



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20593-0001

FEB 09 2018

Message from the Commandant

I am honored to launch the annual Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) Fundraising Campaign, which comes on the heels of one of the busiest times in CGMA's history and deserves our strong support.

CGMA's diverse programs provide important touchstones in virtually every stage of our careers, and this year's campaign is aptly titled "Coasties For Life." Mutual Assistance provides financial support in personal loans and grants, while also funding programs such as respite care for special needs families, financial counseling, and education programs. From the early years working to make ends meet, to purchasing a first home, or seeking out educational benefits for yourself or your dependents, CGMA is always there for our Coast Guard family.

In a typical year, CGMA's well-established programs provide over \$4,000,000 to those in need, yet we all know, 2017 was anything but typical. In the wakes of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, CGMA rose to the extraordinary challenge and provided an additional \$2,500,000 in direct support to so many of our affected personnel.

Like the Coast Guard, CGMA's ability to rapidly help those in need has been proven time and again. Regardless of the needs, large or small, CGMA stands ready to serve and support Coast Guard men and women and their families as they weather the unexpected challenges life often brings.

Your generosity keeps CGMA in business. Given the historic year that impacted so many of our own, I ask you to donate to this year's campaign. Together, we can ensure the long-term health of CGMA and make sure it is ready to support "Coasties For Life." Thank you, and Semper Paratus!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul F. Zukunft".

Paul F. Zukunft
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard