



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

02 JUL 2019
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 008/19

**SUBJ: DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR OPERATIONS INDEPENDENCE DAY
MESSAGE**

1. Happy Birthday to the United States of America...and again to its U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary!

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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//DCO//
TO ALCOAST
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ALCOAST 221/19
COMDTNOTE 5700
SUBJ: INDEPENDENCE DAY 04 JULY 2019

1. On July 4th, 1776, 243 years ago, our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence. For the first time, a nation recognized that all of its citizens were equal and deserving of the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As members of the United States Coast Guard, we serve as protectors of these ideals our Founding Fathers envisioned and fought for all those years ago.

2. As we celebrate July 4th this Thursday, let us reflect on all the United States Coast Guard personnel who have, at one time or another, answered the call to defend our Nation's freedom. I want to thank our active duty and civilian members who currently serve as our operational and mission support experts for taking on-scene initiatives and bringing solutions to complex problems. I also want to thank our reservists, who are greatly assisting our Department of Homeland Security partners by deploying to the U.S./Mexico border. A great deal of gratitude is also owed those family members who endure separation, frequent relocation, uprooted job and schools to give loving support to those who wear the uniform of our service. **Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank our Coast Guard Auxiliary who celebrated their 80th anniversary this past month and continue to proudly serve our Nation's maritime public.** We also share our gratitude with our Department of Defense counterparts and the thousands of veterans who preceded us in service and

sacrifice. We remember them especially on this day.

3. Wherever you might be celebrating, and to the many of you who will be standing the watch, please have a happy and safe Fourth of July!

4. VADM D. B. Abel, Deputy Commandant of Operations, sends.

5. Internet release is authorized.