



Immediate Release
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Armed Forces Retirement Home Honors the U.S. Coast Guard's 232nd Birthday

Residents and staff at the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in Washington, D.C. convened recently to celebrate the 232nd birthday of the United States Coast Guard.

Guest speaker Master Chief Petty Officer Joshua Ewing extended his appreciation to the residents and AFRH for being invited to the ceremony to speak on behalf of his organization.

"It's honor for me to be here and to stand in front of all you," he said. "There is nothing more honorable than to be here, to come back and speak to folks that may not know where the Coast Guard is going."

Recognizing this year's theme of "Honoring our Past, Shaping Our Future," Ewing said the U.S. Coast Guard has successfully upheld its mission to save lives, ensure safety and inspect vessels. And going forward, he said it will keep protecting natural resources, lead in global maritime governance (enforcing the rule of law), and foster great partnerships, both domestically and internationally, to "strengthen the fabric of our homeland security."

The Coast Guard plans to announce the start of construction of a new national exhibit designed to get visitors actively engaged in learning about the history of this branch of the military, Ewing said.

"Later this month, the U.S. Coast Guard will conduct a keel laying ceremony in New London, Conn. marking the future site of the official United States Coast Guard Museum," he said. "It will be an interactive time capsule that will make our story, our history and our legacy even more accessible for generations to come."

Following the key note address, Coast Guard veterans Don Stout (92) and Lt. Cmdr. Toomey (36) cut the ceremonial birthday cake.

Master of Ceremony and AFRH Ombudsman Sam Gitchell, U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. (ret.), presented AFRH administrator coins to both Ewing and Toomey for their participation in the ceremony.

The United States Coast Guard started on August 4, 1790. It serves as both a federal law enforcement agency and a branch of the military under the Department of Homeland Security.

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The Armed Forces Retirement Home is the nation's premier life community for veterans of the U.S. armed forces and their spouses. Its mission is to fulfill America's commitment to its military veterans by providing an excellent community with exceptional residential care and extensive support services. The Home is one of America's most enduring veterans' retirement homes with campuses in Washington, District of Columbia and Gulfport, Mississippi. For more information, visit: afrh.gov