

Golden Legacy/Passing of the Rings

The Academy class ring symbolizes one's youth, pride, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to the core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. Through the Golden Legacy Program, your class ring can also keep you connected to the Long Blue Line forever.

This program, which began in 2009, offers members of the 50-Year Link in the Chain class the chance to form a special bond and lasting link with the future officers of the Coast Guard. Rings donated by the 50-year class are melted down and mixed with new gold to forge the class rings for the next generation of Coast Guard officers. Ring donors are recognized at a special ceremony of the passing of the rings and actual melting held each spring during the third class cadet formal.

Alumni or family members in possession of a class ring who are interested in donating to the Golden Legacy Program are encouraged to visit www.cgaalumni.org/goldenlegacy or contact Sue Fage at (860) 442-2683 x14 to learn more.

Link in the Chain Program Management

Link in the Chain and Golden Legacy Program activities and events are facilitated by the Alumni Association's Alumni Engagement staff; a single point of contact in the Academy's staff under the Commandant of Cadets and/or class advisor; the class officers and advisors. Communication with cadet classes must be initiated through the Alumni Associations LITC managers.



Ms. Ann Fecskovics '13 and CAPT Jeffrey Hartman, USCG (ret) '63 during Homecoming 2018

“ Just like the 50 years since graduation, the four years associated with the Class of 2015, as Link in the Chain representative, seemed to pass in the time it took to take one long breath. Changes in academic demands, professional training and personal growth (development) were quite apparent. While 50 years brings, and demands, this evolution I witnessed no less energy, spirit or maturity in the young women and men of the class. My experiences and time with the Class of '15 offered me an opportunity to reconnect with the Academy, the Coast Guard and my classmates. It was a pleasurable four years.

Gene Bowen '65 ”



Link in the Chain Program

An Overview for 50-Year Link in the Chain Classes



Questions

Sue Fage, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement/Alumni Center Manager, sfage@cgaalumni.org; (860) 442-2683 x14.

A link in the chain encompasses thousands of grads; a chain epitomizing sacrifices, courage, honor, respect, and commitment. They will never stand alone in the Long Blue Line.





What is the Link in the Chain Program?

The Link in the Chain Program (LITC) provides an informal link between Coast Guard Academy classes spanning 50 years and links CGA alumni with current cadet classes. The bonds and relationships formed between classes are critical to carrying on the history and the value of traditions – all part of the Academy experience and the Long Blue Line. The program was initiated by the Class of 1961, whose members first connected with cadets in the Class of 2011 on their Reporting In Day in 2007.

The Link in the Chain Program forms bonds and relationships between current cadets and members of the 50-year alumni LITC class throughout the four years at the Academy and beyond. The cadets are buoyed and encouraged by the physical presence and moral support of the alumni, and members of the 50-year LITC class enjoy working with the current cadets in their development as Coast Guard officers. From Swearing-In Day to Commissioning and beyond, the 50-year LITC class becomes a part of the Coast Guard Academy experience for the Corps.

Significance

A chain has important significance in the Coast Guard. The chain stabilizes a ship when anchored off shore. The chain gripes secure heavy equipment to the decks and hold in heavy seas. It epitomizes the sacrifices, courage, honor, respect, and commitment of Academy graduates. A link in the chain encompasses thousands of grads; it ensures they will never stand alone in the Long Blue Line.

Your Class's Role in the Program

All members of the alumni class approaching their 50th anniversary of graduation are invited to become involved in LITC. Each person's individual life experiences add value to the program. Members of the 50th year LITC class are first connected with their cadet LITC class at the beginning of Swab Summer on Swearing-In Day. The relationship between the classes grows as the alumni and cadets are given the opportunity to interact and communicate at Academy events. Throughout their four years at the Academy, and beyond, the LITC classes communicate on a personal basis, sharing advice, ideas, stories, and historical perspective on the Academy and the Coast Guard.



There are a number of events that offer excellent opportunities for the classes to connect.

- Swearing-In Day Ceremony (Start of Swab Summer)
- Mystic Flag Ceremony
- Annual New London Swab Run
- Academy's Regimental Change of Command & Shoulder Board Ceremonies
- Review & Reception in Crown Park at Completion of Swab Summer
- Class Receptions/Socials
- Homecoming/Reunions
- Formals – 4/c & 3/c (3/c formal includes Golden Legacy Passing of the Rings Ceremony)
- 2/c Ring Dance & Ball
- Billet Night
- Dining-In
- Graduation Week – Reception, Formal, Commencement
- Annual LITC Meeting
- Parents Weekend Events

Other ways to connect with your LITC class:

- Link in the Chain coins presented at graduation by LITC 50-year class
- Meet within local geographical areas while cadets are on leave
- CGC EAGLE port visits where class members reside
- Academy Internships
- Attendance at CGA Athletics events
- Capstone Projects
- Match Class Fund Giving
- Match 100% Membership Goal
- Other Scheduled Cadet Events at the Academy and across the country

“Our Link in the Chain Class of '67, showed us the value of tradition and experience while mentoring us along the way to success here at the USCGA. Members of the Class of 2017”

****Please contact the Alumni Association LITC managers regarding participation in events and/or ideas for engagement.**