



RETIREMENT CEREMONY
BEVERLY G. KELLEY
CAPTAIN, U.S. COAST GUARD



USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722)
COAST GUARD ISLAND
ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA
22 APRIL 2006



Selected Music

Performed by the Band the Golden West Winds
USAF Band of the Golden West, Travis AFB

Welcome

CDR Mike Kazek, USCG (Ret)
Master of Ceremonies

Arrival of Official Party

VADM Vivien Crea, USCG
CAPT Beverly Kelley, USCG
LT Steven Maekawa, USNR

Ruffles and Flourishe

The Golden West Winds
USAF Band of the Golden West, Travis AFB

National Anthem

Mr. Steve Kelley (brother)

Invocation

LT Steven Maekawa, USNR
FR., O.P., Saint Dominic's Catholic Church
San Francisco, California

Introductory Remarks

CDR Mike Kazek, USCG (Ret)

Remarks and Retirement Presentations

VADM Vivien Crea, USCG
Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area

Remarks

CAPT Beverly Kelley, USCG, Retired

Benediction

LT Steven Maekawa, USNR

Departure of Official Party

(Reception to follow – Point Welcome Room)

DUTY AFLOAT MILESTONES

23 September 1977	Reported aboard USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722) in San Diego, California
1 November 1977	Qualified as Deck Watch Officer INPORT
25 November 1977	Crossed the 180 th meridian of longitude to join the Domain of the GOLDEN DRAGON
19 December 1977	Qualified as Deck Watch Officer UNDERWAY
22 March 1978	Authorized to wear the Cutterman Pin while assigned to any cutter
12 April 1979	Assumed Command of USCGC CAPE NEWAGEN (WPB 95318) in Honolulu, Hawaii
15 September 1981	Having demonstrated professional competence and leadership in command afloat, qualified for Command at Sea
29 May 1983	Reported aboard USCGC VENTUROUS (WMEC 625) as Operations Officer in San Pedro, California
7 September 1984	Having served in the Coast Guard fleet over 5 years designated a Cutterman, United States Coast Guard
29 June 1989	Reported aboard USCGC LEGARE (WMEC 912) as Executive Officer of the precommissioning crew in Portsmouth, Virginia
4 August 1990	On the 200 th Anniversary of the US Coast Guard became a Plankowner of USCGC LEGARE (WMEC 912) when she was commissioned with USCGC FORWARD (WMEC 911) at the Portsmouth, Virginia waterfront
27 July 1996	Assumed Command of USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC 904) in Portsmouth, Virginia
October 1996	Sailed in the Caribbean Sea and joined the ORDER of the SPANISH MAIN
13 July 2000	Assumed Command of USCGC BOUTWELL (WHEC 719) at Coast Guard Island, Alameda, California
8 October 2001	Crossed the Equator and became a SHELLBACK
28 June 2002	Completed Afloat Career with almost 14 years of sea duty

SERVICE BIOGRAPHY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CAPTAIN Beverly G. Kelley was raised in Miami, Florida. Following graduation from the University of Miami with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, she enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in January 1976 and attended Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Virginia from February – June 1976.

During her thirty year career, CAPTAIN Kelley served in the following units:

June 1976 – August 1977	Marine Safety Office, Hampton Roads, Virginia Marine Environmental Protection Officer
September 1977 – March 1979	USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722) Alameda, California - Deck Watch Officer/Navigator/Weapons Officer
March 1979 – July 1981	USCGC CAPE NEWAGEN (WPB 95318) Maui, Hawaii – Commanding Officer
August 1981 – May 1983	Commander, 14th Coast Guard District (o) Honolulu, Hawaii – Operations Staff
May 1983 – October 1986	USCGC VENTUROUS (WMEC 625) San Pedro, California – Operations Officer
October 1986 – May 1989	Commander, Pacific Area (Po) Alameda, California – Operations Center Supervisor/Pacific Fisheries Officer
June 1989 – July 1992	USCGC LEGARE (WMEC 912) Portsmouth, Virginia – Executive Officer
August 1992 – June 1993	Naval War College, College of Command and Staff, Newport, Rhode Island
July 1993 – August 1995	Commandant (G-CPA) Washington, DC – Program Reviewer
August 1995 – June 1996	Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Washington, DC
July 1996 – July 1998	USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC 904) Portsmouth, Virginia – Commanding Officer
August 1998 – June 2000	Commandant (G-W) Washington, DC - Executive Assistant to Assistant Commandant for Human Resources
June 2000 – June 2002	USCGC BOUTWELL (WHEC 719) Alameda, California – Commanding Officer
July 2002 – May 2006	Commandant (G-CI) Washington, DC – Deputy Director, Coast Guard International Affairs

CAPTAIN Kelley earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, DC. Her military decorations include: Three Meritorious Service Medals, three USCG Commendation Medals, two USCG Achievement Medals, Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon, two Joint Meritorious Unit Awards, two USCG Unit Commendations, five USCG Meritorious Unit Commendations, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and several other personal and unit awards.

It was early on a Saturday in July. The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Northland*, homeported in Portsmouth, Va., was busy cleaning and getting details ready for the incoming commanding officer. History was about to be made and the crew wanted the event to be perfect.

The Navy band began playing and in came the honorary party. When the ceremony ended, cutter and crew welcomed the first female ever to command a Coast Guard medium endurance cutter.

Cmdr. Beverly Kelley said her challenge is the same as any other faced by a new commanding officer -- to save lives and enforce maritime laws.

Kelley, a native of Miami, Fla., gained the position of commanding officer of the 270-foot *Northland* not because she was in the right place at the right time, but because she earned it.

"I've punched all the tickets that my male counterparts would have to be the commanding officer of a medium endurance cutter.

"I thank the Coast Guard for not putting me in some spot that I was unprepared for," Kelley said. "If the Coast Guard had pushed me into something before I was ready, I could have failed. I would have been devastated and women would have been hurt by it.

"When I graduated Officer Candidate School, I didn't know anything about the military," She said. "The Coast Guard has done all it can to prepare me for this job."

Kelley has a genuine concern for the Coast Guard and the role women play within it. The Coast Guard, she said, has tried to make changes in gender policy as quick and painless as possible. Her concern though is that in an effort to make the change quick, women might advance into positions they are not trained for or ready to assume.

When Kelley was first stationed on the 378-foot Coast Guard Cutter *Morganthau* she ran into some obstacles concerning gender. *Morganthau* was doing refresher training with the Navy when Kelley was due to report. Refresher training is a ship-board exercise which simulates combat conditions. Since the Navy didn't have a policy for women in combat, Kelley wasn't allowed to report until they finished training.

According to Kelley this lack of policy prevented her from attending valuable training as a junior officer. She had to wait until she became an operations officer to attend the training which she said put her, "behind the eight ball." I thank the Coast Guard for at least letting me get on the ship. The service was proactive about women on ships, although they had to work out all of the barriers with our sister services."

Kelley has been at the forefront of the Coast Guard's efforts to break down gender issues. Her first command was the cutter *Cape Newagen*, a 95-foot cutter based in Maui, Hawaii, nearly 20 years ago. Since then she has served as the executive officer of the cutter *Legare*, operations officer of the cutter *Venturous* and several shore jobs.

During an interview in her wardroom, Kelley emphasized that productivity is not her primary concern, safety is. She said, "My first goal is to make it safe for everyone on board, to make sure that everybody comes back home. Ships are just inanimate objects, just a piece of metal. The crew makes the ship, not the other way around."

Going to sea is a special joy for this commanding officer. She said, "It is what the Coast Guard is all about. I look forward to disconnecting the phones and getting away from shore. The underway schedule is demanding. Being away from home 185 days of the year, standing watches, living in close quarters and working extended hours causes nerves to get short and the days to get long.

"Unfortunately, we can't give Coast Guard people a bonus and I can't cut the underway schedule. But, I can work with liberty or the time-off schedule. We'll still get the mission done, and hopefully make it possible for them to enjoy themselves." Kelley believes that there are rewards for getting underway, "You can make a big drug bust and know that you are keeping dope out of some person's head."

Kelley recognizes that there is more to each member of her crew than going to sea. Each person has their circle of friends, goals, dreams and desires. She aims to help her crew develop into well-rounded individuals who strive to meet their own personal desires. Mentoring and developing her crew is important to Kelley. "I had two really great captains, Capt. Ernie Blanchard and Capt. Jeff Hathaway. Terrific, terrific people. I thank them

every day for putting me where I am. They taught me a lot, rewarded me for my hard work and put a lot of faith in me. I pray that I'll be a commanding officer that people will look up to like that. My goal is to create the environment in which everyone has the opportunity to excel."

Story and photos by PA3 A. C. Bennett

Photos available upon request.