

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE CITY OF NEWPORT, A COAST GUARD CITY U.S.A.
INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO A RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE
THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD AND
THE RELEASE OF THE U.S.C.G. FOREVER STAMP**

The community is invited to attend a reception to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard and the release of the USCG Forever stamp by the United States Post Office. This event will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, from 4:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M., in the City Council Chambers of the Newport City Hall, 169 SW Coast Highway. The event is free and open to the public.

The event will begin with a USCG Honor Guard flag ceremony and posting of the colors. This will be followed by short speeches by Mayor Roumagoux, Coast Guard personnel, and Rob Pratt, Newport's Postmaster. During the event, the Postal Service™ will be offering the *United States Coast Guard* Forever® stamp for sale, along with a unique pictorial postmark, for the philatelists in the community. Refreshments will follow the opening events.

The *United States Coast Guard* Forever® stamp honors the U.S. Coast Guard for its role in protecting the security of the nation and advancing vital maritime interests. The stamp is a replica of an oil painting, by renowned aviation artist William S. Phillips of Ashland, Oregon, and depicts two icons of the Coast Guard: the cutter *Eagle*, a three-masted sailing ship often called "America's Tall Ship," and an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter, the service's standard rescue aircraft.

The City of Newport enjoys a collaborative relationship with the United States Coast Guard, and on March 28, 2005 was designated, "Coast Guard City, USA," one of only 16 communities in the United States with that designation.

Yaquina Bay and the central Oregon coast are home to a very large and active commercial fishing fleet, and host to a significant number of recreational boaters. Heavily visited beaches stretch along the coast which occasionally require quick and timely

responses from Coast Guard personnel to aid individuals who have been caught in the surf.

The U.S. Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay and the Coast Guard's Newport Air Facility have participated in numerous marine emergency responses involving the commercial fishing industry, recreational boaters, near shore beach rescues, and other responses which can make the difference between conducting a rescue or a recovery.

In an average day, across the globe, the U.S. Coast Guard personnel assist more than 300 people in distress, save more than \$2 million in property, board 90 large vessels for port safety checks, conduct 120 law enforcement boardings and investigate more than a dozen marine accidents.

For more information, please contact Peggy Hawker, City Recorder, at 541.574.0613 or p.hawker@newportoregon.gov.



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