

AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

The Participants' Perspective on Fleet Week

by Lieutenant Amy Florentino, USCG, and Dee Thompson, USCGA.

New York is a magical city. It is often referred to as the city that never sleeps, yet it is actually the city that never stops. There is always something new and exciting going on in New York. One of the most magnificent of these events is called Fleet Week. It is a week celebrated each year when the city comes to life to show its intense patriotism.

It is a multiple celebration that includes:

Appreciation for the Freedom of our Great Country;

Gratitude and respect for our Veterans;

Appreciation, compassion and hope for injured military men and women;

Memorials in recognition and thanks to military who gave their lives; and

Pride and ultimate respect for the military men and women who serve today; recognizing them as a powerful, dedicated and intelligently strong force that make it their business to keep us safe.

During Fleet Week the people of New York take time to show their appreciation with a heartfelt thanks to the military, a thank you that is well deserved!

In turn, the military takes advantage of this occasion to invite the public to step into their world and learn more about their lifestyle, weapons, ships and history.

USCGC KATHERINE WALKER (WLM 552), the Coast Guard cutter responsible for New York Harbor's aids to navigation showed her true colors this Fleet Week as a hard working and truly multi-mission ship. Her crew provided harbor security near Ambrose Channel prior to the parade of ships; participated in the Fleet Week festivities; then served as the Patrol Commander at the close of Fleet Week, coordinating security escorts for the outbound Naval vessels. Several other Coast Guard cutters strategically stationed

throughout the harbor accompanied her. This Coast Guard presence ensured smooth sailing and safe transit for the six large Naval vessels. KATHERINE WALKER joined the Parade of Ships between the USS WINSTON CHURCHILL (DDG 81) and USS WASP (LHD 1). The cutter rendered honors to Fort Hamilton Army Base and Ground Zero during the inbound transit. After the parade, KATHERINE WALKER moored at Pier 90 in Manhattan with USCGC TYBEE and WASP. Her ship's crew scrubbed the ship, hoisted full dress and prepared for the Fleet Week festivities.

On site at Pier 90 in Manhattan "Patriotism" was electric in the air. Flags flying, people saluting; pride & respect for the military resonated everywhere. Extreme security was quite evident and it somehow added to the overall importance of the event.

The public lined up for tours. Parents with curious, wide-eyed small children couldn't wait to open their world to the magnificence of the large ships. Veterans waited to board ships that would take them back in time enabling them to relive the memories of the past. Young men and women considering a military career curiously anticipated a bird's eye view of military life.

Proudly moored on Pier 90 was the KATHERINE WALKER, in all her splendor, showing full colors. From dockside the bold letters that signified her importance in this event were quite evident as they stood out in the sunlight: "KATHERINE WALKER, Keeper of New York Harbor". Indeed it was a day for this ship to shine, and it was a welcome opportunity for members of the USCG Auxiliary (Dee Thompson ADSO-SP 1SR, Jim Crincoli FSO-VE 4-4, Monica Valdez, SO-PA 10-2, Mike Chalet FSO-PS 10-2, Eric Smith SO-MS 10-2, Rino Ramz, 11-11 and Duane W. Farabaugh 11-3) and USCG Reservists (EMCS Richard Public, EM1 Michael



USCGC KATHERINE WALKER as part of the Fleet Week Parade of Ships. (Photo: Monty Zaks).

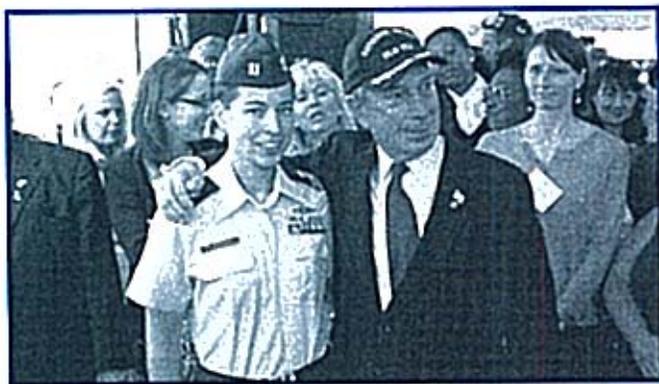
Sanphy) to partake in this event by conducting structured informative tours of this great vessel.

Tours were conducted for two entire days on this 175 foot vessel; the majority of the public was overwhelmed with appreciation for learning so much about this great ship, its crew and its historical significance.

A very welcome guest, Rear Admiral Timothy S. Sullivan, Commander First Coast Guard District, stopped by to show his support. He was piped aboard the KATHERINE WALKER and took time to address the Captain and crew. He also addressed the crew of the Patrol Boat TYBEE that was tied up alongside the

KATHERINE WALKER.

The professionalism, outgoing friendliness and never ending enthusiasm of the tour guides added great value to the event. Their interaction in this event allowed the officers and crew of the KATHERINE WALKER the opportunity to partake of the festivities and events of New York City. In fact, if you believe you saw the Captain, LT Amy Florentino and some crew members on the Late Show with David Letterman you were right. We are pleased to report that they had an enjoyable evening with Mr. Letterman, an experience they will always remember.



Above: Mayor Michael Bloomberg was pleased to receive a KATHERINE WALKER cap from her CO, Lt. Amy Florentino at a reception at Gracie Mansion. (Photo: CWO David Barkalow). *Right:* Television personality David Letterman joins with the KATHERINE WALKER crew.



THE PARADE OF SHIPS



USS WASP (LHD 1) (Photo: Joseph Weiss)



USS WINSTON CHURCHILL (DDG 81)
(Photo: R.H. Wagner)



USS SAN JACINTO (CG 56) passes Ellis Island.
(Photo: R.H. Wagner)

Each year, Fleet Week begins with a procession of the participating ships past the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and then up the Hudson River. During this procession, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aircraft fly overhead.

This year, the Council's viewstanding was the Executive Dining Room of the New York Mercantile Exchange situated some 11 stories above the river at the World Financial Center. The large windows and open-air balcony made it an excellent vantage point on this fine and sunny day. The Exchange also provided an excellent buffet breakfast.

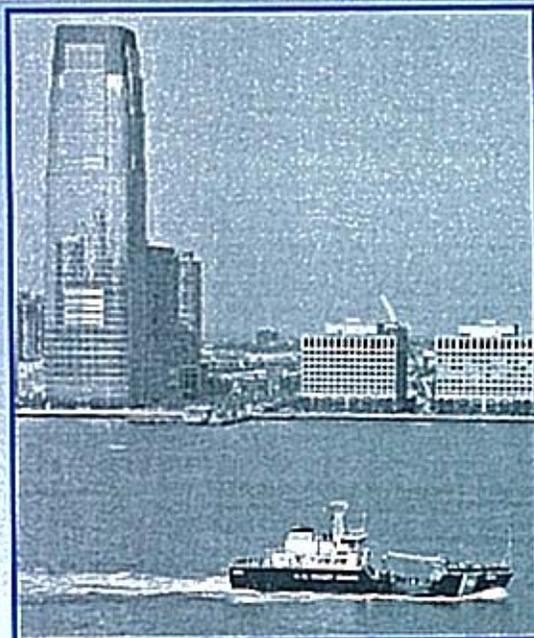
Joining the Navy Leaguers for the event were numerous sea services officers including Admiral Evan Chanik Jr., Commander, Second Fleet; Lt. General Keith J. Stalder, Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force; Admiral Frederic R. Ruehe, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic; and Captain Robert O'Brien, Captain of the Port of New York.



Lt. General Keith J. Stalder, Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force; Robert Halper, Vice Chairman of NYMEX; Admiral Evan "Marty" Chanik, Commander, Second Fleet, join Council President Dan Thys on the terrace of the NYMEX to view the Parade of Ships. (Photo courtesy of NYMEX).



Top: A flight of F-18s during the Fly-over. Upper Middle: Admiral William Kloner (NYNM) delivered the invocation. Lower Middle: Captain Robert O'Brien, USCG, Captain of the Port of New York (Photo: NYMEX). Bottom: USCGC TYBEE (WPB 1330). (Photos: R.H. Wagner).



*USCGC KATHERINE WALKER (WLM 552)
(Photo: R.H. Wagner)*



USS OSCAR AUSTIN (DDG 79) (Photo: Joseph Weiss)



USS HUE CITY (CG 66) and USS STEPHEN GROVES (FFG 29), seen here at the Homeport Pier, did not participate in the Parade of Ships. (Photo: R.H. Wagner)



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FLEET WEEK 2007

PARADE OF SHIPS PICTORIAL

**TOURING USS
SAN JACINTO (CG 56)**

**ADM. WILLIAM GORTNEY:
A FIGHT WORTH FIGHTING**

GENERAL KEITH STALDER

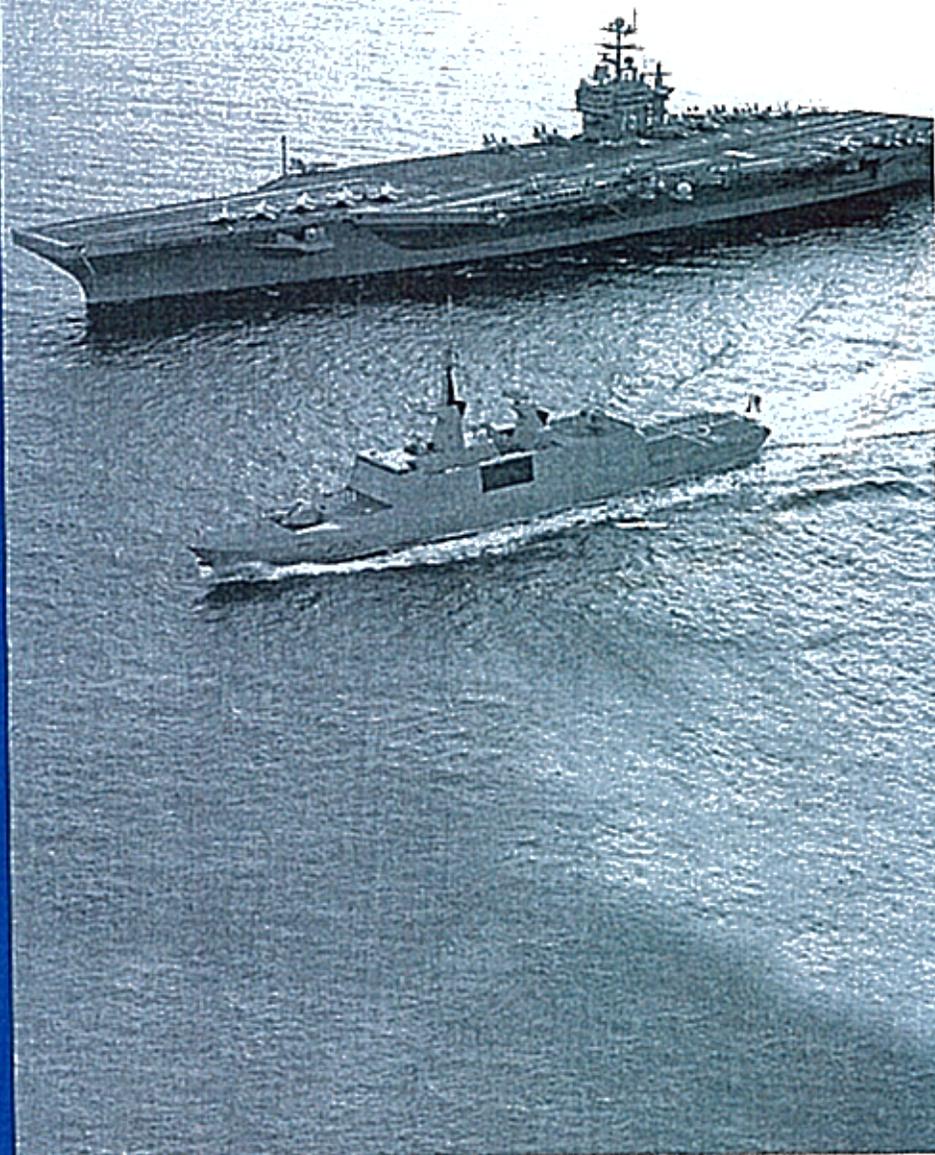
**FLEET WEEK: THE PARTICIPANTS
PERSPECTIVE**

**DAN THYS VISITS
USS HARRY S. TRUMAN**

**CPL. JASON DUNHAM
SCHOLARSHIP**

CUNARD'S NEW QUEEN

**AFTER ACTION REPORTS:
KATHERINE WALKER CRUISE
ROOSEVELTS BOOK AWARD**



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