

In the Lee of

The Longboat



Flotilla 86 Newsletter
2025 Vol. 21 Ed. 1

Flotilla Commander Catherine Betham
Flotilla VC Joseph Mammarella

 **U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**



Cape May Lighthouse on a Winter Day

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!

My name is Catherine Betham and I am Flotilla Commander (FC) for Flotilla 86 elected for year 2024 and again in 2025. I became involved in the Auxiliary in 2019 when my two sons were in the coast guard and graduated TRACEN. When I first joined, I had no idea what to expect since I had never served in any form of military. I was guided by a great group of members who educated me and encouraged me in the process of Core training, uniforms, Boater Safety Education, etc. While Covid had a negative impact on moral and participation now that the uncertainty of Covid is gone, we are getting back to where we were when I first started and I am hoping 2025 will bring increased participation.

When I was elected FC in 2024, my goals were to continue with the Divisions plan to enhance cooperation between Flotillas and to find ways to boost member involvement. Attracting new members, engaging current members and taking advantage of educational opportunities will ensure our ability to assist the USCG. A goal I have for 2025 is to educate and prepare members for Flotilla Commander (FC), Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) roles for the upcoming year

I am happy to say that we now have a strong group of members who are committed to volunteering. I was able to appoint four officers to fill the positions of Information Services (IS), Human Resource (HR), Public Affairs (PA) and Diversity (DV).

I am certain that it was through our division's leadership of Lorraine Bianco and Marty Sannino, that I was able to achieve some of my goals. This past year has definitely been a learning year for me personally in the position of FC and I hope to continue my education so that I may lead effectively this upcoming year. I am excited



Catherine Betham makes her home in Lower Township, NJ. and is mother to 4 children , 2 of which are active duty in the Coast Guard. She work as Clinic Director at VIM and also as an on call Hospice nurse.

**Flotilla Commander
Cathy Betham**

FINANCE REPORT



John J. Staley Jr. - FSO FN Finance

Finance Office duties include but are not limited to Exercising staff responsibility and supervision over all flotilla financial matters, Receive and pay out all funds of the flotilla, keep records of all receipts, disbursements and other financial transactions. Prepare an annual budget for review by the budget committee and approval of the flotilla, render financial reports at flotilla meetings, send out requests and collect dues from all members, ensure prompt payment of division and national dues, provide data and ensure that the annual unit audit is performed and that

the Financial Report of the Auxiliary Unit, CGAUX-23 (ANSC-7025), is completed and forwarded as required.

The big story for the finances of Flotilla 86 in 2024 was that our projected budget was to end the year with about \$400 ahead of 2023. Due to several reasons, we actually ended the year with about \$1500 more than the start of the year. One of my biggest goals for 2025 is to work with the FC and other officers in order to spend some of this money on good things like items that we can give out at public events. It is great to have such this cushion of funds; however, it is also beneficial to make use of funds in order to help the Flotilla meet it's other goals and objectives.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS REPORT



Dan McConnell - FSO IS Information Systems

My goal as IS officer is to ensure that our records in the system are accurate. I am available to help make technology easier for members of the Flotilla. Saving time and eliminating frustration helps members focus on missions that directly benefit the Coast Guard and our community. I'm still relatively new to the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the IS position. However, with the help of Bernie, Cathy and many others I am starting to find ways to help. I would say the majority of my time is directly related to getting hours recorded. Your time counts! - It reflects our effort on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard and

can have an impact on the Coast Guard Budget so make sure you record all hours and activities! If you need help entering hours directly into AuxData please don't hesitate to reach out. I am happy to help with questions and appreciate suggestions for improvement!

HR REPORT



Edward John Campbell - FSO HR Human Relations

I am excited to introduce myself as the new HR Officer for Flotilla 053-08-06 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I am eager to assist new applicants and guide them through the processes to ensure a smooth onboarding experience. With a strong support system and an abundance of knowledgeable individuals above me, I have the resources to answer any questions that arise. I look forward to serving the Coast Guard Auxiliary and contributing positively to our team.

VE REPORT



Joseph Mammarella FSO - VE Vessel Exams

Special thanks to Vince Ricevuto for coordinating and facilitating Flotilla joint marina days. His leadership provided a professional presence for our Auxiliaries while creating opportunities for additional exams. We are excited to welcome new Flotilla 86 Vessel Examiners as we kick off the 2025 season.

Flotilla 86 Vessel Examiners did a total of 71 exams in 2024 -and that was with just 4 VE's ! If you would like to join us in this rewarding activity talk to me!

THANKS to our VE Shipmates!!!

Steve Ackerman Paul Becker	John Staley Joe Mammarella
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MARINE SAFETY REPORT



Joseph. M. Grottola Jr.- FSO MS Marine Safety

In February 11th and 12th grade students from Lower Cape May Regional High School – Oceanography and Marine Biology reviewed the NOAA Mid-Atlantic and New England Marine Life Viewing Guidelines for Whales, Dolphins & Porpoises, Seals and Sea Turtles.

Field trips in April 2024 had these students involved with Diamondback Terrapin Conservation & Release on three occasions. During these trips which were held at Shell Thorofare, Jarvis Sound and adjacent waterways in Lower Township students released terrapins back into the salt marsh and inter-coastal waterway. Students also rescued and released terrapin hatchlings trapped in the local storm drain system that empty into our marine ecosystems. Students prepared for the Terrapin release by studying the boating and environmental threats as well as the life-cycle of the Diamondback Terrapin. Proper NJ regulations regarding terrapin excluder devices on recreational and commercial crab traps were also addressed.



Diamond Back Terrapin

In September these students participated in several field activities to collect local salt water fish species for their marine biology aquarium projects. Students use seine nets to collect a variety of local and visiting salt water species including striped bass, bluefish, sea robin, pipefish, croaker, weakfish, kingfish, spot, mullet, striped killifish, shrimp, crabs, silverside, tautaug, black sea bass, flounder, pipefish, grunt, seahorse, sheepshead, butterfly fish, feathered blenny, goby, stargazer, eel and squid. Students are required to identify each species collected and create descriptions to accompany each aquarium display. Students are responsible for the proper care and feeding of all the sea creatures until their release back into local waters in late spring. Student also study the threats to these populations from pollution and overfishing. NJ fishing and regulations and conservation activities are also reviewed.



Goby

WHALE OF A DAY

July 6, 2024 Townbank, NJ

Flotilla 86 participated again this past year at this annual community event. Arts and crafts, food and beverage vendors along with veteran tables and our USCG Auxiliary table. Our table displayed something for everyone on how to have safe day on the water. Boat safety coloring books and Iron-on transfer papers were big hit with the children.



Thanks to Miles Barrett, Joe Grottola, Joe Dunn, James Dillon and John Staley who made our participation a success!



AIRFEST !

Every year we have the Airfest held at NASW in Lower Township and the USCG has a section of the hangar devoted to the CG. As Auxilliarists , we set up a table in front of the CG display and we have 1-2 members man that table throughout the weekend. We place literature about USCG, boater safety , etc on the table and interact with the public. It's a great way to teach the public about boater safety and spark some interest in joining the USCG. Once this table is set up, we leave it up for the whole weekend and the only thing we need at that point are members to man the tables.



USCG MH-65 DOLPHIN



C-54 SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

IN THE NEWS



September 2024 - ADM Fagan, Commandant, and MCPOCG Heath Jones recognized **Petty Officer Abbott** for her work as a Navigation Petty Officer and for Public Affairs. She volunteers numerous hours in the community for Cape May.

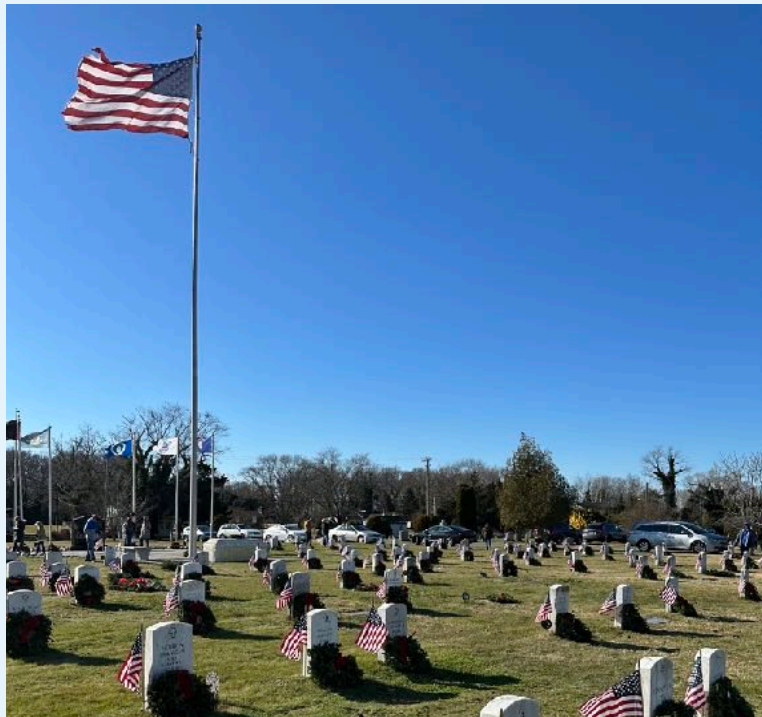


Petty Officer Piloto was recognized for guiding members of the engineering department through 250 hours of maintenance and engineering casualties. He provided impactful mentorship to fellow crew members seeking to improve physical and mental health. Petty Officer Piloto was awarded a meritorious advancement due to his embodiment of the Coast Guard core values!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

“TO REMEMBER THE FALLEN, TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE AND TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO VALUE FREEDOM”



Community Associations and Organizations

USCG Auxiliary 86 of Lower Township
American Legion Post 193 ~ Cape May
Ancient Order of Hibernians of North Wildwood
Cape May County Emerald Society
Cape May Patriots Chapter DAR
Greater Cape May Elks Lodge 2839
Greater Wildwood Elks Lodge 1896
Kiwanis Club of Cape May
Property Owners Association of Cape May Beach
Senior Citizens of North Cape May
Viet Nam Veterans of America
VFW Post 386 ~ Cape May

**COLD SPRING
VETERAN'S
CEMETERY**

DECEMBER 14, 2024



Flotilla 86 was honored to participate once again in the National Wreaths Across America Day along with other community organizations. This annual ceremony is quite moving and well attended by the general public . Afterwards attendees placed wreaths on the veterans graves. Over 330 wreaths were laid on Veteran graves by the volunteers. A special thanks to Flotilla members who helped on December 11th at 8am to unload the Truck!

CHANGE OF WATCH

December 14, 2024
Red Brick Ale House & Grille, North Cape May



The Change-of-Watch ceremony for Flotilla Auxiliary 86 was held at the Red Brick Ale House and Grille in afternoon following the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Cold Spring Veteran cemetery. It was an enjoyable time of fellowship and great lunch!

Division Commander Lorraine Bianco led the ceremony where Cathy Betham was sworn in as Flotilla Commander and Joe Mammarella as Vice Commander for Flotilla 86 for 2025. Newly elected officers were formally installed and Flotilla accomplishments were recognized.



FLOTILLA MEETING

November 20, 2024



At our November meeting, member training included an instructor led demonstration of hands only CPR . Flotilla member Chris Gamble, an American Heart Association certified provider, led the group through an explanation of emergency basic life support procedure and showed flotilla members proper technique for performing the skill on a CPR mannequin. Members then had the opportunity to practice hands only CPR on the mannequins and were given feedback and coaching as they learned this important life saving skill.



It was delightful to see Michael and Joseph Frumento this past Fall when they stopped in on our monthly meeting to say hello. These two Coasties are our Flotilla Commander's sons. They both went thru Tracen - Mike is now in the Coast Guard reserves and will be going to work for the state of Texas doing intelligence work while Joe put in 4 yrs with the Coast Guard is now in Italy continuing his education.

The Coast Guard put them both on an excellent path to achieve their goals !



CONGRATULATIONS



**Shirley Ackerman
Sustained Service**



**Steve Ackerman
Sustained Service**



Miles Barrett CG Sustained



**Joseph Ragni is awarded
Certificate of BQ Status**

CONGRATULATIONS!



Joe Grottola
CG Sustained Auxiliary Service Award



Joe Dunn Membership Service Award



Chris Gamble 15 Year Service Award



John Staley
CG Sustained Auxiliary Service Award



Pat King 15 Year Service Award

OPPORTUNITIES...

Here is the link to the Google calendar where Aux members can see all activities for the division. You can attend any activity at any flotilla within the division, esp if you need VE qualifications, etc.

Type to enter text -

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=dXNjZ2F1eDA1MzA4QGdtYWIsLmNvbQ>

HOW WILL YOU SERVE THE FLOTILLA in 2025?

There are multiple opportunities for you to be an active member of Flotilla 86 - Not sure what you want to do or where you may be needed? - just ask our FC!!

***WE ARE VOLUNTEERS!
YOU ARE NEEDED!!....***

For Public Boating Safety

Boating Class Instructor
Boating Class Aide
Vessel Examiner

At Community Venues and Events

Boat Show in Atlantic City
Wreaths Across America
NAS Wildwood Aviation Museum
Night out Against Crime
Lights Out Day
July 4th
Whale of a Day

At the USCG Base

Watch Standing
Movie Night
Tour Guides
Serve breakfast and Dinner on Coast Guard Base
Beach Tag Checker at the Coast Guard Beach

By our Flotilla

Change of Watch (work on center pieces, favors, programs)
Flotilla Photographer
Newsletter & Publications
Flotilla Events

OPEN STAFF OFFICER POSITIONS

**FSO CM Communications
FSO OP Operations
FSO PV Marine Dealer Visitor**

ATLANTIC CITY BOAT SHOW 2025

Here is an opportunity for some fun volunteer time manning the USCGA booth at the Boat Show! Contact Dave Hartman: dph322@gmail.com Phone: 609 464-1347

Feb 26 - March 2, 2025 - Atlantic City Convention Center
Wednesday - Friday: Noon-8pm / Saturday: 10am-8pm / Sunday:

A fun time is to be had at the this event featuring the most comprehensive selection of boats and gear in the area, learn new skills at educational exhibits. The USCG and the USGG AUX will be there and so should you!

Boats, Kayaks, Paddleboards
Fishing seminars
Learn the Art of Casting
Take a photo with the 'Big Catch'
a 10-ft. tuna caught near Novia Scotia!
Classic & Race Boats on Display
Experience Paddlesports and
And Twiggy, the Waterskiing Squirrel will be at the show!

For event times and more info go
online to : <https://www.acboatshow.com>

HEROES' DAY!

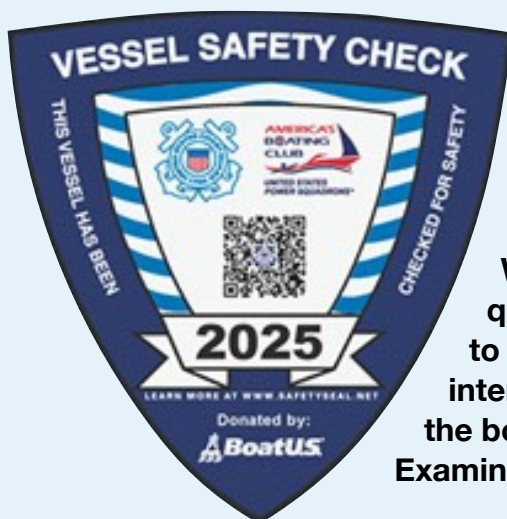


FREE ADMISSION*

All active/veteran military, active/retired first responders and USCG & USCGA members can take advantage of FREE admission on Wednesday, February 26.

Simply show your military/first responder/USCG & USCGA valid identification card along with photo ID at Will Call to receive your

Boating Season will be here soon! ...



We are dedicated to making boating safer and our vessel examiners will soon be providing this important service to our boating community. Our Vessel Examiners checks boats to ensure it compliance with all State and Federal boating laws. This is not a law enforcement action and citations are not issued. Our Goal Is Accident Prevention. We provide educational materials, answer boating related questions, identify potential problems and offer suggestions to help improve vessel, crew and passenger safety. If you are interested in becoming qualified to assist the Coast Guard and the boating public in this way contact please our FSO VE Vessel Examinations Joe Mammarella at : jmammarella@mammerica.com

D-TRAIN



Plan now to attend D-Train this spring!!

There is a line-up of sessions and events planned for Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday. This spring will include expanded course offerings and session plans.

The U.S. Coast Guard Active Duty team will be there, ready to share some thrilling new opportunities for D5NR Auxiliarists during our Saturday Annual Awards Banquet.

Join in! whether for the entire DTRAIN weekend or just for a day you will find it to be a rewarding experience. It's going to be time well spent full of learning, laughter, and making new friends.



UNIFORMS - LUCKY BAG

The Lucky Bag Shop located on base at 1 Munro Ave is open to auxiliary members Wednesday 9am to 11am and Thursday 10-1 pm. Phone: 609-898-6922
Uniforms can also be obtained from the Shack in Cape May Flt 82



The Lucky Bag is the first place to shop for your uniform! At the Lucky Bag you will find slightly used and new items so you will look your best at USGG-AUX functions

You may also purchase uniforms online:

Polo Shirts: <https://signexplosion.com/collections/uscg-auxilliary>

Men's Pants: <https://www.511tactical.com/taclitepro-pants.html>

Men's Shorts: <https://www.511tactical.com/tacliteshort-11-inch.html>

Womens pants: <https://www.511tactical.com/taclitepro-pant-womens.html>

Womens Shorts: <https://www.511tactical.com/womens-taclite-pro-short.html>

UNIFORMS



We appreciate the volunteer time that you give and know that it is not always possible to attend our meetings in uniform however when possible it is suggested that you wear AWU, or the USCG polo shirt.



SDB

Service Dress Blue (SDB) uniform is the official Uniform of the Day appropriate for wear at all meetings, in classrooms, and at all other similar functions.

It may be worn year-round for business within the Coast Guard and for occasions where the civilian equivalent is coat and tie. It is authorized for wear in a travel status pursuant to Coast Guard assignment to duty.



SDB

Tropical Blue This uniform may be worn instead of the Service Dress Blue uniform except for occasions where the civilian equivalent is coat and tie.



AWU

Alternative Dress Uniform (AWU) is the principal general purpose, every day Coast Guard uniform in long and short sleeve versions. It may be worn year-round primarily as a field utility and watchstanding uniform. It is intended for wear in any situation that does not require a dress uniform, including patrols, vessel safety checks, and Coast Guard unit office wear at Commanding Officer's discretion.



AWU

Uniform Guide is available at - <https://www.cgaux.org/uniforms>

LIFEBOAT CG-36538

RESTORATION UPDATE



Lifeboat CG-36538 Update By Ed Melega



1952 CG 36538 MLB (Motor Life Boat) restoration progress is ongoing and nearing completion and will be announced when completed. We were able to partner with NASW (Navel Air Station Wildwood) this past August thru October to display the Life Boat for public view and had a banner few days during their Air Festival over Labor day weekend. We had over 700 signatures in our visitor log and most likely had a few hundred more view the boat who did not sign our guest log.

The rebuilt engine was placed in the boat this past spring, completely rebuilt by local Eckels Marine diesel shop, a new propeller shaft was procured and aligned to the engine last month. We have a punch list of items we are working on and presently we are actively looking for a propeller.

The Propeller is a 27 inch diameter right hand 3 blade with 21 inch pitch and 1.5 inch bore, if anyone at the flotilla has any leads, let us know. CG 36538 is presently at Cape Harbor Marine in Rio Grande at an indoor facility. If any flotilla members would like a tour, please reach out and we will do our best to schedule.

DO YOU HAVE THE APP?

The USCG Boating Safety App features includes:

- Find the latest safety regulations
- Request a vessel safety check
- Check your safety equipment
- File a float plan
- Navigation Rules
- Find the nearest NOAA buoy
- Report a hazard
- Report pollution
- Report suspicious activity
- Request emergency assistance



AUXDATA II

Please keep track of every thing you do for the Auxiliary. Hours should be recorded on form 7029 and submitted online on a regular basis. Your time counts towards the Coast Guard Budget. It all goes into the Auxdata System, which reflects our effort on behalf of the Coast Guard. Time is money!, nothing into the system means nothing out and Congress cuts funding. - so record all your hours and activities in AuxData II on form 7929.

If you are challenged by the AuxData II - contact Flotilla Staff Officer Information Systems Dan McConnell - dan.mcconnell300@gmail.com He is happy to “walk you through it”.

Online classes at AuxData II are able to keep us current right off the dashboard screen that opens when you log in. Print the certificate/s you receive to keep for your files and email a copy to our Flotilla Commander so that your efforts will be recognized to inspire other members. BTW ID cards are not issued to members if 5 years have lapsed, you must complete all required courses for renewal of your ID card. Also credits for your volunteer hours spent will not count until you are up to date.

The Member Competency Report has been updated to include the reason for the REYR status. Click on Report: **Member Competency REYR Report (force.com)**
After you log into AUXDATA II, the report will “come up.”

Auxiliarists who do not complete all annual currency maintenance requirements by 31 December, including mandatory workshops, are placed in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status in AUXDATA. Auxiliarists in REYR status must complete all program-specific requirements in order to re-gain program currency and authorization to perform program activities.

ID card Renewal - Photos for ID Cards need to be on a red background and you must be in uniform . Be sure to renew your ID card at least two months before it expires - you will not be permitted on base without it. Form 5NR-ADMIN-11 needs to be sent up to DirAux for ID renewal and the process takes time. **If you are in REYR status your card will NOT be renewed until you are up to date with Core classes.**

Form 7035 Change of Membership Status is needed if you are planning to retire, dis-enroll or relocate to another Flotilla. Flotilla pays for your membership status to National until you change your membership status. If you are dis-enrolling contact FC Father Miles Barrett at **252-571-3168** you may also text him at this number or email at: miles4724@netzero.com

***Monthly phone and text messages from the District Coast Guard Drill take seconds to reply acknowledging you are alive and well.
Your response is important and reflects upon the Flotilla !***

Flotilla 86 website: www.uscgaux-ltnj.org

Flotilla 86 New Member Page:

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=new-members>

Flotilla members are allowed to utilize the pool and gym within certain time frames (all based on recruit activities) along with the CG exchange as long as they have proper ID

Per the last division meeting , members are allowed on base with proper ID, if they are bringing a guest , they need to be on the MIGS list.

2025 BRIDGE AND STAFF OFFICERS

FC Flotilla Commander- Catherine Betham - cathynewkirk63@gmail.com
VFC Vice Commander- Joe Mammarella - jmammarella@mammerica.com
IPFC Immediate Past FC- Father Miles Barrett
FSO CS Computer Services- Joseph Mammarella - jmammarella@mammerica.com
FSO CM Communications- OPEN
FSO DV Diversity- Joe Murphy - jmurphy505@hotmail.com
FSO FN Finance- John J. Staley Jr. - john.staleyelectric@gmail.com
FSO HR Human Relations- Edward John Campbell- capebuilds@gmail.com
FSO IS Daniel Patrick McConnell - dan.mcconnell300@gmail.com
FSO MA Materials- Shirley Ackerman- seackermanrn@hotmail.com
FSO MS Marine Safety - Joseph M. Grottola Jr.- jellyfish7@verizon.net
FSO MT Member Training - Stephen D. Ackerman- w2czn@aol.com
FSO NS Navigation Services- Stephen D. Ackerman - w2czn@aol.com
FSO OP Operations- OPEN
FSO PA Public Affairs- James Dillion - jamesdillonjr@gmail.com
FSO PB Publications - Patricia Hartnett-King - phking@comcast.net
FSO PE Public Education - Shirley Ackerman - seackermanrn@hotmail.com
FSO PV Marine Dealer Visitor - OPEN
FSO SR Secretary/ Records -Cathrine Betham- cathynewkirk63@gmail.com.
FSO VE Vessel Examinations-Joe Mammarella/jmammarella@mammerica.com

2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are generally held the 4TH Wednesday of each month at Price Hall in Cold Spring at 1900 hour

January 22
February 26
March 26
April 23
May 28
June 25
July 23
August 27
September 24
October 22
November 19 (3rd Wednesday)
December TBD - (Change of Watch)

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th Northern Region - Division 8
Flotilla 86, Lower Township, NJ**



**Like us on Facebook:
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Flotilla 86 - Lower Township, NJ**

SINCE 1939, THE MEN AND WOMAN OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY HAVE VOLUNTEERED MILLIONS OF HOURS IN SUPPORT OF THE COAST GUARD AND THE RECREATIONAL BOATING PUBLIC.

WE ARE THE UNIFORMED CIVILIAN VOLUNTEER ARM OF THE COAST GUARD

website: USCGAUX-ltnj.org

