

United States Coast Guard

Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(5727/02-04)

Date: March 27, 2002

WORLD CLASS ATHLETE FROM LOUISVILLE RECEIVES COAST GUARD PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

LOUISVILLE – Tori Murden McClure, the first American to row solo and unassisted across an ocean, was awarded the Coast Guard Certificate of Appreciation today during a Women’s History Month commemoration. She was recognized for her extraordinary efforts to promote the safety of lives on the Ohio River. In the wake of a near-fatal collision between a University of Louisville rowing scull and a commercial vessel in October of 1999, Tori Murden McClure served as a liaison between the Coast Guard, the key rowing groups in the Louisville area, and the maritime industry to help affect needed safety improvements. As a world-class athlete, renowned in the sport of rowing, her committed, expert involvement and personal leadership was a critical factor in influencing these rowing groups to develop and implement Coast Guard-recommended safety measures. These measures included the adoption of communication procedures between the rowers and commercial river traffic and the identification of alternative rowing sites to minimize the potential for rowers’ posing dangerous impediments to commercial navigation. At the Coast Guard’s request, she met with members of the Central Ohio River Maritime Industry Group, a marine transportation cooperative, to explain newly implemented safe rowing practices and voluntarily acted as a liaison between industry and local rowing groups when potential conflicts arose. Since she became personally involved in this process, the Coast Guard has received no reports from commercial mariners of unsafe rowing practices. Following her outstanding presentation to Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville and Group Ohio Valley during the Women’s’ History Month commemoration this morning, Tori Murden McClure was presented the coveted Public Service Award by Lt. Cmdr. Paul Mehler III, Executive Officer of Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville.