

Symbolism of Ship's Crest



THE SHIELD

The colors blue, red white are associated with the Coast Guard. The three parts of the shield and the three chevrons honor the three previous ships named FORWARD. They, and the present CGC FORWARD, honor Walter Forward, Secretary of the Treasury, under President John Tyler. The scales, adapted from the Department of Treasury Seal, commemorate Walter Forward's position as the first comptroller of the Treasury. The color gold recalls coinage and is also emblematic of high achievement. The cutter's three primary missions; Defense Operations, Enforcement of Laws and Treaties, and Search and Rescue, are represented by the three chevrons. The color red and the chevron's spearhead like shape express action and defense operations. The compass rose denotes the Search and Rescue mission and the far-reaching capabilities of USCGC FORWARD.

THE CREST

The spearhead symbolizes the ship's weaponry, the blue and gray recalling the first FORWARD's serving in the Civil War. The cacti, adapted from the Mexican national flag, highlight the first ship's service in the Mexican War and the second ship's service patrolling the Gulf of Mexico. The flames on the wavy bar representing water emphasize the third ship's rescue of crewman from a torpedoed tanker during World War II. The survivors had to swim under burning oil to get to CGC FORWARD.

THE SUPPORTERS

The sea lions are fierce and powerful proctors and underscore the ship's mission of enforcing and protecting laws and treaties.