

## COAST GUARD



COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

U.S. Coast Guardsmen hold roses and stand in formation during an anniversary memorial service for the crew of the sunken ship USCGC Blackthorn.

# Honoring fallen Coast Guard heroes

By **Adm. Bob Papp**,  
Coast Guard Commandant

As we observe the manners of our profession this Memorial Day, we remember and honor our nation's soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who died while in military service. We must never forget that freedom is not free, but is only made possible by the thousands of patriots who stood the watch and selflessly made the ultimate sacrifice to serve our

nation. We owe them an eternal debt of gratitude.

The Coast Guard has proudly served for more than 222 years. During times of war or peace, Coast Guardsmen risk their lives every day in the service of our country. This is what we do. We protect people on the sea, we protect the nation against threats delivered by sea, and we protect the sea itself.

This Memorial Day we will have the honor of rededicating the U.S. Coast Guard World War Memorial on Coast Guard Hill in Arlington National Ceme-

tery. Decades of weather and exposure had taken their toll on this monument, which honors Coast Guardsmen who gave their lives during World War I. Answering the call to both honor our profession and those who served, our Washington, D.C., chapter of the Chief Petty Officers Association took it upon themselves to continue to pay respect to their lost TAMPA and SENECA shipmates by restoring this monument to their service and sacrifice. The chiefs led the way, and I am excited that the U.S. Coast Guard World War Memo-

rial is fully restored and shines once again.

Memorial Day helps us to honor all of our fallen shipmates, including those who are not yet named on a memorial, such as Senior Chief Petty Officer Terrell Horne who made the ultimate sacrifice on Dec. 2, 2012, while protecting our shores as a maritime law enforcement officer. When his Coast Guard small boat was about to be rammed by smugglers during a pre-dawn pursuit off the California coast, Horne leaned forward into the point of impact

and pushed his boat coxswain to safety, sacrificing his own life in the collision. He put his crew before himself. That kind of leadership is the very soul of our service.

As we honor the "long blue line" of Coast Guardsmen who have gone before us, let us remember that Memorial Day is even more than reflecting upon their accomplishments, commitment and sacrifice. It is about looking ahead at the obligation we all have before us — to our country, our service and to each other. Semper Paratus.

## NATIONAL GUARD

# Citizen soldiers leave a legacy of merit, bravery

By **Gen. Frank J. Grass**,  
chief, National Guard Bureau

Legacy: Something handed down from a predecessor or from the past.

With Memorial Day on the horizon, it's important to reflect upon the legacy left us by thousands of brave and selfless National Guard men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting our nation's wars. The freedom all Americans enjoy is their most significant legacy, but their legacies have come in many forms and yielded so much more.

We owe it to their memories to preserve and nurture their legacy.

Their service has bequeathed us an operational force of 460,000 citizen soldiers and airmen equally adept at fighting either an enemy overseas or a natural disaster at home.

This legacy includes deploying individually more than 750,000 times overseas since 9/11. Despite the known dangers and increased operational tempo, every soldier and airman in today's National Guard either enlisted or reenlisted since 9/11. More than 50 percent are seasoned combat veterans.

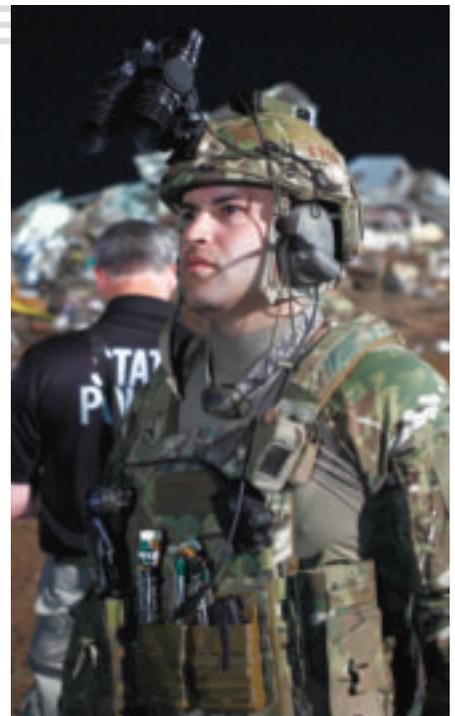
They accomplished all while providing the nation untold value, especially important given the fiscally con-

strained times in which we live. Guard members are only paid when we're in uniform. Our soldiers and airmen retire later, costing less in pension entitlements.

Even when mobilized, Guard members do not need expensive bases and services, and have reduced overall health costs. The National Guard also retains for our nation hard-won, expensive-to-acquire military skills and experience by recruiting into its ranks qualified volunteers leaving active service, more than 64,000 soldiers since 2010.

The National Guard legacy has saved lives, protected property and helped restore normalcy after natural and man-made disasters. As hundreds ran to safety after the first Boston Marathon explosion, Guard members ran toward danger to help victims. In 2012 alone, Guard members answered the call more than 100 times to help neighbors recover from hurricanes, floods and wildfires. The National Guard has always been ready, always been there for our nation. That is yet another legacy, one that goes back to before our nation's founding.

This Memorial Day, as you reflect on the legacy left to us by citizen soldiers and airmen over almost four centuries, let's pay tribute to those who have come before us by working hard to preserve the well-trained, ready and cost-effective force our nation and communities depend on to protect us at home and abroad.



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

Oklahoma National Guard soldiers and airmen respond to a devastating tornado that ripped through Moore, Okla., on Monday.