, fulfilling a childhood dream. After college, Menze worked at a Miami airport where she witnessed Coast Guard Air Station Miami fly rescue, humanitarian, and law enforcement missions. This compelled Menze to join the Coast Guard, believing it to be a noble and rewarding career. Menze completed OCS in 2003, attended flight school at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, and received her wings in 2005. She became an Aircraft Commander in the HC-130 in 2008 and, as of September 2009, is enrolled in the Instructor Pilot syllabus at Air Station Clearwater, Florida.



Ensign Christine A. Jean-Charles

ENS Jean-Charles is a 2009 graduate of Officer Candidate School. The youngest daughter of Haitian Immigrants, Jean-Charles dreamed of being an astronaut and worked hard through High School and College to achieve her certification as a pilot and flight instructor. Jean-Charles chose to serve in the Coast Guard because the Coast Guard harbors a tradition of excellence and holds its personnel in high regard. In particular, Coast Guard pilots are among the bravest around the world. Upon successful completion of Officer Candidate School, I plan to excel in Coast Guard flight school and eventually joining the pilot fleet I so admire. She is currently in flight school at Pensacola, Florida.



Cadet Jacqueline Fitch

Cadet 1/c Fitch, the fall 2009 Regimental Commander, is a Management major at the Coast Guard Academy. Since her fourth class year Fitch has been involved with various cadet organizations and activities. She is an active member of all of the Diversity Councils (Genesis, Companeros, International and Asian Pacific American) and has held leadership positions within her academic major and the corps of cadets. Fitch has been noted for her high ethics and standards, hard work, determination, and positive attitude. She loves the integration of religion, race, gender, and culture that the Academy and Coast Guard fosters. She embraces her African American culture and takes pride in being an African American woman in the military. Fitch has enjoyed her summer experiences in the fleet and is looking forward to being an officer in the world's oldest continuing seagoing service.



Cadet Nyrel Cederstrom

Cadet 2/c Cederstrom, in the Physical and Chemical Oceanography tracks within the Marine Environmental Science Major, is a member of the class of 2011. President of both the Cadet Activities Council, in charge of planning military formals, and of the Toastmasters Public Speaking club, she participates in the women's rugby team and the winter Track team. Cederstrom created the Golden Legacy program through the Alumni Center in January 2009, and writes as a cadet journalist for the admissions office and for the *Alumni Bulletin*. She has been recognized for her hard work, perseverance, positive attitude and determination in making uplifting the corps during her time as a cadet. She has recently been selected to represent the Academy as an exchange cadet at The United States Military Academy. 2/c Cederstrom is excited to complete her cadet career and hopes to the many trailblazing women who have come before her in the Coast Guard.



ENS Jen Ferreira, class of 2009, delivers a baby on board *Tahoma*, in support of relief efforts in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.



CAPT (sel) Andrea Marcille as XO of *Eagle*, now serving as the Academy Gender Policy Group Chair, and will report to the Director, Leadership Development Center in June 2010.



LTJG Jodie Knox is currently assigned as a Command Duty Officer at Sector Delaware Bay. She enlisted in the Coast Guard in 2001 and advanced to Boatswain's Mate First Class before gaining her commission through Officer Candidate School in 2007.

