Coast Guard Mutual Assistance to Offer Critical Financial Assistance for Coast Guard Members Impacted by Government Shutdown

*For the second time, Coast Guard military members will go unpaid and once again, their military aid society, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA), is ready to help.*

**Arlington, VA** – In the event of a federal government shutdown on Oct. 1, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) is prepared to respond with at least $30 million in financial support for affected members of the Coast Guard community.

Should a shutdown occur, Coast Guard military and civilian employees can expect help up to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) in their area for their dependency status to help cover high price tag expenses like rent, insurance, or day care that local support networks are not equipped to provide. Assistance will be in the form of an interest-free loan and members will be eligible to apply again once a month.

CGMA is a charity that has been supporting the financial resilience of the Coast Guard community for 100 years. Since its inception in 1924, CGMA has provided $230 million in direct financial assistance to individuals within the Coast Guard community.

“Our mission is to help our own,” said Cari Thomas, Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard (retired), Chief Executive Officer at Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA). “It is hard when the Coast Guard that you love doesn’t have the ability to pay you. It impacts you, your family, and your home. That is why we help those who help the public. We are going to do all we can do.”

“The stories that we know we’ll hear will break my heart,” said Jason Wong, a retired Coast Guard Command Master Chief Petty Officer and Chief Operating Officer for Mutual Assistance. “Coast Guardsmen sacrifice so much, and we are doing what we can to minimize the impact at home and their lives. We need All Hands On Deck to help.”

In a typical day, CGMA provides $29,000 in more than 30 cases daily. During the 2018–2019 Lapse in DHS Appropriations, CGMA provided an average of $240,000 daily to more than 177 clients per day. When Congress and the President resolved the lapse in funding, a total of $8.4 million was provided by CGMA to over 6,200 members and employees of the Coast Guard.
“Every Coast Guard mission takes a team of people to complete it; these same principles apply to this mission to circle our Coast Guard workforce and lift them up. That team includes the member, the local community, businesses, banks, landlords, CGMA, etc. all working together to help those in need.” Alena Howard, Chief Development Officer and Coast Guard Spouse said. “Our donors are an amazing network of people who care. They truly embody the spirit of our motto, Helping Our Own.”

To donate to support Coast Guardsmen working without pay, visit www.cgmahq.org/give.

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About Coast Guard Mutual Assistance

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) is a 501(c)(3), headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Serving as the official aid society for the United States Coast Guard, CGMA’s mission is to enable financial resiliency within the Coast Guard Community. Each of CGMA’s grant and interest-free loan programs are purposefully designed to ensure that short term financial challenges do not become chronic financial problems. In 2022, CGMA fulfilled more than 5,400 requests for financial help and provided over $6.7 million in support — an average of $1,230 per request. Since its inception in 1924, CGMA has provided over $230 million in direct assistance. Its work is performed by collateral duty Coast Guardsmen at 168 local Coast Guard units. For more information, visit cgmahq.org, or find CGMA on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn.