

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

United States  
Coast Guard



# COAST GUARD NEWS

---

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

Contact: Lieutenant Junior Grade Steven M. Garcia  
Public Affairs Officer  
(502) 582-5194 / Fax (502) 582-6825

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(5727/1 (01-08)

Date: May 21, 2001

## **COAST GUARD CERTIFIES HISTORIC VALLEY VIEW FERRY; KENTUCKY'S OLDEST CONTINUOUS BUSINESS**

**Valley View, Kentucky, May 21, 2001.** U. S. Coast Guard officials from Marine Safety Office Louisville, KY recently certified the latest incarnation of the historic Valley View Ferry. This new ferry replaced the previous version, which had been in operation since 1946. Chief Warrant Officer Bill MacKenzie, the Coast Guard's lead marine inspector on the project stated, "It was a pleasure to work with the professionals at Marine Builders, Inc., as well as the Valley View Ferry Authority. We were able to deliver a quality ship that we hope will last the county for another 55 years." The new ferry, which routinely accommodates up to three vehicles and 15 passengers at a time, transports in excess of 400 vehicle per day; the majority of which are people commuting to and from Lexington, KY. The Valley View Ferry has been transporting people across the Kentucky River since 1785 and is Kentucky's oldest continuous business. Revolutionary War hero John Craig received a "perpetual and irrevocable franchise" in 1785 from the Virginia legislature to set up the ferry "on the lands of John Craig at the mouth of Tates Creek," Mike Longinow wrote in a column for the Jessamine Journal. Although passage on the ferry is provided free of charge through funding from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the county has requested the ferry undergo Coast Guard inspections to ensure a high level of safety.

-USCG-

*On an average day, the Eighth Coast Guard District saves 14 lives, \$7 million in property, and interdicts over 400 pounds of illegal drugs. The U.S. Coast Guard has served America's national security interests since 1790.*