

YNCS Richard P. Maher (Ret)

United States Coast Guard Reserve

Duty Stations

- Assigned to Station Rockaway effective 8 Nov 85 as a YN3
- Assigned to Group Rockaway approximately 1 JAN 86
- Assigned to Station Shinnecock in Hampton Bays, NY 1 Oct 87. Advanced to YN2 followed by an advancement to YN1.
- Assigned to Group Moriches 25 SEP 95. Advanced to YNC 1 NOV 07
- Assigned to Sector New York Admin/PERS DIV 1 JUL 07. Advanced to YNCS 1 AUG 12
- Retired from Sector New York effective 16 Feb 15
- Past Commander, USCG Auxiliary 12-03

Overview

Like many members, when Senior Chief first joined the Coast Guard Reserves, he could not imagine the journey before him. He recounts that at the time of his first Oath and agreeing to an eight year enlistment; he thought that was close to a quarter of his life. Yet, by the end of his career, it was close to half his life.

Along the way, Senior met plenty of fine people. Some who took him under their wings and mentored to strive to be all I could be. Undoubtedly, these people shaped him to be the mentor and leader to all of us and countless others supporting this nomination. One such person was Master Chief Robert Perlow. When Senior first arrived at Station Shinnecock, he stressed the importance of finding balance between the Reserve component and my family. Master Frank Gorman also helped him transition from a career that had taken him from Long Island to Staten Island. He was always there whether in person or a phone call away. He was also the Master of Ceremony at his retirement; what an honor to have your mentor as your MC at retirement. CWO3 Marion White made it possible for Senior to continue in the Reserve Component while attending Master courses at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, New York. She arranged for a flexible drill schedule so that he could attend classes at the Seminary on Saturdays. Her ability and willingness to work with him, allowed him to serve for three more years. More importantly, he was ordained a Permanent Deacon in May of 2016, a feat that may not have been possible had she not been flexible with the duty schedule.

Career Highlights

When the Third District broke up and became part of the First District. Senior was assigned to Station Shinnecock. While at Station Shinnecock, he had the opportunity to be a part of Operation Special Olympics in Connecticut, and Operation Desert Shield in Camp Blanding, Florida. Among primary responsibilities for the Special Olympics was transportation coordination and ensuring adequate berthing.

While at Camp Blanding assisted in sending supplies overseas for support of Desert Shield. A two week assignment stretched to over seven weeks. Taking advantage of training opportunity was able to obtain heavy motor license, learned to drive a fork lift, and work with people from all over the country. Not exactly Yeoman skills, but satisfying and fulfilling.

TWA Flight 800 went down while completing his two weeks of ADT-AT at Group Moriches. Due to the incident time was extended until September 1st. The days and hours were long, but it was necessary due to the high op tempo of this crisis. This was a time in service where all skills were put to the test. It was no longer about being a YN at an ADMIN shop; it was about working alongside partner agencies and our Coast Guard crews, who were involved with recovery. Senior also served as Housing Petty Officer for SFO Moriches, East Moriches, NY, and Station Sandy Hook, NJ for the summer months. There was one TAD assignment at PERSRU Cape May, NJ. Additional responsibilities at Moriches included keeping track of records, assisting with the Newsletter, and tracking of readiness/deployability data to ensure memebres were green or attained readiness per standards.

Sector New York was a transitional period acclimating from units in suburbs to the city. While at Sector NY took part in Fleet Week, supported the New York Marathon (starting point at Sector NY) and the Five Borough Bike Race. In August 2010, Senior attended the Chief's Academy in Petaluma, California. Senior was the second oldest at 55 years of age. At the Graduation Dinner, he was presented with the *Altus Tendo Award*.

Legacy and Conclusion

Outside of the Coast Guard, Senior is a Roman Catholic Deacon, he has said Benediction at Coast Guard retirements, prayers at USCG Auxiliary Meetings, and even at the groundbreaking for the Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Seal Museum in West Sayville, New York. One his most memorable services was when he received the honor to hold a wake service, deliver a Homily at the funeral, and the committal for BMCM Robert S. Perlow. At that time he was on a Mission Trip to El Salvador when he received the call from his wife. She told Senior Bob was dying, and she wanted him to complete the above tasks. Bob was one of his early mentors, who showed Senior how to be a Chief. In fact, he gave Senior his Chief's coin, and as tradition goes; BMCM gave his wife a Master Chief Challenge Coin. A reminder that "No matter what you do in your Coast Guard career, none of it would be possible without the support of your wife."

Before Coast Guard put into practice the five practices of exemplary leadership, (Model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable other to act, and encourage the heart) Senior was well underway in living these practices and developing the next generation of CG leaders. Early on, he was told the Chief has a responsibility to his crew, and the Chief must encourage his crew to advance. This was not lost on him.

When Senior arrived at Sector NY, no one could remember that last time a reserve YN sat for a servicewide exam let alone been advanced. The crew provided excellent customer service, but there was no one taking care or looking out for us. Morale was low within our shop. I personally dreaded the drill weekend and started counting my days until I could finally go to the IRR. I wasn't performing to my potential and had no interest in doing so either. Senior took notice and action almost immediately. He was available to talk. He provided an opportunity for everyone to learn and even feel pride in coming to drill. I remember having a conversation with him where he asked me to think about why I joined; he asked me to think how I could contribute to the team, he helped me envision a future of service in the Coast Guard. This conversation is a constant reminder of how one person who cares can turn someone's ship around. He certainly turned mine and many others around. From that conversation forward, I was determined not to let him down. I aspired to be a Chief, just like him. I went on to become a Chief (an initiated Chief...where I spoke about

Senior being that Chief I wanted to be); I then went on to CWO and I am now a LT serving our Reserve Component as Reserve Program Administrator. But I am not the only one. Due to his influence and guidance Laura Davico, Olga Ramirez, Melinda Bruck, and Kristine Rommel also made YNC. Former YNs are now Commissioned Officers: LTJG Louie Wu and LT Joe Santos to name a few. Even now as a retired Senior Chief I and others still call on him for guidance and advice.

I humbly request that this submission be given your fullest consideration for inclusion as one of 100 Great CG Chiefs.

Submitted by:

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Supported by:

YNC Melinda Bruck (Retired)

YN2 Sandy McAllister (Retired)

LT Joe Santos

LTJG Louie Wu

YNC Olga Roitman

COL Geoffrey Slack (Retired)
Director Veterans Affairs
Touro College