

# KATHY HAMBLETT

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As a cadet, Kathy participated in several Academy teams and activities, but is best remembered for starting Women's Crew at USCGA. Despite fierce opposition from the crew coach and others, she recruited enough women to row and convinced the Coast Guard Foundation to buy the women's team a shell. She was recognized by the CGA Athletic Hall of Fame for founding the Women's Crew Team and today, a shell with her name on it is in the crew boathouse.

Kathy's USCG career began in Sitka, AK as a Deck Watch Officer aboard CGC Woodrush during the rescue of all five hundred and ten people aboard the burning passenger vessel "Prinsendam" off the coast of Alaska. Next, while at Port Safety and Security Team in Houston, Kathy was first on scene for the M/V "Rio Neuquen" chemical explosion which killed one person and nearly resulted in the evacuation of the City of Houston for a one-mile radius. Her judgement and actions averted a larger catastrophe. While there, Kathy earned a Master of Arts in Literature from the University of Houston. Her next step was the Eighth District Office of Law Enforcement. From there, she volunteered for the CGC Eagle Australia Bicentennial voyage as the Assistant Commandant of Cadets and Deck Watch Officer. But first, she married her husband (of 35 years) the month before sailing.

Upon returning to New Orleans, she was selected as the Eighth District Admiral's Aide. During that time, she was called to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill as Protocol Officer, briefing and guiding VIP's, Congressional members, and a Vice President. At her next assignment as Deputy Group Commander at Group Hampton Roads during the Gulf War, she deployed USCG members to U.S. Navy ships in the Middle East. During that tour, she had two baby girls before moving to Alaska to become the Seventeenth District Port Safety & Security Branch Chief. While there, Kathy worked with other federal women to establish a Child Care Center in the Juneau Federal Building that remains Juneau's choice child care center for working families. She lateralled over to become Waterways

Management Branch Chief, supervising all LORAN Stations and Buoy Tenders in Alaska. As co-chair for a multi-agency team on improving ice navigation in Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound, she was awarded a Vice-Presidential "Hammer Award" and was interviewed by CNN when the movie "Titanic" came out in theatres.

At Marine Safety Office/Group Philadelphia, Kathy was the Operational Commander for the 9/11 response for the Delaware River ports and waterways, using armed boarding teams on vessel escorts to keep the heavy marine traffic flowing while taking in traffic from the closed Port of New York, including stranded cruise ships. With USCG HQ shut down, she negotiated enhanced port security protocols, including those for Defense Fuel Supply pipelines leading to military bases in the area, resulting in world-wide impacts.

Kathy retired from active duty Coast Guard in 2002. She licensed as a veterinary technician at the University of Pennsylvania Small & Large Animal hospitals to provide care for her alpaca herd. After working in a Juneau clinic, she worked a season at the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward, rehabbing walrus, sea lions, seals, sea otters, and albatross. Back in Juneau, she worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Alaska Southeast, teaching technical writing to a diverse student body for seven years, overlapping with accepting a USCG civilian position.

Inspired by her daughters' study abroad experiences, Kathy took a sabbatical in Spain, studying anthropology, art, and Spanish. Recently, one of her paintings was recognized at a juried art show. Her daughters are now professionals in their fields – one is a mechanical engineer with Google and one, a former NOAA Corps Lieutenant, is a graduate student at the University of Washington.

Kathy continues to serve as a Port Security Specialist, Contingency Planner/Emergency Manager, and Master Exercise Practitioner with Coast Guard Sector Juneau. Her total USCG service currently stands at 38 years.

