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## Media Release

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### UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY - WE NEED YOU!

During these troubled times, the United States Coast Guard is stretched thin. If you're interested in donating your skills to help the U.S. Coast Guard, you can do so by joining the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. As a civilian volunteer, your help is needed in radio communications, engineering, boat crew, office assistance, and in so many other areas. Indeed, anytime you volunteer to help at a local Coast Guard Unit, you relieve active duty personnel to do those things only they can.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard, created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 authorizes Coast Guard Auxiliary Personnel is to "assist the Coast Guard, as authorized by the Commandant, in performance of any Coast Guard function, duty, role, mission, or operation, authorized by law." Presently this Act of Congress is saving the taxpayers an estimated \$200 million a year.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is charged with the primary mission of promoting Safe Recreational Boating. This mission is delivered via: "*Public Education*," "*Safety Patrols*" and free "*Vessel Safety Checks*." The Public Education mission teaches Boating Skills and Boating Safety Programs to the public. These programs have gained an excellent national reputation. Many of our graduates can even receive insurance discounts upon completion.

To fulfill the Safety Patrol mission, the Auxiliary runs on-the-water patrols staffed by "Crew Certified" members trained and equipped to deal with emergencies such as fires, towing and other assistance to pleasure boaters in distress.

The Vessel Safety Check mission provides free face-to-face examinations of recreational boats to ensure that all the mandated safety equipment is in place and functioning properly. The certified Vessel Examiners also share updated safety information with the boating operator.

At the latest count, year to date in 2012, the Coast Guard Auxiliary 5<sup>th</sup> District Northern Region, which includes southern New Jersey, Delaware and the eastern 2/3rds of Pennsylvania, Auxiliarists have volunteered over 257,500 hours of service in support of the Coast Guard, comprising almost 21,750 missions. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Northern Region Auxiliary has also conducted more than 1,775 Maritime Safety Patrols totaling over 7,125 patrol hours. A typical small Coast Guard Patrol Boat costs over \$1,500.00 per day to operate. By comparison, a privately owned Coast Guard Auxiliary patrol boat, with crew of three, costs about \$100.00 per day.

If you are interested in serving your country as a volunteer with a world-leading organization please contact the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. We NEED you!



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