

JULY 2015
VOL. 1

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FROM THE CHIEF'S MESS

Ahoy to our families and friends ashore! I hope everyone had a great 4th of July. Thank you all so much for the continued support you send, we couldn't do this without you. Rest assured you are always on our minds. Being underway is the toughest job in the Coast Guard and your support really helps.

It's amazing to walk through the ship and see the *unparalleled* professionalism this crew puts out day in and day out. You have every reason to be proud, as this team is the top in the fleet. In physical appearance, mechanically, and operationally you won't find a

better Medium Endurance Cutter in the Coast Guard and that's all attributed to the hard work these men and women put in.

With summer transfer season behind us we have gone through an almost 30% crew change out and everyone has quickly bonded. When not engaged in the mission the crew is working hard to obtain their qualifications and the others are working hard training them. The new people have quickly jumped in and are already making major contributions. We are very fortunate to have a very tight crew.

Early into the patrol we are busy conducting Alien Migration Interdiction Operations

enforcing our nation's Immigrations laws. To date we have had over 100 Cuban Migrants on our flight deck, interdicted as they attempted to cross the treacherous seas on homemade rafts and sail boats. Not only are we enforcing immigration policy but we are also conducting search and rescue operations as these homemade vessels are usually poorly made and always overloaded making for very dangerous conditions.

Again, thank you so much for your continued love and support. We're all looking forward to our return to Boston. –Chief Welton

Blast from the Past: SENECA History

In July of 1994, USCGC SENECA and her crew departed for a 2 month patrol off the coast of Haiti in support of Operation Able Manner, a mission of rescuing Haitians leaving their country by boat in droves. This was the crew's second patrol in support of this mission, already having made significant contributions including rescuing 350 people off of a 60 ft boat. SENECA joined more than 15 other Coast Guard Cutters patrolling the Windward Passage, in a month where more than 15,000 Haitians had already been saved by the Coast Guard. Tension between Caribbean nations was high, and regularly covered by the news. SENECA's departure was captured by the Boston Herald.





Dependent's Cruise



Early on June 20, 2015, USCGC SENECA returned from a short underway period in preparation for our upcoming patrol. When we moored at Base Boston, our families, friends, and colleagues were waiting on the pier, and a little more than an hour later, we were underway with more than 200 people on board.

This marked the first Dependent's Cruise that SENECA had hosted in several years. The show of support displayed by the huge turnout of friends and families was heart warming.

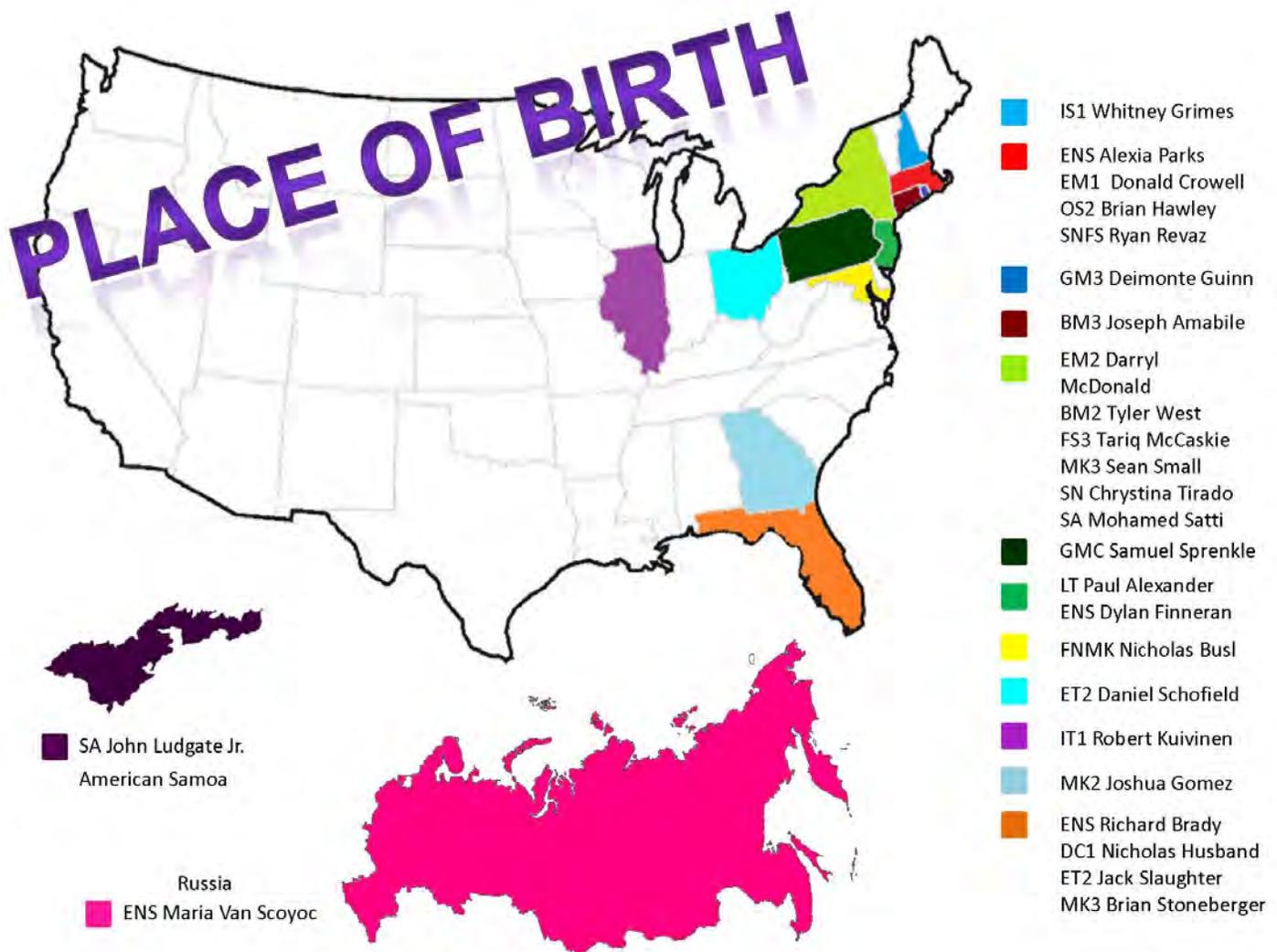


Activities during the day included a Boston Harbor tour guide, a boat launch of the Over-the-Horizon small boat, an anchoring and a damage control display. The most important part of the day was hands down our top-notch Food Service Specialists preparing an awesome meal for all who were embarked.

We had a fantastic time, having those close to us onboard. The opportunity to give our friends and families a look, however small it may have been, at what we do when we are underway, is priceless for each of us. The crew enjoyed the opportunity, and we hope you did as well. Thank you for sharing this with us, for supporting us, and enabling us to get underway and complete our missions.



WELCOME NEW SHIPMATES!

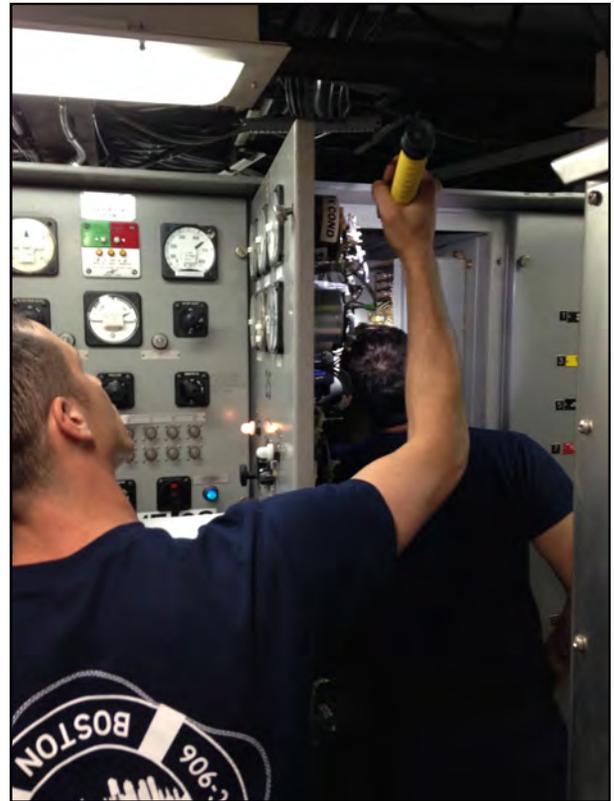


Welcome aboard to all of the new members of the SENECA crew, both permanently assigned and also those who have been assigned to us for the patrol! SENECA is happy to have you all and cannot wait to see what everyone brings to the table. Also, a big welcome aboard to all of the families of those newly reported. We couldn't do what needs to be done without your support from home; it is truly appreciated. Welcome to the SENECA family and we hope you enjoy the ride!

The image above shows where all of our new members hail from!

Division Spotlight: Electrical Division

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT THIS EDITION IS ON....DRUM ROLL PLEASE.....SENECA POWER AND LIGHT, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRICAL DIVISION! YES, THE PUN IS INTENDED. LEADING THIS OUTSTANDING TEAM OF DEDICATED ELECTRICIANS IS EMC STEVE CRAIG. THE TEAM, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES EM1 CROWELL, EM2 MCDONALD, EM3 MECKES AND EM3 SCOTT, HAS CERTAINLY SEEN AND OVERCOME MANY CHALLENGES THIS PATROL. THE ELECTRICAL DIVISION HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK TROUBLESHOOTING AND REPAIRING VOLTAGE REGULATORS, CRANES, ALARM SYSTEMS AND A MYRIAD OF SENSORS. MANY CASUALTIES HAD THE POTENTIAL TO DERAIL OUR OPERATIONAL STATUS BUT OUR ELECTRICIANS STUCK IT OUT AND KEPT SENECA MISSION READY. FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE BOAT TO THE TOP OF THE MAST, THESE GUYS WORK DAY AND NIGHT TO ENSURE THE ELECTRICAL LOAD IS STEADY AND THE NAVIGATION LIGHTS ARE BURNING BRIGHTLY.



"CUT THE RED ONE!
Yeah, the blue one, that's what I said."

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

The SENECA Crew wishes a Happy Anniversary to our shipmates and their loved ones:

- SN Donovan and Kiara Salvant- 1 Year
- BM2 Paul and Ashley Segura- 12 Years
- OSC Jason and Catherine Thorn- 16 Years



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



SENECA wishes a happy birthday to the following shipmates:

- ETC Price 7/6
- MK1 Ketcham 7/7
- FN Marquez 7/7
- SN Salvant 7/13
- ENS Van Scoyoc 7/20

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NEW QUALIFICATIONS!

Our crewmembers work hard to earn their qualifications so they can help keep the cutter running and operational!

Bravo Zulu to all the members who attained new qualifications so far this patrol! Continue the hard work!

Operations Department

ENS Fredericksen – Deck Watch Officer

ETC Price – CIC Watch Supervisor

OS2 DeSalvo – CIC Watch Supervisor

ENS Van Scoyoc – Quartermaster of the Watch

ENS Parks – Quartermaster of the Watch

BM3 Amabile – Quartermaster of the Watch

ENS Lamphere – Boarding Officer

ENS Grills – Boarding Officer

ENS Finneran – Shipping Officer

OS3 Handy – Cutter Rescue Swimmer

Deck Department

SN Tirado – Helm and Lookout & Rescue Swimmer Tender

SN Agius – Boat Deck in Charge & Davit Operator

SN Ludgate – Rescue Swimmer Tender

SN Gary – Cutter Rescue Swimmer

Engineering Department

FN Davis – Underway Security Watch

MK3 Sardinha – Prop Watch

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OUR NEW OMBUDSMAN



Below is a message from our new ombudsman, Mrs. Brittney Jenness! She is a direct link between families and the Command and cutter while we are underway. If you are interested in receiving updates and important information, please send her an email with your contact information at the email address listed below!

Good Afternoon,

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Brittney Jenness! I am the new Ombudsman of the Seneca! I have three beautiful kids and a stay at home mom! I have been a Coastie Wife for over 13 years! We just moved here to the area last summer! I am excited to meet all the families from the boat!

I have frequent contact with the command and will relay information to our families when I receive the info. I am here to help you with all the challenges we may face!

I am committed to serving you with the highest standards of professionalism, patience, reliability and confidentiality. I am honored to be chosen to be the Ombudsman for the ship, so please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any issues in which I may be able to assist you!

Thanks

Brittney Jenness

Seneca Ombudsman

SenecaOmbudsman906@gmail.com



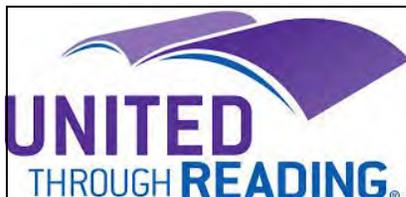
CAUGHT ON CAMERA!



UNITED THROUGH READING

United Through Reading is a program where crewmembers have the ability to create a recording of themselves reading a book to a child back home. We then make DVDs of the recording and send them home along with the book they were reading, so the child can read along with the crewmember on the DVD.

The program is a great way for families to stay connected through the power of reading. If you have any questions about the program please email ENS Fredericksen at Nicholas.M.Fredericksen@USCG.MIL and encourage your crewmember to sign up!



More information can be found here:
<http://www.unitedthroughreading.org/>



How recording a story impacts your child

Why keep in touch through reading?
When your children press **[play]**, your story will brighten their day. For a few minutes, it will seem like you're together again for story time. Most children who receive United Through Reading recordings watch them over and over again.

A simple recording of you reading a story to your child will bring **essential emotional support**:

- Children are **reassured** when they see your face, hear your voice and know you're safe.
- Children fall asleep easier after a **bedtime story**.
- At homecoming, **you'll be a familiar hero**.
- **Even babies respond** to hear the voice of someone who loves them—**your voice**.



With your recording, you sustain your role as your children's teacher. Your stories and personal messages will:

- 1 Help your children build reading skills, learn new words and explore new concepts.
- 2 Motivate your children to read as they see how important books are to you.
- 3 Be a way to connect with their challenges and feelings.

One recording can brighten many days for your family, bringing simple family pleasures that reassure and teach, building resilience in your children during the challenges of family separations, and strengthening family bonds across continents and time zones.



"We loved receiving the DVDs - we hosted a Daddy Reading Night every week and played those DVDs until the children fell asleep. We cried, we kissed and held those DVDs because they brought Daddy so close." -Ailitary spouse and mom

It only takes 30 minutes.
Look for **United Through Reading** at your duty station or your nearest participating USO.

11772 Sonoma Valley Rd. Ste. 125 | San Diego, CA 92121 | 658-481-7325 | usrc@usrc.org | www.unitedthroughreading.org | CFC # 11383

HAVE A FAMILY EMERGENCY?

Do you have something or someone you would like to see featured in the SENECA Sailor, or any questions for our newsletter staff? If so, please submit a Letter to the Editor that will be featured in our next edition to...

Kathryn.R.Lamphere@uscg.mil



Service members can rest assured that the Red Cross will deliver notification of an emergency such as the death or serious illness of an immediate family member, as well as the good news of the birth of a service member's child or grandchild. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the Red Cross relays urgent messages containing **accurate, factual, complete and verified descriptions of the emergency to service members stationed anywhere in the world, including on ships at sea** and at embassies and remote locations. If you or a loved one needs to utilize this service, call **(877) 272-7337** or visit **www.Redcross.org**.



MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SENECA SAILOR CONTRIBUTORS...

CWO Devin, YN1 Nava, BM2 Liston, OS3 Wygand, OS2 DeSalvo, ENS Fredericksen, ENS Lamphere, ENS Grills,