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## **COAST GUARD FOUNDATION TO PAY TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES COAST GUARD SEVENTH DISTRICT**

*National Awards Event in Fort Lauderdale to Honor Coast Guard Heroism and  
Mission Excellence*

**Stonington, Conn.** – The Coast Guard Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to the education and welfare of all Coast Guard members and their families, announced today that its 2017 Tribute to the Seventh District Awards Dinner in Fort Lauderdale will take place Thursday, November 16, 2017 at the Pier Sixty-Six Hotel & Marina.

At the event, the Coast Guard Foundation will honor United States Coast Guard heroism and mission excellence with special recognition for Coast Guard members who have responded to hurricanes and natural disasters in the region in the last year, including the most recent hurricanes – Irma and Maria. The Foundation will also recognize Rick Sasso, chairman of MSC Cruises North America, for overseeing a company whose policies greatly align with many of the core values of the Coast Guard: safety, health and environmental protection. Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant of the Coast Guard, will deliver keynote remarks.

“Every day, the men and women of the Coast Guard serve and safeguard the public; protect the environment and its resources; and defend our Nation’s interests in our maritime region,” said Susan Ludwig, president, Coast Guard Foundation. “They rescue people in need and in the most difficult conditions, see cargo ships to port and are our first line of defense in the face of everything from storms to oil spills. We all witnessed this recently in their preparation for and response to the devastating storms that hit Texas, Florida and the Caribbean. We are humbled to recognize their service and give back as much as we can.”

Following Hurricane Harvey’s Texas landfall, which called on many Seventh District assets to support the response there, the month of September brought two more hurricanes to the area. Irma and Maria, both category-five hurricanes, did not impact a city or a region, but all of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and the entire state of

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Florida, as well as coastal regions of Georgia and South Carolina. The storms brought 185 mile-per-hour winds, mass destruction and catastrophic flooding to the area. More than 200 flights were performed by Coast Guard Seventh District heavy lift aircraft, bringing in excess of 2.5 million pounds of supplies and assistance to affected areas. More than 20 Coast Guard cutters responded, supporting the delivery of generators, medical supplies, food and water, and repairing crucial water pumps in isolated regions, like Vieques, Puerto Rico. Buoy tenders and Aids to Navigation teams repaired buoys and critical channel markers from South Carolina to the U.S. Virgin Islands while conducting port assessments. These teams had most federally maintained waterways open within two days following the storms, which allowed for bulk shipment of aid to affected regions and the resumption of commerce to multi-billion dollar ports.

The Coast Guard Foundation's Tribute to the Seventh District Awards Dinner in Fort Lauderdale will take place Thursday, November 16, 2017, at the Pier Sixty-Six Hotel & Marina, 2301 SE17 Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A cocktail reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and the program following at 7:30 p.m.

To learn more about the Coast Guard Foundation or to help support its work, please visit [www.coastguardfoundation.org](http://www.coastguardfoundation.org) or call (860) 535-0786.

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#### ***About The Coast Guard Foundation***

For 45 years, the Coast Guard Foundation has been committed to inspiring leadership, education and a proud legacy of service to our nation by supporting the men and women of the United States Coast Guard. The Foundation provides college scholarships to enlisted members, their spouses and their children, scholarships and support for families of Coast Guard members lost in the line of duty, and support for morale programs, including funding recreation, exercise and family-oriented facilities. The Coast Guard Foundation is headquartered in Stonington, Connecticut, where it maintains a staff of 13, with regional offices in the New York City area and St. Petersburg, Florida. To learn more about the Coast Guard Foundation or to help support its work, please visit [www.coastguardfoundation.org](http://www.coastguardfoundation.org).

- WHO:** *The Coast Guard Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the education, welfare and morale of all Coast Guard members and their families*
- WHAT:** *Coast Guard Foundation Tribute to the Seventh District Awards Dinner in Fort Lauderdale*
- WHEN:** *Thursday, November 16, 2017 – Cocktail reception 6:30 p.m., dinner and program begin at 7:30 p.m.*
- WHERE:** *Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, 2301 SE17 Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida*



***Coast Guard Aircrew Delivering FEMA Aid to Aguada, Puerto Rico on October 10, 2017  
Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Woodall***

***For imagery and other editorial requests, please contact:***

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