

NEWS RELEASE

ANNUAL “EXERCISE TIGER” WREATH LAYING HITS 25 YEAR MARK

“TIGER” WREATH LAYING BY USCG RANKS SECOND ONLY TO TITANIC HONORS”

This April 28th will mark a milestone in U.S. Coast Guard as well as military history. The annual Exercise Tiger wreath laying by USCG motor life boat began in 1989 by the Exercise Tiger Association and USCG Station Barnegat Light reaches 25 years on Monday, April 28. This tradition honors the soldiers and sailors of the WWII pre-D-Day Battle of Exercise Tiger. On 28 April 1944, 8 US Navy troop ships, were attacked by German navy torpedo boats. Two LSTs were sunk, a third was crippled, and over 749 soldiers and sailors were killed in combat.

The annual event is making Coast Guard history by being the longest uninterrupted wreath laying only second to the Titanic which begun in 1913. The National ceremony again will be hosted by USCG Station Barnegat Light and the U.S. Tiger Foundation. Susan Haines, the National Executive “Tiger” Director said, “United States Coast Guard is world renown for their courage and heroic rescues. With this year’s historic wreath laying, they enter the pantheon of maritime history. Let’s not also forget that in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, even in Iraq, thousands of US Coast Guardsmen served, and several hundred ‘coasties’ actually manned LSTs in WWII.” Haines continued, “This year marks the tenth anniversary of a wreath laying to honor USCG Petty Officer Nathan Bruckenthal, who died in a suicide attack with navy sailors on 24 April 2004. We are honored to be the first military honors organization to have done this in 2004, and we will continue to honor his legacy in the future.”

Additionally, the NJ Submarine Association will lay a wreath to their shipmates, still on “eternal patrol”. Red and white carnations will honor the Malaysia Flight 370 crash and those killed at Ft. Hood.

Dr. William Theisen, the U.S. Coast Guard Chief Historian, Atlantic fleet, did research, and said “It is safe to say that the “Tiger” wreath laying ceremony is the longest observed of its kind. I know of no other US Coast Guard related wreath laying ceremony that has been performed at sea for as long a time as this annual event.”

The event will also go continental and global for the second straight year, as several USCG stations will lay wreaths to” Tiger and Bruckenthal” from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the USCG Cutter ADAK based in the Persian Gulf, will again lay a wreath in the same waters that Bruckenthal was killed.

The public is invited to watch the wreath laying at shore at the end of Long Beach Blvd. near the light house at Barnegat Light, on Long Beach Island, NJ.

If you were in Exercise Tiger, or were a navy or coast guard sailor and served on an LST during D-Day, please contact us at, U.S, Exercise Tiger Commemoration Foundation, www.exercisetiger.org or susan.haines@exercisetiger.org or 1-877-WW2-TIGR.

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