Message from the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard

I am grateful for the opportunity to talk about the importance of Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) to the entire Coast Guard family. I strongly encourage everyone to consider providing support to this important resource. As you are aware, CGMA became fully engaged during the government shutdown this past January. Proving itself fully ready and responsive, it provided $8.4 million in assistance to over 6,000 Coast Guard members and their families in a period of less than three weeks. Your participation in this campaign is vital to CGMA’s continuity as well as to its ability to expand and create new inroads of opportunity for all of us.

CG Mutual Assistance is one of the farthest reaching resources within our community. It provides support to every branch in our family tree: Active Duty, Reservists, Civilians, Retirees, Widows, Auxiliarists, Dependents, Public Health Service, and Chaplains. CGMA leaves no group out in the cold.

Equally important to providing something for everyone is the wide range of grant and loan support programs:

- Shelter (rental assistance, closing costs, emergency repairs)
- Food (basic living expenses when pay and travel claims are missing)
- Clothing (grants for lost HHG not covered by insurance)
- Education (grants, loans, tutor.com); family (adoption and special needs grants)
- Child Care (PCS Child Care); health (medical and dental care)
- Pets (vet bills, quarantine costs)
- Death (burial costs, travel, grave markers)

From reporting to boot camp, and well beyond your retirement ceremony, CGMA provides for our members, our spouses, and our children.

CGMA excels at providing access. Over 500 CGMA Representatives and Assistant Representatives serve the Coast Guard literally everywhere we are. From Ketchikan, to Guam, to Boston, to Puerto Rico and Europe; CGMA is nearby.

And finally, CGMA is always improving. It remains constantly on watch for new programs to develop, and continually strives to provide greater levels of support. In 1924, CGMA provided small gifts to Coast Guard active duty members in hospitals or sick at home. In 2018 it provided over $5,400,000 in support to those with medical issues, housing costs, education needs, adoption expenses, child care requirements and disaster relief.

All of this support and development costs money. And this is where you come in. Please help sustain CGMA’s ability to be Ready, Relevant, and Responsive. Your contribution is needed for both today and tomorrow. Your generosity and kindness is greatly appreciated.

Semper Paratus,

Jason M. Vanderhaden
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard
Member Board of Control