

Enlisted Achievements 4-5.01-K

KNOW the significant achievements of enlisted personnel, as presented in the E-PME Study Guide.

Enlisted Personnel Achievements and Awards

Throughout the Coast Guard's history, enlisted men and women have contributed greatly to the future of the Coast Guard. Some of their achievements, milestones, and awards are highlighted here.

Enlisted Achievements

In the past 20 years or so, petty officer and chief petty officer roles have become more difficult. Their roles are no longer limited to technical proficiency. Today, they are commonly recognized as leaders.

But petty officers and chief petty officers have always had a place of leadership in maritime development and social evolution. A few of the many achievements of Coast Guard enlisted personnel are presented here in chronological order.

- **1918** Twin sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker of the Naval Coastal Defense Reserve become the first uniformed women to serve in the Coast Guard.
- **1945** The first five African-American females enter the SPARs (Semper Paratus Always Ready Women's Reserve):
 - ▶ Olivia Hooker
 - ▶ D. Winifred Byrd
 - ▶ Julia Mosley
 - ▶ Yvonne Cumberbatch
 - ▶ Aileen Cooke
- **1958** On November 1, Master Chief Yeoman Jack Kerwin becomes the first Coast Guard E-9.

***Enlisted
Achievements
(continued)***

- **1959** Alex P. Haley retires as Chief Journalist after serving in World War II and Korea.
 - ▶ In 1949, Haley transfers to the journalist rate. The rate is created because of his strong writing abilities.
 - ▶ In 1950, his primary job is writing stories to promote the Coast Guard to the media.
 - ▶ Toward the end of his tenure with the Coast Guard, Haley researches and writes about the history of the Revenue Cutter Service and the Life-Saving Service, demonstrating the talent that makes him a famous journalist and author. His ability to transform meticulous research into informative, interesting narrative become his trademark.
 - ▶ Haley authors *Roots* and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, and is a recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. He continues to be an active supporter of the Coast Guard until his death in 1992.
- **1962** Master Chief Yeoman Pearl Faurie becomes the first SPAR E9. The Pearl Faurie Leadership Award is established in her honor.
- **1969** On August 1st, BMCM Charles L. Calhoun was instated as the First Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (E-10).
- **1972** The first women's Reserve Enlisted Basic Indoctrination classes are established. Four ratings are available:
 - ▶ Yeoman
 - ▶ Storekeeper
 - ▶ Radioman
 - ▶ Hospital Corpsman
- **1973** The following events occur in 1973:
 - ▶ Legislation ends Women's Reserve
 - ▶ Women are integrated into active duty and Coast Guard Reserve.
 - ▶ Women are admitted to Officer Candidate School for the first time.
 - ▶ Combat exclusion for women ends.
 - ▶ The first SPAR to be sworn into the regular Coast Guard is Alice Jefferson.
- **1978** All officer career fields and enlisted ratings are open to women.
- **1981** Enlisted women are assigned to isolated units.
- **1982** The Chief Petty Officer Academy Class I consists of six MCPOs and four SCPOs who lead the way for future generations of CPOs to attend the Coast Guard's premier enlisted leadership institution. Class I graduates in November 1982, their memento plaque reads, "We Came with the Hope That Others Might Follow."

***Enlisted
Achievements
(continued)***

- **1987** Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Donald H. Horsley, USCG retires in January. He serves on active duty for 44 years, four months, and 27 days. His career spans three wars, and sees service on board 34 vessels.
 - **1988** The first enlisted woman is assigned to Officer-in-Charge afloat billet: Dianne Bucci. The first African-American female and first female engineer to advance to E-7 is Pamela Autry. The first Asian American female Warrant Officer is appointed: Grace Parmalee.
 - **1989** The first enlisted woman is assigned as Officer-in-Charge ashore: Krystine Carbajal.
 - **1990** Operation Desert Shield begins with 14 women Reservists serving in the Persian Gulf.
 - **1992** The first Hispanic American female is advanced to E-7: Sonia Colon.
 - **1999** As a result of the recommendations from the spring Board of Trustees meeting at the Coast Guard Academy, the Commandant officially appoints Master Chief of the Coast Guard, Vincent Patton, as a member of the Coast Guard Academy Board of Trustees. This is the first time an enlisted member serves in such a position at any military service academy.
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Enlisted Awards

Since its early beginnings, the enlisted corps has thousands and thousands of Coast Guard heroes...men and women who served far beyond the call of duty. A few of these distinguished heroes are presented here.

***Coast Guard
Heroes of the 18th
and 19th Century***

The history of the Coast Guard actually begins on August 4, 1790 with the ten cutters (*Vigilant, Active, General Green, Massachusetts, Scammel, Argus, Virginia, Diligence, South Carolina, and Eagle*) authorized by Congress to guard our country's coastline against smugglers.

The revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Life Saving Service merged on January 28, 1915, creating today's Coast Guard. Later on, several other Federal agencies are merged with the Coast Guard, including the U.S. Lighthouse Service.

*Marcus A.
Hanna*

Marcus A. Hanna was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions while serving in the Union Army during the Civil War.

On July 4, 1863 at Port Hudson, Louisiana, Hanna voluntarily placed himself at risk to heavy enemy fire in order to get water for comrades in rifle pits. After the war, Hanna served as the principal keeper of the Cape Elizabeth Light Station, near Portland, Maine.

On January 28, 1885, he rescued two men from the wrecked schooner *Australia*. Hanna was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal, making him the only individual to have won both the Medal of Honor and the Gold Lifesaving Medal.

Frederick Hatch

Surfman **Frederick Hatch** was a two-time winner of the Gold Lifesaving Medal.

He earned his first award while serving in the Life-Saving Service and the second while serving as a keeper in the Lighthouse Service.

Joshua James

Joshua James was a member of the Massachusetts Humane Society and U.S. Life-Saving Service...one of the most celebrated lifesavers in our history.

Credited with saving more than 600 lives, he earned two gold medals, three silver, and other awards during his long and distinguished career.

His most famous rescue, for which he received one of his Gold Lifesaving medals, took place in November 1888. James and his crew saved 29 people from five different vessels during one of the worst storms to hit Hull, Mass.

Ida Lewis

Ida Lewis is one of the most famous people to have ever served in the U.S. Lighthouse Service. Through her skill and professional ability, Lewis became the official keeper of Lime Rock Light Station, a position she held until her death.

She gained national notoriety during a time when most women in the U.S. were neither in the professional workforce nor on the national stage. She met a president, Ulysses S. Grant, and a vice-president, Schuyler Colfax; made the cover of a national publication, Harper's Weekly, in 1869; was featured in stories in Putnam's Magazine and The New York Tribune; and received accolades and awards from around the country.

Ida Lewis
(continued)

Most of Lewis's fame was due to her lifesaver abilities, rather than her first-rate lightkeeper skills and abilities. The Society of the American Cross of Honor bestowed upon her the title, *The Bravest Woman in America*.

Ida Lewis risked her life countless times to save the shipwrecked or others in danger of drowning. She was officially credited with saving 18 lives during her 39 years at Lime Rock and was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal. The first of the recently built keeper class coastal buoy tenders was named Ida Lewis.

Rasmus S. Midgett

Surfman **Rasmus S. Midgett** single-handedly rescued ten people from the grounded ship, *Priscilla*, on August 18, 1899.

While on patrol three miles from the Gull Shoal Lifeboat Station, he noticed the flotsam and heard the cries from the broken vessel. Midgett directed seven passengers through the surf and then carried the other three to safety. For his actions, he received the Gold Lifesaving Medal

Margaret Norvell

Margaret Norvell, a keeper in the U.S. Lighthouse Service, served at the Head of Passes Light from 1891 to 1896. She was head keeper at the Port Pontchartrain Light from 1896 to 1924. Norvell finished her career at the West End Light where she served from 1924 to 1932.

During her career, she rescued numerous shipwrecked persons and assisted many others in distress. When a storm swept away every building in the community except the lighthouse in 1903, Norvell cared for over 200 people who had been left homeless.

*Coast Guard
Heroes of the 20th
Century and
Beyond*

A few of the thousands of Coast Guard heroes of the 20th century are categorized here by the medals awarded for their courageous actions.

Medal of Honor



The Medal of Honor is the highest U.S. military decoration awarded to a serviceman for distinct gallantry and courage at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty.

To date, the only Coast Guardsman recipient of the Medal of Honor is Signalman 1st Class **Douglas Albert Munro**, awarded posthumously for his extraordinary heroism on September 27, 1942 at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal.

*Medal of Honor
(continued)*

Munro provided a shield and covering fire, and helped evacuate 500 besieged Marines from a beach at Point Cruz, paying the ultimate price...his life.



Douglas A. Munro

If you're interested in the (untestable) Munro story, visit:

www.uscg.mil/hq/g%2Dcp/history/munro.html

Navy Cross Medal



The Navy Cross Medal is awarded to persons serving in any capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps who distinguish themselves in armed enemy conflict by extraordinary heroism not justifying the Medal of Honor award. Several Coast Guardsman recipients of this award are:

- Water Tender **William H. Best**, a crewman of the cutter *Seneca* on convoy duty during World War I. Awarded posthumously for “services in attempting to save the British merchant steamer *Wellington* after a German submarine had torpedoed her on September 17, 1918.”
 - Cook **Elam Russell** of the cutter *Seneca* on convoy duty during World War I. Awarded posthumously for “services in attempting to save the British merchant steamer *Wellington* after a German submarine had torpedoed her on September 17, 1918.”
 - Petty Officer (later Commander) **Raymond J. Evans** for his actions at the Matanikau River, Guadalcanal on September 27, 1942. Along with Douglas Munro, provided covering fire for and evacuated elements of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.
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*Coast Guard
Distinguished
Service Medal*



The Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to persons serving in any capacity with the Coast Guard who distinguish themselves by exceptionally meritorious service to the United States in a duty of great responsibility.

Awarded posthumously to Acting Machinist **William L. Boyce**, a member of the crew of the USCGC *Seneca* during World War I, for “services in attempting to save the British merchant steamer *Wellington* after a German submarine had torpedoed her on September 17, 1918.”

*Silver Star
Medal*



The Silver Star Medal is awarded to persons serving in any capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps who distinguish themselves by extraordinary heroism not justifying the award of the Medal of Honor; while engaged in military operations against an enemy of the United States.

Several Coast Guard recipients of this award are:

- Chief Machinist Mate **Benjamin F. Harrison**, a crew member of the CGC Campbell for gallantry and intrepidity in action. Following a collision between and the *CGC Campbell* with the *U-606*, his performance saved the ship from going down.
- Petty Officers **Willis Goff** and **Larry Villareal** for their actions on January 21, 1969 in rescuing, in the face of heavy automatic weapons fire, a nine-man Army of Viet Nam (ARVN) detachment trapped by two Vietcong platoons.

*Legion of Merit
Medal*



The Legion of Merit Medal is awarded to U.S. military personnel for service rendered comparable to that required for the Distinguished Service Medal but in a lesser duty (though with considerable responsibility).

The Legion of Merit medal was awarded to Surfman John A. Cullen for discovering and reporting the first landing of German saboteurs on the U.S. coast on June 13, 1942. His timely report led to the capture of the entire 8-man sabotage team before the German operatives could carry out their mission.

*Coast Guard
Medal*



The Coast Guard Medal is awarded to persons serving on active duty in the Coast Guard who distinguish themselves by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. Two recipients of the Coast Guard Medal are noted here.

- SA **William Ray “Billy” Flores** was awarded the Coast Guard Medal. He died in the line of duty while saving the lives of many of his shipmates. When his cutter, the *Blackthorn*, collided with the tanker *Capricorn*, on January 28, 1980, Flores and another crewmember threw lifejackets to their shipmates in the water. When the *Blackthorn* began to submerge, his companion abandoned ship. Flores remained behind and used his own belt to strap open the lifejacket locker door, allowing additional lifejackets to float to the surface.
- Machinery Technician First Class **Charles W. Sexton**, USCG, was posthumously awarded the Coast Guard Medal for “extraordinary heroism.” Petty Officer Sexton demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude, and daring in spite of imminent danger in his rescue efforts on January 11, 1991. At the time, he was serving as emergency medical technician aboard Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat CG-44381.

Responding to a distress call from *F/V Sea King*, a 75-foot stern trawler, Sexton volunteers to board the foundering fishing vessel to treat a crewmember’s injuries. Sexton skillfully diagnoses the injuries and stabilizes the victim, then assists with dewatering the vessel. The *Sea King* suddenly capsizes, throwing victims into the churning seas and trapping Sexton in the enclosed pilothouse. He goes down with the vessel, sacrificing his life while attempting to save the lives of *Sea King’s* crewmembers.

*Bronze Star
Medal*



The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to persons serving in any capacity with U.S. Armed Forces who distinguish themselves after December 6, 1941 by:

- Heroic actions
- Meritorious achievement
- Service not involving participation in aerial flight while engaged in enemy action.

The Bronze Star was awarded to BMC **Richard Patterson**, a crew member of the CGC Point Welcome, for his heroic actions. Patterson’s cutter came under attack by friendly aircraft in August of 1966 just south of the demilitarized zone in South Vietnam. His decisive actions without regard for his own safety were instrumental in saving the lives of most of the crewmembers.

Gold Lifesaving Medal



The Gold Lifesaving Medal is awarded for rescues of extreme and heroic daring in saving or attempting to save another from drowning, a shipwreck, or other perils of the water. Since 1874, more than 600 Gold Lifesaving Medals have been awarded. Some recipients of these metals are listed here.

- **John Allen Midgett**, Keeper of the Chicamacomico Lifeboat Station, N.C. On August 16, 1918 braving heavy surf and burning oil, Midgett and his men (5 of 6 also named Midgett) rescued all but 10 men in a 6-½ hour ordeal from the burning British tanker, *Mirlo*, (a victim of U-117). For their efforts, the Midgetts received Gold Lifesaving medals.
 - **John Azeling Steadman**, Radioman 3rd Class was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal, posthumously. The award was for his heroic daring in endeavoring to save the lives of two persons from drowning during a hurricane that swept over Penzance Point, Woods Hole, MA on September 21, 1938.
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Gold Lifesaving Medal



- **Bernard C. Webber**, Boatswain Mate 1st Class and three crewmembers (EN3 **Andrew Fitzgerald**, SN **Richard Livesey**, and SN **Irving Maske**) of the *CG-36500* were awarded Gold Lifesaving Medals for their heroic rescue of the crew of the merchant tanker *Pendleton*. The tanker had broken in half during a storm on February 18, 1952 off the coast of Chatham, Massachusetts. With expert skill, they saved 33 of the 34 crewman.
- **Dennis R. Bauer**, SN was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal posthumously for his extreme and heroic deed on December 2, 1965. While serving on *USCGC Bramble* (WLB 392), Bauer attempted to rescue a Coast Guardsman in danger of drowning in the cold waters adjacent to the USCG Base Detroit, Michigan.

The following were all awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal posthumously “for heroic daring during a sea rescue on January 18, 1953.”

- **Winfield J. Hammond**, Chief Aviation Electronicsman
- **Joseph R. Bridge**, Aviation Ordnanceman 1st class
- **Tracey W. Miller**, Aviation Machinists Mate 3rd class.

They were crewmen on board a Coast Guard PBM that crashed offshore of mainland China while conducting a rescue of the crew of a Navy reconnaissance aircraft that had been shot down. All were killed in the crash.

*Silver
Lifesaving
Medal*



The Silver Lifesaving Medal is awarded for those rescue actions slightly less outstanding than rescues qualified for the Gold Lifesaving Metal. Since 1874, more than 1,900 Silver Lifesaving Medals have been awarded.

SN ***Ralph E. Mace*** was awarded the Silver Lifesaving Medal posthumously for heroic action on January 12, 1961, while serving as a crew member aboard the *CG-5230*.

Mace engaged in the attempted rescue of two persons from the F/V *Mermaid*, disabled in Peacock Spit at the north entrance of the Columbia River.
