

UNCLAS //N01110//

ALCOAST 459/12

COMDTNOTE 1110

SUBJ: RESTORING THE U.S COAST GUARD MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

1. I am proud to announce a project is currently underway to restore the U.S. Coast Guard Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. During the 2011 Veterans Day wreath laying ceremony at the Coast Guard Memorial, the Commandant announced the "Lest We Forget" campaign to preserve the eighty-four year old monument to our fallen shipmates.

Initially dedicated on 23 May 1928, the memorial commemorates our shipmates who lost their lives in WWI resulting from the sinking of the Cutter TAMPA on 26 Sep 1918 and the action involving the Cutter SENECA and the British collier WELLINGTON on 16-17 Sep 1918. Over the last ten months, the Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) has worked diligently to develop a project, start a fund raising campaign, and identify a contractor suited to restoring and preserving this important piece of our history so that we might honor our heroes for generations to come.

2. Setting proudly atop a hill in Arlington National Cemetery, warmly referred to as Coast Guard Hill, the memorial is a pyramid, constructed wholly of marble twelve feet high and set on a base of Pink Stony Creek granite. Designed by architect George Howe, the memorial is surrounded by a thirty-four foot mosaic circle symbolizing a compass rose. A bronze seagull with a five foot wingspan, made by the famed sculptor Gaston Lachaise, has been set at the base of the pyramid exemplifying the zeal and persistence of the Coast Guard in its duties. Most importantly, the pyramid faces are indelibly engraved with the names of our heroic shipmates lost at sea during the First World War.

3. The dedication of the memorial was a proud day for the Coast Guard. Cutters TAMPA, SENECA, MANNING, and APACHE were anchored in the Potomac River. Cutter TAMPA sounded the twenty-one gun salute for the ceremony. The Coast Guard Academy Corps of Cadets arrived aboard Cutters TAMPA and SENECA to form the honor guard. Several distinguished speakers were on hand, including: Secretary of the Treasury, the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Curtis D. Wilbur, and Rear Admiral F. C. Billard, Commandant of the Coast Guard. Frank L. Toon captured the significance of the memorial when he wrote, "It is to the Coast Guard, of the Coast Guard, by the Coast Guard, a Memorial by our own to our own."

4. The eighty-four year old memorial has suffered extensive damage over the years due to environmental conditions. A large fist size portion of marble has broken off near the apex of the pyramid, and the lettering and the Coast Guard emblem are severely worn. Fortunately, the CPOA has a clear vision to restore the memorial, thus ensuring it will continue to honor the service and sacrifice of our shipmates.

5. The funding needed for this project, approximately 95,000 dollars, must be raised through private donations. Coast Guard funds cannot be used in this undertaking. The Washington, DC Chapter of the Chief Petty Officers Association

has stepped forward to lead the CPOA efforts to restore the Coast Guard memorial and is committed to making the project a success. Through the sale of commemorative coins, fundraisers, and individual and corporate sponsorship, they are gaining ground on the required funding. I encourage everyone to learn more about the project and follow its evolution at the CPOA Washington, DC Chapter website: <http://wdccpoa.org>.

6. VADM Currier, Vice Commandant, sends

7. Internet release authorized.