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U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association

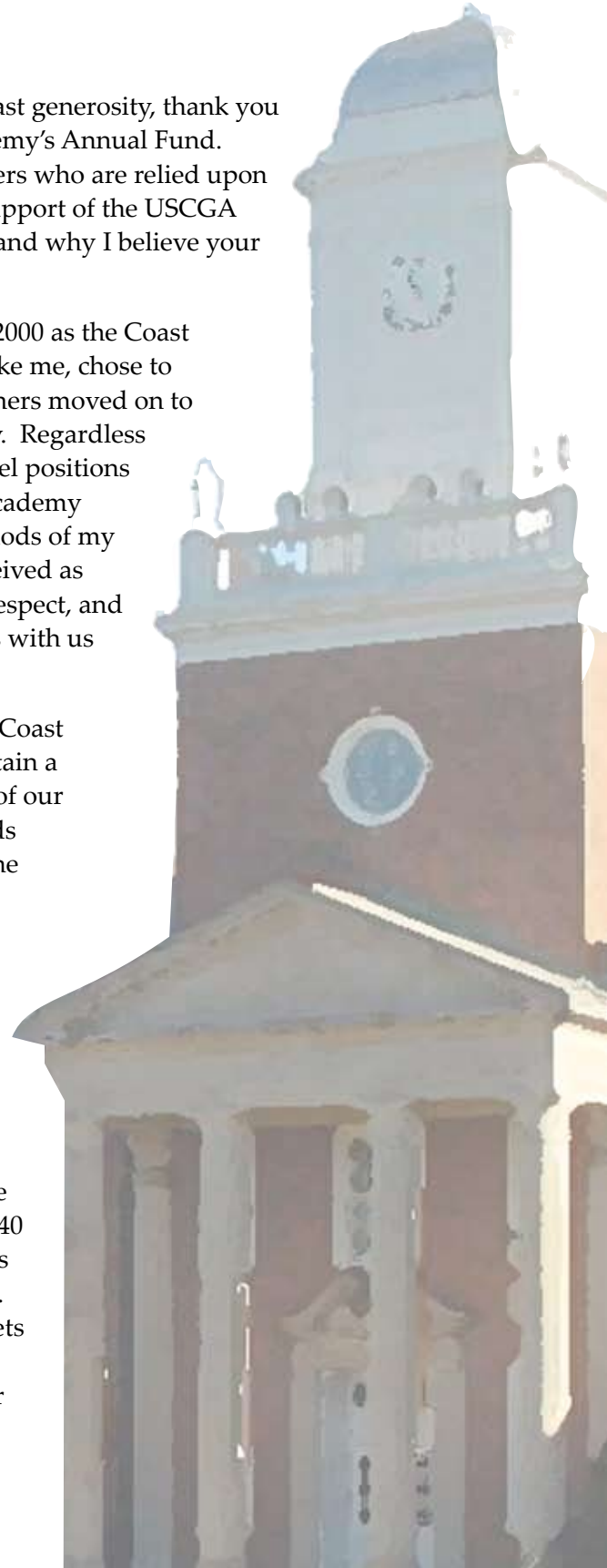
Dear Alumni and Friends,

On behalf of the alumni and cadets who have benefited from your past generosity, thank you for your loyalty and support of the United States Coast Guard Academy's Annual Fund. You have helped the Academy to consistently produce national leaders who are relied upon in times of need. Because I'm asking you to consider joining me in support of the USCGA Annual Fund, I'd like to tell you why I have made my commitment, and why I believe your contribution is so vital.

I spent 33 years on active duty in the Coast Guard before retiring in 2000 as the Coast Guard District Commander in Boston. Many Academy graduates, like me, chose to stay on with the Coast Guard and make it their life's career, while others moved on to responsibilities and assignments in public service or private industry. Regardless of the path taken, I can confidently say that those serving in high-level positions are there because of their Coast Guard experience, as well as their Academy education. For me, the Academy was one of the most important periods of my life. The developmental training and educational experience we received as cadets didn't end with graduation. Serving our nation with honor, respect, and devotion to duty is a calling that begins at the Academy and remains with us throughout our lives.

In each of the past four years, the Alumni Association has given the Coast Guard Academy over one million dollars to help the Academy maintain a "margin of excellence" in cadet programs thus ensuring the success of our graduates. Through the Annual Fund, CGA Today! unrestricted funds are used to help meet the needs of the Academy as well as support the operations of the Alumni Association.

Highest on the superintendent's list of needs this year is the "Leadership 44" Program. This 12-day program is the pinnacle of the cadets' leadership training. I have sailed most of my life and understand the value of that experience. Eagle certainly provides some of that. But organizing cadets into smaller groups in which people must depend on one another to get from point A to point B safely is not only important for individual development; it serves as a unique leadership laboratory. Unfortunately, the Luders used in the Coastal Sail Training Programs (CTSP) are now over 40 years old, and many may soon lose seaworthiness – cutting into a program that is already limited. Today, less than 40 percent of our eligible cadets are able to take advantage of the program because of the limited number of Luders. Our hope is to not only prevent the program from being cut, but also to actually expand it.



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Another priority is to support academic excellence, so as to be able to attract the best faculty that can provide the corps of cadets with an exceptional academic experience. Endowed Chairs, especially in science and technology, will help the Academy to continue to compete successfully with the other service academies and high-caliber universities in attracting academically qualified cadets. Our school already challenges cadets to live up to rigorous standards – a fact recognized by U.S. News and World Report, which rates the Academy as one of the top educational values in the country. All of our graduates will benefit from this solid academic reputation if we continue to support it with a strong endowment.

Experiences that create well-rounded cadets outside of the classroom are equally important. For me, wrestling at the Academy was an anchor. It was the place to go, to get away from things. Many of you probably felt the same way – needing something besides life in the barracks and the classroom. My extracurricular activities helped me to make life-long friends that I came to rely upon. And I value those associations even more today. Cadets currently have access to 60 clubs and activities providing leadership development, social interaction, team building, skill development, and community service. Without private support, these opportunities will cease to exist.



Many of you know that when you leave the Coast Guard and get some distance between you and the organization, you gain an amazing appreciation for how much you profited from your Academy experience. I invite you to join me in expressing our gratitude, as we equip a new generation of cadets with the tools of leadership that only the Coast Guard Academy can provide.

With these thoughts in mind, I ask you to help support the Academy by making a gift to the United States Coast Guard Academy's Annual Fund. Through the Annual Fund, your unrestricted gift will help the Academy achieve a *Margin of Excellence* and will support the Alumni Association in its mission. You may return your gift using the attached card and enclosed envelope or, if it's more convenient, visit our website at www.cgaalumni.org/givenow and make your gift on-line.

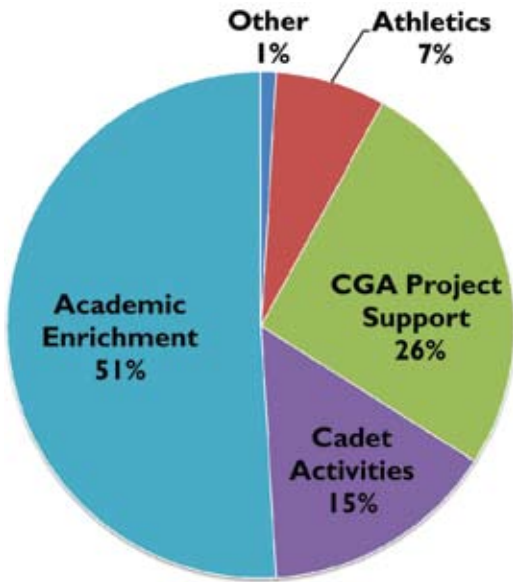


Thanks so much, not only for your consistent support over the decades, but also for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Rear Admiral Rick Larrabee, USCG (Ret) '67
Chairman, USCGA Alumni Association Board of Directors

Funds provided to Academy in 2008 (over \$1,000,000)



Your 2008 gift supported

- Leamy Hall Student Union Game Room
- Dining In/Billet Night/Career Night
- Model United Nations Programs
- Personal Finance Course
- Admissions Support
- Ethics Forum
- Club Sports



Give Today *USCGA Alumni Association 2009 Annual Fund*

I am pleased to make a contribution of: \$250 \$500 \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the USCGA Alumni Association, or charge to:

Master Card Visa AMEX Discover

Card# _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I authorize the Association to use the appropriate portion of my contribution as dues payment.
(Unless this box is checked, your entire remittance will be considered an Annual Fund contribution.)

Instead of the unrestricted CGA TODAY! fund, please credit my contribution to:

Class of _____ Fund/Endowment Other _____

To give online please visit www.cgaalumni.org/GiveNow

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G iving Levels

(annual donation including dues and matching funds)

Objee Booster Club

\$96 - \$143

EAGLE Club

\$144 - \$299

Broad Command Club

\$300 - \$599

Commodore's Club

\$600 - \$999

Superintendent's Club

\$1,000 - \$1,878

Spirit of 1879 Society

\$1,879 - \$4,999

Henriques Society

\$5,000

Q uestions

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T hank You for your support

