



D-7



Connection

Human Resources - Spring Issue—2024

Issue 64

Editor: Angela Pomaro

A tribute to the following who have taken the position of FSO-HR Officer for the year 2024— a thankless time consuming position. Thank you all.

Flotilla #	FSO-HR Officer	Flotilla #	FSO-HR Officer	Flotilla #	FSO-HR Officer
11	Candido Farina	65	Michael Gibbons	11-1	Stephan Bielawski
12	William Rivera	67	Carlos Galleno	11-6	Thomas Mann
13	Efrain Ortiz-Guzman	69	Fred Ross	11-7	Bernard O'grady
17	Rafael Chaves-Rios	6-10	Susan Sloves	11-9	Arthur Chesley
18	Rosa Feliciano	6-11	Thierry Pauquet de Villejust	11-10	Kristi Mackey
1-10	Jose Garcia-hernandez	72	Robert Witty	12-1	Robert Young
1-12	Belkys Cuevas-Aviles	74	William Sage	12-4	Wilson Rankin
21	Jonathan Pike	75	Judith Clapp	12-6	Joseph Ego
22	Earl Burns	77	Gilbert Thomas	12-8	Dawn Regehr
25	Larry Cole	78	Rollin Shouse	12-10	Oliver Leimbach
29	Bruce Lindsey	81	Robert Harvey	13-2	Charles Meier
34	Paul Sacks	82	Jan Voigts	13-3	John Rhode
34	Paul Sacks	84	John Boyle	13-8	Dorothy Cain
36	Andrea Rurtherfoord	86	Robert Spong	14-1	John Herald
37	George Kozel	87	Douglas Ledgett	14-2	Donna Finch-Thomas
38	Carla Richardson	91	Robert Guenthner	14-4	Kevin Holbrooks
39	Charlene Dykman	92	Vincent Salvo	14-7	Steven Bergmann
43	Jack Neve	93	Karena Saldeen-patel	15-1	Melissa Frank
44	Patricia Femia	94	John Tyson	15-3	Pedro Ordaz
45	William Pagan-Sanchez	95	Joseph Riccio	15-4	George Dooris
48	Walter Franek	96	Lawrence Vars	15-8	Susan Watkins
51	David Roth	98	Merry Duncan	16-3	Benjamin Torkelson
52	Robert Dipaolo	99	Robert Curto	17-2	William Giers
54	Shari Forman	9-10	Lou Conti	17-6	Eustace King
56	Frans Eyberse	10-1	Charles Russo	17-9	Jack Bergquist
59	Robert Hess	10-2	George Scuorzo	17-10	Douglas Hone
61	Alberto M Juliachs	10-10	David Smith	17-11	Sharon Breece
63	Roberto Sidi	10-11	Paul Cichanowicz		





USCG Auxiliary

District 7



District 7 Commodore

John Holmes



Chief of Staff

Martin Goodwin



Logistics Directorate



Murray Price DDC-L
Directorate Chief

The DSO-HR Team



Angela Pomaro DSO-HR
Human Resources Department



Mark Crary, ADSO-HR
Special Projects



Jim Nelson, ADSO-HR
E-responder Reports



Gil Thomas, ADSO-HR
HR Corner

The District 7 SO-HR Team



Belkys Cuevas_Aviles, SO-HR
Division 1—(Entire Puerto Rico)



Chris Poulos, SO-HR
Division 10— (Port Royal Sound, Savannah, St. Simons Island, Hilton Head/Bluffton)



Bob Deleon SO-HR
Division 2—(Augusta, Lake Alatoona, Northeast Georgia, Hartwell Lake, Central Georgia Lakes, Lake Lanier)



Stephan Bielawski DCDR -
Division 11— (Clearwater, New Port Richey, Hudson, Tarpon Springs, Dunedin)



Sandy Goldberg SO-HR -
Division 3—(Ft. Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Boca Raton, Lighthouse Point, Plantation, Dania Beach)



Jim Nelson, SO-HR
Division 12— (Inland Sea Lake Marion, Lake Murray, Central Grand Strand, East Cooper, Charleston, Georgetown)



Patricia Femia, SO-HR
Division 4— (Lake County, Daytona Beach, Sanford, New Smyrna)



Dorothy Cain, SO-HR Division
13— (Key West, Marathon, Big Pine Key, Ocean Reef, Upper Keys)



Robert Hess, SO-HR—
Division 5— (The Palm Beaches, Jupiter, Delray-Boynton Beach, Vero Beach/Sebastian, Ft. Pierce)



John Herald— SO-HR
Division 14— (Amelia Island, Arlington, Jacksonville Beach, St. Augustine, Jacksonville)



Fred Ross, SO-HR Division 6—
(Homestead, Coconut Grove, Miami South, Coral Gables, Opalocka, North Bay, Miami)



Melissa Frank, SO-HR
Division 15— (Crystal River, Ocala, Homosassa, Hernando Beach)



Gil Thomas, ADSO--HR
Division 7— (St. Petersburg, Brandon, Apollo Beach, Polk County, St. Pete Beach, Tampa, Gulfport)



Karl Peterson, SO-HR
Division 16— (St. John, US Virgin Islands)



Ron Mills, SO-HR
Division 8— (Manatee, Longboat Key, Sarasota, Venice, Englewood)



Sharon Breece, SO-HR
Division 17— (South Brevard, Central Brevard, North Brevard, Osceola, Winter Park)



Robert Curto—SO-HR
Division 9—(Fort Myers Beach, North Port, Naples, Franklin Lock, Marco Island, Wiggins Pass, Charlotte Harbor, Cape Haze, Ft. Myers & Cape Coral)

D7 Auxiliary ID Card Request Procedures

All members in BQ or AUXOP (AX) status are authorized to hold an ID card.

Prerequisites:

BQ/AX status (*All AUXCT and BQC II completed and current*).

Note: *BQC II is required for all members enrolled after February 1, 2018.*

Member in good standing (*up to date on dues payment and AUXCT cycle current*). **Note:** *AUXCT must not be within 6 months of expiration. The date of the training which is expiring first will be used for this determination.*

Initial ID Card Request:

Only the FC shall request an ID card for any member who meets all prerequisites. The VFC may submit requests when the FC is unavailable to do so in a timely manner.

The ID card will have an expiration date of five years from the last cycle of AUXCT completion.

Replacement ID Card Request:

The Auxiliarist attains the title of Commodore or becomes AUXOP Qualified.

The Auxiliarist changes their name. The member shall initiate changes in AUXDATA 2. AFTER those updates are recorded in AUXDATA 2, FC (or VFC) shall submit an ID card request via the D7 Help Desk (<https://helpdesk.uscga-district-7.org/>).

The Auxiliarist's physical appearance changes significantly and/or permanently.

The Auxiliarist's current ID card is expiring in 6 months, expired, damaged, lost, or stolen.

Request for ID Cards must include the following:

Photo: A **new** photo is required each time an ID card is requested. The ID photo shall be a digital image which captures the member's head and shoulders in front of a red background. Proper uniform is required (*i.e., Tropical Blue, Service Dress Blue Bravo, Operational Dress Uniform, or Auxiliary Blazer outfit*).

Digital Image: ID photo shall be uploaded to the [D7 Help Desk](#) with these criteria ...

PHOTO FILE NAME: First Name Last Name EMPLID (*example: John Doe 0123456*)

FILE TYPE: JPEG (.jpg) *No greater than 20MB in size*

Member Information: Please include the following in the help desk ticket ...

MEMBER NAME: (*as shown in AUXDATA 2*)

EMPLID:

REASON FOR REQUEST: (*initial/expired/damaged, etc.*)

DATE OF BIRTH:

BLOOD TYPE:

WEIGHT:

HEIGHT:

HAIR COLOR:

EYE COLOR:



Welcome

January 1—March 31 2024

Division 1

Burns Cordova, Henry
Dubost Pulido, Christiane
Encarnacion-Hernandez, Ivelisse
Rosas, Gary
Rovira-Figueroa, Salvador
Zudaire Fernandez, Amado

Division 2

Houdodan, Lionnel
Phillips, Wyatt
Schulte, Kevin
Shakibanasab, David
Thomas, Glenn

Division 3

Cruz, Alvaro
Petersen, Eileen
Petersen, Karl
Zucco, Robert

Division 4

Cooper, Raymond
Pagan Velez, Reinaldo
Servia Perez, Keila

Division 5

Alescio, Pascal
Cmiel, John
Dominik, Cynthia
Fasci-ba, Jess
Stein, Jules
Verdegem, Brody
Williams, Charles

Division 6

Montano, Gustavo
Leon-BSA, Lucas
McCue, Jeanne
Paez, Omar
Queiroz, Ricardo
Zuriarrain, Mitchell

Division 7

Cook, Derek
Deyarmin, David
Hunter, John II
Kotras, Caroline
Lawson, Melissa
Roman, Pedro
Scardino, Christopher
Skaggs, Brett

Division 7

Vila, Jose
Wagoner, Tyler
Walter, Brett

Division 8

Cervone, Paul
Duhe, Billy
Krieg, Robert
Nazario, Enrique
Palmer, Mark
Simmons, Glen

Division 9

Abate, Ralph
Connell, William
Corson, Michael
Garrison, James
Linder, Christine
Madsen, Ann
Morris, James
Seibold, John
Seibold, Linda

Division 11

Bushnell-Fowler, Stephen
Clouser, Michael
Hutsell, David
Melchart, Lawrence
Scioglietti, Dean

Division 12

Dawson, Joseph
Larson, Lydia
Lisowski, Sawyer

Division 13

Glaza, Debra

Division 14

Rowley, Scott
Lehman, Amber

Division 15

D'Eredita, Brandon

Division 17

Adams, Mitchell
Pyle, Logan
Rosenbaum, David
Saly, Travis

WELCOME



2024 Retirees

January 1 to March 31

Department of Homeland Security

Takes pleasure in conferring to:

Thank you for your Service



<u>Members</u>	<u>Flotillas</u>	<u>Service Years</u>
Bustillo, Gonzalo	63	24
Lloyd, Donald	72	23
Giardina, Vito	12-10	22
Morowitz, Joshua	25	18
Acaster, Benjamin	51	21
Crouse, John	15-8	17
Levine, David	84	17
Motes, Carl	17-11	17

in the

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

*In recognition of significant contributions and devoted service to the organization and
its boating safety programs.*



<u>Name</u>	<u>Flotilla</u>	<u>Enrollment Date</u>
Barry Porter	72	13 November 1959
Robert Strong	14-8	23 June 1964
William Benson	44	26 June 1964
Commodore Henry Pratt	10-11	9 September 1964
Philip Tallon	14-2	30 January 1968
Thomas McColough	9-10	3 June 1968
Judith Davis	14-4	23 April 1968
Roger Kish	58	10 September 1970
Karen Pitts	84	30 October 1972
Herbert Hauser	36	11 January 1973
Susan Cummings	22	19 April 1973
Lusterman, Charles	54	20 June 1973
William Sorrentino	44	1 August 1973
Koenecke, Ronald	56	3 October 1973
Richard Stephenson	43	6 November 1973
Calvin Gordon	44	1 March 1974

Your long-standing service is acknowledged and appreciated.

Thank you

Crossed the Bar

January 1, to March 31, 2024

PLEASE NOTE

A DECEASED MEMBER CAN ONLY BE HONORED IF AN ANSC 7035 FORM IS SUBMITTED TO THE D7 HELP DESK INDICATING HIS/HER PASSING.



Aston Jackson
Flotilla 22



John Crowe
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Joseph Dinmore
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Richard Dunne
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Arthur Hockey
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Sandra Gardner
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



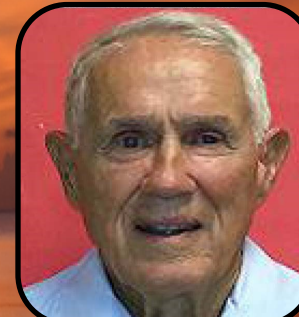
Arthur Lindberg
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Ronald Barrett
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Terrence Day
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Charles Hersey
(Retired)
Flotilla 36

*Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.*

By Alfred Lord Tennyson

Crossed the Bar

January 1, to March 31, 2024

PLEASE NOTE

A DECEASED MEMBER CAN ONLY BE HONORED IF AN ANSC 7035 FORM IS SUBMITTED TO THE D7 HELP DESK INDICATING HIS/HER PASSING.



Luco Meoli
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Elaine Miller
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Leonard Schwartz
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



Samuel Stevenson
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



James Wilson
(Retired)
Flotilla 36



John Winarchick
Flotilla 10-11



Sallyann Spall
(Retired)
Flotilla 12-6



Karin Hollar
(Retired)
Flotilla 12-10



John Spillman
(Retired)
Flotilla 12-10



Janis Broton
Flotilla 13-4



Frank Fortney
Flotilla 17-6

DIVISION 3

Members Recognition

Submitted by Sandy Goldberg,

SO-HR—Flotilla 39

When I was asked to do a quick article about a particular auxiliarist, I had a difficult time choosing. I started to think of who inspires me to help narrow it down. That didn't make it that much easier. Do I share information on Jane Sabbagh of Flotilla 36 Boca Raton whom I experienced first hand how she goes out of her way at any hour to assist those in training an instructor, going above and beyond keeping up with their qualifications needs and even spending hours making up booklets for classes to make things easier for trainees. She wrote the book on understanding Auxdata II and has patience like no other.

Do I mention the Flotilla 38 Flotilla Commander and former Division Commander, Jeff Barnes, who now works at Sector. He is the go to for any question for both auxiliarists and active duty he serves. He gives hours of his time with his facility helping crew training whenever asked. A humble kind man who makes everyone feel worthy, capable and respected at whatever level they are and encourages them in their pursuits.

I narrowed it down to two auxiliarists who I am confident will inspire new members in all that is possible.



Rafael Baez

I've seen several stories popping up regarding our very own Division 3 Rafael Baez—well deserved Auxiliarist of the year. All around dependable and accomplished.

He joined in the Auxiliary in 2018 and since, to be brief, he's held positions from Vice Commander and Flotilla Commander to various staff officer positions at Flotilla, Division and National levels.

Qualified in Auxop, Operational Auxiliarist Program, an Interpreter (served at the Southwest border twice), Culinary Assistant, Public Affairs, Vessel Examiner, Telecommunications and Boat Crew, all while working full time in graphic design.

This past January 2024, Rafael trained in Cape May for Coast Guard Reserves. He is still quite active with Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Charlene Dykman

We had unprecedented two auxiliarists of the year for 2023 which brings me to someone who is admired and full of surprises.

From Flotilla 39, Charlene Dykman. When I first met Charlene she was in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for a mere three months. I feel honored to be able to say that since then, I've seen her soar.

Vessel Examiner, Public Affairs, Culinary Assistant, kept up the with the flotillas' newsletter, FSO-HR and now training in Boat Crew. She attended week long training with LAMS at D-Train in Orlando in 2023 and took every class available. Still not in the auxiliary a full year, she was able to obtain a waiver to become Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 39 where she continues to motivate her members, organizing pot luck meetings and beach clean ups.

Charlene spends hours daily working in some form to support the auxiliary and active duty.

She does all this while still working full time as a Captain for American Airlines.

DIVISION 5

Lake Worth USCG Station

Work Party

Submitted by Art Slepian,
Flotilla 51

On March 2, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarists from Division 5 Delray-Boynton Beach Flotillas volunteered to paint the quarterdeck and passageway leading to the mess deck in Coast Guard Station Lake Worth. Participating were Daniel Kalina, left, and Patrick Archibald who said they wanted take part in an activity to support the station's crew.



Being a Recruiter is as Easy as Sharing your Auxiliary Story

Submitted by Ellen DeLeo,
Flotilla 9-10

With the pandemic behind us, our flotillas have come out stronger but in many cases leaner in their ranks. Additionally, members left our ranks over the past few years for personal reasons (retirement and relocation as well as discouragement resulting from suspended operations). Unfortunately, these disenrollments followed a time when we were unable to create meaningful connections through personal contact that would foster new member enrollments.

Now that we are back out there and many opportunities are becoming available to meet our future members where they are, I am asking you to join me in promoting Auxiliary membership with a powerful and compelling message that will create an inviting and welcoming environment.

Let's start with the approach. You may be saying to yourself that you are not comfortable with the idea of "selling the Auxiliary" to the public at a public affairs event, vessel safety check, or partner visit.

So how can you become more able to share the Auxiliary story? Think back to what brought you to the Auxiliary. Telling your story is information that you can share as an expert. Also, it is likely others would identify with why you chose the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Think back, did you join because...

- You were approaching retirement or newly retired and wanted to continue to be productive and give back to your community using your proven professional expertise.
- You were looking to build skills in the many activities that Auxiliarists perform for operational missions (boat crew, air crew, watch standing, vessel safety checks, recreational boating education, food service, interpreters, etc.) and/or member services (computer services, finance, human resources, information systems, member training, etc.)
- You were still engaged in your career and looking to increase your leadership and interpersonal competencies.
- You were looking to serve your country and community in a role that prevented and responded to marine safety and environmental protection concerns.
- You were looking for a way to support our men and women who are serving in our Coast Guard to save lives and protect our homeland.
- You were looking to find ways to share your passion of recreational boating safety and/or protecting our marine environment.

Maybe you were not even looking to join when you were introduced to the Auxiliary. Maybe you did not even know it was possible. If this your situation, What if someone did not introduce you to the Auxiliary and invite you to join?

Whether you found the Auxiliary or it found you, I encourage you to share your story including your expectations and experiences towards your goals with prospective members.

For all of the reasons listed above, you are encouraged to keep these motivations in mind when discussing the Auxiliary with prospects as individuals are attracted to the Auxiliary for varied reasons. Combined, the desire and various motivations of individuals to serve, fill many diverse roles that Auxiliarists are able to in support of and side by side with the United States Coast Guard.

Having been in the Auxiliary for the last seven years, I have seen many who attended classes or stopped by displays join our ranks after being invited. They have been taking on increasingly important and fulfilling roles in operations and leadership. And it all started with an introduction and an invitation

Now that you have collection of "go to" messages, it is time to identify opportunities to share your message. As Division Staff Officer-Publications, I have seen many great venues used to share our message. These opportunities include farmer's markets, marine-related retailers, flea markets, open houses, local business and community events. All of these venues provide chances for personal interaction with potential members. Any could serve as training grounds for our annual boat shows and National Safe Boating Week events.

For those you meet, I encourage you to help these prospects see themselves among your ranks. Displays and props help draw potential members in. Do you have recruiting posters to display at events with your flotilla's contact information? Large format posters are available from the National Supply Center showing our diverse membership of gender, ethnicity, and age. They can be mounted to foam core board or inexpensive frame to stand up in front of your table.

The next challenge is how to move those from genuine interest to enrollment. Those with true potential for membership need the right information to make their decision.

What information can you provide?

- Do you provide the Join the Auxiliary and/or Earn Your Wings pamphlets to prospects? These are also available from the Auxiliary National Supply Center.

- Do you know the current facts and figures plus timely highlights and achievements regarding the Auxiliary?

You can easily create a fact sheet to share with prospects about the Auxiliary using information from the Auxiliary website. You can include info on the E-Responder form that can be found at <https://join.cgaux.org/join.php>. This is also helpful for those visiting our area to find a flotilla in their home area.

- Do you know your flotilla's story, that of the division or district?

You can create a personalized tri-fold brochure that tells your flotilla's individual story to insert in the Join the Auxiliary or Earn Your Wings brochure. All you will need is four or five photos of your flotilla members engaged in operations, public affairs events, fellowship, and recognition. For a sample template that you can customize visit <http://hdept.cgaux.org/pdf/Prospective%20Member%20Brochure.pdf>.

Some additional links for information include: <http://cgaux.org/about.php>, <https://uscga-district-7.org/> and <https://join.cgaux.org/index.php>.

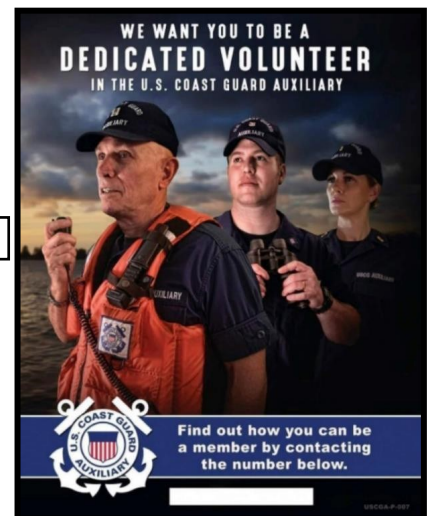
- Another handy option is a business card with your flotilla, meeting place and date/time and points of contact (FSO-HR, website, email, phone, and social media sites). Invite prospective members to a future meeting.

Regardless of how you make that initial contact with a prospect, ask for their contact information. This will not only convey the message that you are interested in them, but it also enables follow up by a knowledgeable resource to determine their level of interest and answer questions that will help a potential member to understand their next steps.

While Auxiliary membership may not be on the prospect's immediate horizon, it is always good to thank them for the time they spent with you learning about the Auxiliary and leave them with a good impression of the Auxiliary and the United States Coast Guard.



Available from ANSC



DIVISION 14

2024 OFF AND RUNNING IN JACKSONVILLE

Submitted by Guy Stephens,
VFC 14-8



On February 6, 2024, Jacksonville Flotilla 14-8 held its change of watch ceremony. We were honored to have Division Commander, Sean Flynn attend to update our members on our Division activities and to swear in our newly elected officers.

DAVID HOWELLS was sworn in as the Flotilla 14-8's new Flotilla Commander and Guy Stephens was sworn in as Flotilla Vice Commander. Our flotilla is excited about this year and you can sense a rediscovered excitement, commitment and momentum from our fifty-three members. We are lucky that many of our members have been in the Auxiliary for a long time and have a wealth of knowledge to share with our growing base of new members that are ready and excited to learn the ropes, get involved and serve. This year, we are celebrating Robert (Bob) Strong's 60th year of service in the Auxiliary. Yes, that is SIXTY YEARS as in six & zero, not a typo. Bob is an amazing resource to our flotilla and our new members, we are lucky to have this great blend of experienced and new members as we strive to better serve our community and the Coast Guard going forward.

DID YOU KNOW?

History of Challenge Coins



Commander's Coin

From the coins of ancient Rome to tall tales of execution and espionage, the history of military challenge coins is steeped in intrigue.

Since at least WWI, people use challenge coins as identifying tokens, to boost morale, and to honor memberships, team allegiances, and great deeds. The practice of the urban legend that is the challenge coin game is as vital as the coins themselves. So much so that even civilians are getting in on the act..

All Coins Lead to Rome

It was standard for kings and emperors to mint coins in their name as a symbol of leadership and influence in centuries long gone.

Ancient Rome was among the first civilizations to fervently adopt this practice. Archeologists and even everyday people unearth hoards of Roman coins across Great Britain to this day.

While people used coins for commerce, the government also minted them to pay legionnaires. Roman soldiers were usually mercenaries, and keeping them well-financed kept them loyal to Rome.

In Imperial Rome, there was even a specially assigned military treasury called the aerarium militare. The first Roman emperor, Augustus, founded the fund, and it housed the pensions—in minted coins—for veterans of the Imperial Roman army.

The coins included an emperor's figurehead and scenes of military might or famous battles. Some collectors consider them the original military challenge coins.

World War One: The Challenge Coin Is Born

A more familiar and widely documented answer to the question “What are military challenge coins?” comes from WWI (1914-1918).

As the legend goes, a well-to-do military officer had a commemorative set of medallions crafted out of bronze. They were stamped with his flying squadron's logo and presented to the squad members before their departure for European missions.

One such American fighter pilot was shot down and forced to land in France's German-occupied territory, where the enemy promptly captured him. However, luck was on his side because the detention center they held him in came under fire from British forces. He used the cover of night, the chaos of the ensuing battle, and some borrowed German civilian clothing to escape.

He managed to flag down a French patrol who suspected he was a German spy from the look of his attire. His German captors had confiscated all of his identifying materials. If there were no way he could prove his identity to the French patrol, they would execute him.

Then, he remembered the military challenge coin he still wore in a leather pouch around his neck. He showed it to the French soldiers, and they recognized the squadron insignia. Famously, instead of executing him, they gave him a bottle of fine French wine.

When the pilot finally made it back to his squadron, the soldiers adopted his story as tradition and vowed to carry their insignia-stamped coin with them everywhere they went.

The Challenge Coin Game

The bottle of wine from military challenge coin history spurred the creation of the challenge coin game, played by American military personnel to this day.

The basic premise of the game is that you challenge another soldier to produce a coin. If they can't produce one, they have to buy the challenger a drink. If the challenged person does pull out a coin, the challenger has to purchase the alcohol.

Every squadron and unit has its own rules and types of military challenge coins. For some, any old coin will do. For others, only a challenge coin related to the company you're serving in—for example, inscribed with your squadron's insignia—is good enough to avoid buying the booze.

Everyone loves a free tippie, so the game—and hence the challenge coin—quickly spread from the US Army to other military branches and even law enforcement and firefighter organizations.

Challenge Coins in Other Wars

Soldiers and officials serving in World War II used Challenge coins as identifying tokens to weed out "Nazi Infiltrators." During meetings, personnel would present their coins for inspection. Trained inspectors would look for specific unique features, such as the date on the coin and its type. In the Pacific, soldiers from America, assorted Oceanic nations, and locally recruited mercenaries carried out raids on the invading Japanese forces. American army officers confirmed their identity to allied Philippine guerrilla groups using a particular silver coin. Like its predecessor, this early form of challenge coin was stamped with their unit's insignia.

One of the rare military challenge coins dates from the Korean War (1950 to 1953): that of the 17th Infantry of Korea, commanded by Colonel "Buffalo Bill" Quinn.

On one side, these unique coins feature an image of a buffalo and the date 1812. On the other, the 17th Infantry patch, the dates 1950 to 1951, and the word "Korea." Officials presented them to every member that served in the 17th Infantry between the dates above.

Today, this coin is highly sought after by collectors. Because only a few were ever made, they're hard to come by and are primarily held in private collections. Also, because they're very rare, selling collectibles like these coins can yield a tremendous amount of profit.

Modern History of Challenge Coins In contemporary times, challenge coins are more popular than ever. The military uses them, and now they're also being adopted by other types of organizations.

The Boy Scouts of America, Harley Davidson riding clubs, and even financial institutions create challenge coins to celebrate specific milestones and events. Challenge coins are also popular with sports organizations like the PGA, NBL, NFL, and Major League Baseball. They use them to commemorate successful games or matches for staff, spectators, and players alike.

The most famous challenge coins of our times are the commander's coin minted by every POTUS since President Bill Clinton. They present these unique coins to White House guests, diplomats, and foreign officials or use them to mark historic occasions like the 100th anniversary of WWI.

Taken from <https://www.meidlight.com>



Easter Facts

1. The Easter Bunny legend began in Germany
2. More than 1.5 million Cadbury Creme Eggs are produced every day
3. The act of painting eggs originates from a Ukrainian tradition
4. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the full moon following March 21st
5. Florida holds the record for the largest Easter Egg Hunt. 9,753 children took part in the hunt to find 501,000 eggs.
6. The largest Easter parade is held in New York.
7. The Easter Bunny made its way to America in the 18th century.
8. 6 billion jelly beans are produced in the U.S. every year.
9. The first White House Easter Egg Roll was held in 1878.
10. 2 billion Peeps are made a year.
11. The Easter bonnet is a European tradition that began as a way to celebrate the incoming of Spring
12. Easter bonnets became very popular in the 1870s once New York City started hosting its annual Easter Parade.
13. There was an Easter egg once sold at \$18.5 million.

