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US COAST GUARD

Volume 2 Number 9

SPARS CELEBRATE 65TH ANNIVERSARY

NUMBERS

11,000+: The number of CG employees who have volunteered 167,000 hours working with 1,000,000+ students throughout 600+ Partnership In Education (PIE) programs with local schools.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT ADVICE

Disability: Unlawful Question: Do you have a disability? Have you ever been treated for any of the following diseases? Do you have now, or have you ever had, a drug or alcohol problem?
Lawful Alternative: None

IN COAST GUARD HISTORY

The first Hispanic-American female advanced to E-7 was YNC Grisel Hollis, promoted on 1 May 1991. The second was Sonia Colon, promoted in 1992. Hollis was later promoted to CWO(PERS) on 1 June 1995 while assigned to the USCGC Hamilton as YNC.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

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Best Practices, Photos to share?
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Almost 65 years ago, on November 23, 1942, a select group of women enlisted in the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (since known as SPARS after the motto *Semper Paratus* – Always Ready). These pathfinders paved the way for women in today's Coast Guard. On 6 September,

VADM Vivien Crea and the CG Federal Women's Program honored members at Headquarters. VADM Crea announced that a National Security Cutter will be named STRATTON after the SPARS' first commanding officer, CAPT Jean Stratton. SPARS who attended: YN2 Elizabeth Harmon Aughterton, PHO3 Lorraine Dieterle, LTJG Harriet Miller Ellis, CAPT D. Jeanne Gleason, CAPT Vivien Harned, YN2 Olivia Hooker, YN striker Laura Kennedy, CWO4 Betty Splaine and YN3 Frances Wilmer. *(More, p. 2)*

WHERE I STAND

Coast Guard Commandant, Admiral Thad W. Allen

To the Men and Women of the Coast Guard: Many of you are aware of two recent racial incidents at the Coast Guard Academy, the first in which a noose was discovered in the personal belongings of a cadet aboard EAGLE. A few weeks later, a second one was found in the Academy Assistant Civil Rights Officer's office.

This is a serious matter. The Coast Guard Investigative Service has launched a full criminal investigation to help identify anyone who may have been responsible, so that they may be held accountable. This type of racist conduct, like other forms of discrimination, runs counter to our Core Values and will not be tolerated. Nor will it ever go unchallenged. The Coast Guard's mission is to be a lifesaver and guardian. We help people when they need us most, and we protect and defend the Constitution. It is inconceivable to me to ignore that when it comes to our own people. It is contrary to our organizational ethos, core values, and what the public expects from us. I will not tolerate it, and you should not tolerate it.

I will be meeting with Academy cadets, faculty and staff next week to reiterate my personal commitment to the respectful treatment of all. I'm pleased that Congressman Elijah Cummings, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, will accompany my Director of Civil Rights, Ms. Terri Dickerson, and me to the Academy.

USCG SPANISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION!



The Chief of Staff, VADM Robert J. Papp (left) kicked off the Annual Hispanic American Heritage Month celebration at Coast Guard Headquarters on September 18, 2007. The guest speaker, RDML Ronald J. Ràbago (center), Director of Acquisition Programs and Program Executive Officer (PEO) received special recognition for insightful comments about the impact of his Hispanic heritage. The Hispanic Heritage Committee offered traditional food samplings to attendees including Beef Empanadas, Sancocho, Paella Valencia, Arroz con Grandules, Yucca al Mojo and Pastelillos de Guayaba. Kathryn Abdul-Baki and Carlos Gutierrez (right) provided a cultural enrichment by demonstrating and commenting on traditional Latin dances. The duo's audience participation segment captivated everyone in attendance!

2007 NATIONAL LATINO SYMPOSIUM



The National LATINO Symposium hosted by LATINA Style Magazine was held on September 6, 2007 in Washington, DC. LT Xochitl Castaneda, COMDT (CG-3PCV-1), was awarded the National Latina Meritorious Service Award. Pictured (above) from left to right is the Honorable Michael Dominguez, Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness); LT Castaneda; Ms. Arlene Gonzalez, Coast Guard Office of Civil Rights; and Mr. Robert Bard, President and CEO LATINA Style Magazine.

Getting Inspired at the SPARS Event! (from p. 1)

Dr. Olivia Hooker, one of the first African American SPARS member ► (Coast Guard Women's Reserve, second from left) was one of the special guests at Headquarters on 6 September. Pictured here with women to whom she stands as a great inspiration, left to right: CPO (Ret.) Penny Collins, Dr. Hooker, Ms. Terri Dickerson, Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Ms. Tracey LeFlore, USCG Headquarters EO Office.



UPCOMING EVENTS



SEPTEMBER

* **SEPT 15th-OCT 15th**; Hispanic American Heritage Month; Theme: "Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society"

OCTOBER

* **1ST-31ST**; National Disability Employment Awareness Month; Theme: "Workers with Disabilities: Talent for a Winning Team"