Message from the Commandant

I am honored to launch the annual Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) Fundraising Campaign. When disaster strikes, we are there – for our country, for our citizens, and for our Coast Guardsmen. CGMA remains one of the most vital and far reaching resources for our Coast Guard Family, and its ongoing financial strength is in everyone’s best interest. I heartily encourage everyone to give generously.

This year’s campaign theme is “Ready, Relevant and Responsive”. CGMA has been ready to support our members since it was founded in 1924, and has remained an element of CG life ever since. CGMA has been relevant not only in times of emergency, but in support of members undertaking new life challenges, such as the pursuit of education, adoptions and more. Finally, CG Mutual Assistance is responsive to the increasing demands of life in the Coast Guard through the implementation of new support programs.

In a typical year CG Mutual Assistance provides Coast Guard members over $4,000,000 in funds through its well established ongoing programs. However, as you are aware, 2018 was not a typical year, ending in the 35-day partial government shutdown which resulted in severe financial challenges for the CG family. CGMA quickly proved its ability to respond by providing $8.4 million in lapse assistance to the CG community.

In non-typical years it provides as much as an additional $2,000,000 or more in disaster relief. In 2018, CGMA continued to provide ongoing relief for those impacted by 2017 hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria by dispensing an additional $300,000 in new grants, as well as converting an additional $470,000 in loans to grants. Additionally, CGMA responded swiftly to 2018 hurricanes Florence and Michael, as well as Typhoon Mangkhut. As a 501(c)(3), CG Mutual Assistance is recognized by Charity Navigator and Guidestar as being high performers in financial health, accountability and transparency.

CGMA support for the Coast Guard family is broad, deep, and firmly entrenched in our community. It is called ‘Mutual Assistance’ because it is, at its core, Coast Guardsmen taking care of our own. Through your donations and leadership, CGMA takes care of the organization today, so the Coast Guard family can rely on it tomorrow. We are looking to improve on last year’s campaign with a 5% increase in donations and 100% reach of our people, ensuring everyone knows that CGMA is there, ready to help and actively supporting our families.

CGMA works because it has the resources needed to do the job, resources supplied almost exclusively by those who benefit from it. Notably, CGMA has traditionally distributed more assistance then donations received, hence my request that you please consider participating in this year’s fundraising campaign. Together, we can ensure that CGMA remains strong and ready for the next set of unexpected challenges.

Sincerely,

Karl L. Schultz
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Chairman
Coast Guard Mutual Assistance