



Seven Niner

Change of Watch



Kevin Williams, our new VFC, stands front and center as the Division's newly elected officers swear their Oath of Office at the Change of Watch ceremony. Pictured left to right are : Glenn Dobos, FC 72, Robert Wild, FC 73, Peter Lore, VFC 73, Edward O'Krent, VFC 78, Robert Schuler, FC 78, Kevin Williams, VFC 79, Ronald Matz, VFC 74, and Catherine Lori, FC 75.

The annual Division Change of Watch ceremony took place on December 2nd at Sam Seltzer's Steak House in Tampa. The list of Honored Guests who participated included, but was not limited to CDR Kevin Crawley, Director, USCG Auxiliary 7th District, VCO-elect Donald Frasch, USCGAUX 7th District, CDR Chris Palmer, Chief, Prevention Department, USCG Sector St. Pete, CDR Dale Folsom, Chief, Response Department, Sector St. Pete, BMCS Daniel Harris, OIC, USCG Station St. Petersburg, and RCO-W-elect Walter Jaskiewicz, USCGAUX, 7th District.

tion and distinction for the extraordinary efforts of several members over the past few years.

Donald Frasch, our VCO elect, swore in Conrad Palermo as our new DCP. Conrad will have a tough act to follow. Outgoing DCP Dick Erett was awarded the USCG Auxiliary Achievement Medal, presented to him by CDR Kevin Crawley for his inspirational leadership style and administrative skills, and for actively promoting and supporting Coast Guard programs during his watch as DCP.

Members of our own flotilla were recognized for their contributions. **Cliff Martin was presented with the Coast Guard Commendation Medal** by CDR Kevin Crawley and by DCP Richard Erett. Cliff was given this prestigious award for his work as the Division Security Liaison from January 2004 through December 2006. Cliff took on the monumental task of processing the hundreds of security clearances for all of the Division members, and streamlining the many steps and logistics of this arduous process.



Cliff Martin is awarded the CG Auxiliary Commendation Medal by CDR Kevin Crawley and DCP Richard Erett.

Teresa "Bunny" Johnson was also acknowledged on this day. Bunny received a commendation for her extraordinary efforts as SO-IS.

The ceremonies included the swearing in of elected officers and new Division staff officers, and included awards of both apprecia-

tion and distinction for the extraordinary efforts of several members over the past few years. Congrats, Cliff and Bunny. You make us proud!



Flotilla News

Flotilla Officers

Commander:
Newton Anderson

Vice Commander:
Burnie Wilhelm

Finance Officer:
Frank Ansel, Jr.

Secretary & Publications:
Dorothy Joan Riley

Communications
David Rusinko

Information Services:
Amos Johnson

Aids to Navigation:
Brian Dobson

Communications Services:
Kathi Kruczek

Marine Safety:
J. Michael Shea, IPFC

Materials:
Richard Rioles

Member Training:
Cliff Martin

Operations:
Robert Stribling

Public Affairs:
Bradley Ware

Public Education:
Steve Plass

Marine Dealer Visitor:
Raymond Bost

Personnel Services:
R. Tim Manning

Vessel Examinations:
Paul Schweikhart



Teresa "Bunny" Johnson accepts a commendation from DCP Richard Erett and CDR Chris Palmer, Chief, Prevention Department, USCG Sector St. Pete, at the Change of Watch ceremony on December 2nd here in Tampa.



Gus Gonzalez, 1925-2006

Taps

Agustin "Gus" Gonzalez, one of several members instrumental in building our home here on Gandy Boulevard, passed away on November 19, 2006. Colonel Gonzalez was a veteran of both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force.

During the mid 1970's, a small, core group of members of Flotilla 79 was largely responsible for securing the land lease, signing the mortgage, and contributing countless hours to erect the building that Flotilla 79 now calls "home". This group included, but was not limited to Walter and Betty Hooper, Ben Drenth, Joe Lori, Rudi Thomann, Bill Trip, and Gus Gonzalez. Years later, Gus moved to Anna Maria Island, where he lived until the time of his death.

Gus is survived by his son, Remy, and his daughter, Christina.

Photo provided by Betty Hagan.

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... And a Happy New Year!

All photos of the December meeting and holiday party were generously provided by Sara Gerhardt-Ansel. Thanks, Sara!

If you only make it to one meeting all year, the December meeting and annual Holiday Party is the one to attend! In addition to the wonderful food served every year, this gathering is filled with so much laughter and Christmas cheer that one cannot leave grumbling, "Bah! Humbug!" as the big holiday nears.



Kevin Williams is about to relieve a guest of her box of chocolates. *Go for it, Kev!*

One of the flotilla's favorite activities for this event is the gift exchange, hosted by Amos Johnson. Any member wishing to participate is asked to bring a wrapped, non-gender

specific gift valued at approximately \$5.00. Many gifts are great boating gadgets, while boxes of fancy chocolates and interesting household objects abound. The imaginative minds of our members and guests becomes apparent as each gift is unwrapped. The fun is expanded when members whose numbers are drawn have the opportunity to "steal" an already opened gift from another member, or choose a new gift from the pile. Some gifts exchanged hands several times before becoming the property of its third, and final owner.



Betty Hagan is pictured above preparing to "steal" Bob Stribling's gift. Bob was unfortunate enough to lose several gifts to other members. All that time in the kitchen preparing for this special event did not leave him immune to the playfulness of others. Bob's final gift selection appeared to be a mystery even to him! If you missed this year's party, be sure to attend next year. A year that ends in fellowship and laughter is a great year. Thanks to all who made 2006 a great year, and may 2007 exceed our wildest expectations!



Happy New Year!



New Member Welcome

Nute Anderson, FC and Burnie Wilhelm, VFC, swear in new member, Diane Gutierrez at the Flotilla meeting on November 20th.

J. Michael Shea, IPFC, had the privilege of swearing in his new wife, Jeanette, at the meeting on December 18th. Richard George, the FC elect and Conrad Palermo, the DCP elect stand by. After Jeanette was sworn in, Richard took his oath of office as our new commander with Conrad Palermo presiding. Welcome Diane and Jeanette, and congratulations Rick!



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Mark Your Calendars...



- JAN 6th, 0900:** OPS Training, FL 79
- JAN 11-14th:** District Training Conference
- JAN 15th, 1930:** Flotilla Meeting
- JAN 19th, 1900:** Family Night, FL 79
- JAN 20th, 0900-TBA,** DIV Leadership Meeting
- JAN 27th,** Gasparilla Invasion
- JAN 28th:** Blackthorn Memorial, Skyway Bridge
- FEB 18th, Time TBA:** Div 7 Hurricane Net Drill
- FEB 19th:** Flotilla Meeting
- FEB 23rd:** FL 79 Family Night
- FEB 24th 0900:** DIV Meeting, FL 79

District Training Conference
Jan 11-14, 2007

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