

# COAST GUARD NEWS

U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office  
600 Martin Luther King, Jr. Place  
Room 360  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202-2230

Contact: Lieutenant (JG) Steven M. Garcia  
Public Affairs Officer  
(502) 582-5194 ext. 38  
(502) 582-6825 Fax

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## **BELLE OF LOUISVILLE: HISTORIC STEAMSHIP KEPT SAILING THROUGH TEAMWORK**

The BELLE OF LOUISVILLE, our nation's oldest operating river steamboat completed major repairs to her 87 year old hull just in time for the 2001 cruising season. The historic vessel is removed from the water every five years for a rigorous Coast Guard examination for seaworthiness. At 170 feet long and capable of carrying over 800 passengers, drydocking the Belle is no small feat. Scores of marine industry professionals worked closely with the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Louisville during the lengthy shipyard stay at Jeffboat in Jeffersonville, IN to ensure the highest standards of safety were reached. Said Chief Warrant Officer Robert Herndon, the Coast Guard's lead inspector, "We couldn't have done it without teamwork...people like Captain Mike Fitzgerald, Jack Deck, Kenny Howe, Dwight Riggle, the Jeffboat employees and the Officers and Crew of the Belle came together to achieve a common goal. And with this kind of commitment, the Belle will be in top-notch shape for her 100th birthday." The recent repair work was completed in time to usher in the Belle's new management company, Hornblower Marine Services.

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