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US COAST GUARD

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# 98TH ANNUAL NAACP CONVENTION: POWER BEYOND MEASURE

**NUMBERS** 600-Number of persons who attended the NAACP Military Awards Banquet.

**IN COAST GUARD HISTORY**  
**PEA-ISLAND:** Between 1880 and 1947 all Pea Island crews were black. They comprised the only all-black crews in the history of the Life Saving Service or its successor, the U.S. Coast Guard; saving more than 600 lives, earning a reputation as the “tautest” crew on the Carolina coast.

**PRE-EMPLOYMENT ADVICE:**  
**Illegal:** To inquire a candidate's preferred title, such as Miss, Ms. or Mrs; to ask prior name(s) of a candidate whose name has been changed by court order or otherwise; or maiden name of a married woman. **Legal:** Questions about a change of name, use of an assumed name or nickname, in order to verify the qualifications stated by the candidate.

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**Best Practices, Photos to share?**  
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July 2007. The Honorable Michael Chertoff, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, was the Keynote Speaker at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual NAACP Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Awards Dinner in Detroit during which Coast Guard Commandant Thad W. Allen received the Department of Defense (DoD) Meritorious Service Award. Secretary Chertoff told the 600+ guests that it is important to fight for Muslim Americans in a post 9/11 world. “[We have] fought too long and too hard for the rights of African Americans to turn our backs on the rights of Muslim Americans,” he said. Sec. Chertoff also recounted stories of heroic rescues by African Americans

serving in the Coast Guard, and also of others during Hurricane Katrina. “Whether they were black or white, male or female, they wore the Coast Guard blue and orange and those were the only colors that mattered,” he said. At the dinner, Mr. Chertoff also received the 2007 Benjamin L. Hooks Distinguished Service award from the NAACP.



(Left) Mr. Julian Bond, Chairman, NAACP presented the 2007 NAACP Meritorious Service Award to Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant, United States Coast Guard. The organization recognized him for championing equal opportunity, civil rights, diversity, and anti-discrimination. “As a visionary leader, he has advocated policies to create a workforce that truly mirrors society,” his citation read. “He established an equal opportunity policy that is committed to ensuring the Coast Guard provides an environment that values and embraces the contributions and potential of every member of the diverse workforce.” (Right) Lt. Herbert Collins, only remaining descendant of the historic USCG all-African American Pea Island Crew, was recognized at the NAACP. Pictured here with Ms. Terri A. Dickerson, USCG Civil Rights Director.



◀Head Table: Mr. Robert W. Fletcher, National Commander, American Ex-Prisoners of War (POWs) Association who was held captive during the Korean War, received the Jesse Brown Distinguished Leadership Award, pictured with USCG Master Chief Petty Officer Charles “Skip” Bowen.

## ARMED SERVICES VETERANS AFFAIRS DINNER



Admiral Thad W. Allen, (second from left), NAACP Meritorious Service Award recipient and LCDR John W. Pruitt (third from right), recipient of the NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award flank Terri A. Dickerson USCG Civil Rights Director. Both were recognized with other military and civilian

honorees at the 32nd Annual NAACP Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Awards Dinner in Detroit. Admiral Manson Brown, Commander Maintenance Logistics Command (MLC) for the USCG Pacific Area, was Master of Ceremonies. Also Pictured left to right: Family members of LCDR Pruitt, III, LCDR John W. Pruitt, III, Ms. Terri Dickerson, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Admiral Allen and RDML Manson Brown, Commander, Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Pictured left to right: LCDR John W. Pruitt, III, with Family Members, Ms. Terri Dickerson, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Admiral Allen and RDML Manson Brown, Commander, Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

## U.S. COAST GUARD SAR DEMONSTRATION AND SPEED BOAT



▲ LCDR David Gomez and LCDR William Makell, Coast Guard Air Station Detroit, performed a search and rescue (SAR) demonstration outside the Detroit Convention Center, as NAACP attendees watched. ▼ Mr. Gino Marrone, European Command Racing Team displayed capabilities of a racing boat during the SAR demonstrations.



## TWO CG MEMBERS HONORED

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) conferred awards on Health Services First Class Petty Officer Victor M. Ramirez for Excellence in Military Service and Petty Officer Sarah Vega for the LULAC Excellence in Military Service Award. They were recognized with other winners at the Department of Defense (DoD) military awards breakfast on Thursday, 12 July 2007, Chicago. Pictured: Ms. Rosa Rosales, LULAC President, Health Services First Class Petty Officer Victor M. Ramirez, Ms Terri Dickerson, Director Office of Civil Rights and Mr. Clarence Johnson of DoD, Principal Director and Director for Civilian Equal Employment Opportunity, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity. ▼



## NAACP MILITARY PAVILION DREW THOUSANDS!



◀ OSS2 Gloria East, USCG The Interdiction Committee (TIC), provided Coast Guard information to some of the thousands who visited the military showcase.

## U.S. COAST GUARD HOSTED CIVILIAN JOB FAIR

The USCG, Detroit Recruiting Command was on deck at NAACP to provide information to job seekers. At right: OSC Fred Napoleone, USCG, Detroit Recruiting Office, greets and provides guidance to one of the hundreds who attended.

