

# The Golden Legacy Program

*Your Eternal Link to the Long Blue Line*

by 3/c Nyrel Cederstrom

You probably notice it a few times each a day; when you glance at your watch, wash your hands, and place it on your bedside table before you fall asleep. It symbolizes your youth, your pride, your perseverance, and your unwavering commitment to the core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. Over the years, it has become a part of you, a reminder of your time at the Coast Guard Academy. Your class ring symbolizes an officer's commitment to the Coast Guard. And now, thanks to the Academy's "Golden Legacy Program", your class ring can also keep you connected to the Long Blue Line forever.

Strengthened by the traditions established by those who served before us, The Long Blue Line continues its footsteps through history with each newly commissioned Officer. The Golden Legacy Program offers you the chance to form a special bond and a lasting link with these extraordinary men and women. Donated rings, cherished by graduates who served their country in times of war and peace all over the world, will be melted down and mixed with new gold to forge the class rings for the next generation of Coast Guard heroes. This process will continue in perpetuity, linking you with the unborn generations that will follow in your footsteps.

This time-honored tradition is an incredible success at many of the other Service Academies. Now it's our turn. Initial cadet response to The Golden Legacy Program has been overwhelmingly positive. "The initiative that the Class of 2011 is taking to make this proposal a reality is unparalleled," says Regimental Commander, 1/c Tom Olson. "The mere notion that one's own class ring could be created with the same gold of someone who fought in Vietnam, flew countless rescue missions in the Bering Sea, or perhaps one who was once Commandant of the Coast Guard is incredible. This project will create a lasting legacy at the Coast Guard Academy that will be revered by many generations to come." CGA Alumni are also enthusiastic about the program. Captain Joe Anderson, Class of 1961, has given many personal items to Coast Guard protégés. He is excited that The Golden Legacy Program will open up the same opportunity for other Alumni and their family members.

Each ring donor will be recognized in a special ceremony in April of 2009. The ceremony in April will be the first of its kind and as the program grows so will the ceremony. To participate, Alumni or family members in possession of old rings may send their rings to the CGA Alumni Association (attn: Tara King, see address on page 4). In recognition of this philanthropic act, donors will receive a \$2,000 tax deduction. Additionally, alumni or their relatives may bequeath rings to the CGA Alumni Association in their Last Will and Testament. Suggested legal wording to bestow your Coast Guard Academy ring to the CGA Alumni Association is listed below. Be sure to finalize your wishes with your legal representative. We're happy to accept all Academy rings, including miniatures. Your participation will be a personal and honorable decision, as many cadets to come will wear a piece of your legacy.

## Wording consideration for your Estate Planning Attorney

### *FROM AN ALUMNUS/A*

I give, devise and bequeath my Coast Guard Academy ring, if owned by me at the time of my death, to the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, to be used as a part of the Golden Legacy Program.

### *FROM A RELATIVE OF AN ALUMNUS/A*

I give, devise, and bequeath the Coast Guard Academy ring, given to be by \_\_\_\_\_, if owned by me at the time of my death, to the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, to be used as a part of the Golden Legacy Program.