

Town of Nahant  
Adoption Ceremony  
30 October 2014

Address by Master Chief Mark Cutter USCG (Ret.) Former Officer in Charge USCGC Flying Fish

Good Morning and what a fine Coast Guard Day it is! Selectman Barrasso, Selectman Manning, Past Commodore McMackin and Vice Commodore Santos, Commodore Cusack, Master chief Poulin, and my FLYINGFISH Shipmates and the family and friends of the Cutter FLYINGFISH, welcome and thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to witness the formal adoption of the Coast Guard Cutter FLYINGFISH by the Town of Nahant and the Nahant Dory Club First of all I have to start by saying thank you to what I consider a “Shipmate and Good Friend” Senior Chief Keith Kucera “Thank you” Thank You for the invitation and especially for reaching out to the past crews of the FLYINGFISH, but most of all thank you for following the course with something that set sail on memorial day in 2009 and ensuring it reached its final destiny.

The other day while Senior Chief and I were helping MC Poulin move into his new living quarters, we start chatting about our CG careers and what units were out best or what we call in the Coast Guard “Dream Billet” and without a question we both agreed that the FLYINGFISH was it. We went on to talk about when you are stationed a small boat station you are expected to be close to the local community because you actually live there and see the citizens of that community daily, however Coast Guard Cutters don’t have those community bonds or connections, ya they have a homeport, but because cutters spend so much time away from their homeport traveling around the district from as far as Canada to New Jersey they don’t have the time to form bonds, However the FLYINGFISH is an exception to that rule, and like I said earlier, this destiny was set back in 2009 when we were asked if we could bring the cutter into Nahant for memorial day, my first thought was wow, I just don’t think so, but I’ll look into, I went to my shipmates (the Chief Baisden, BM1 Harker and Barker, Now LT Barker, BM2 Maynard and many other ship mates and said what do you think, they said Master chief, we’ll make it happen if you want to. We’ll after a lot detailed planning (I mean detailed planning, down to the last few minutes that we had to be pulling out of that pier or we weren’t leaving until next tide cycle, if you know what I mean) Well, we were able to make it happen, it may have only been for a few hours,

but I had the time of my life, we opened the ship for tours to the citizens of Nahant and let me tell you I could not believe the welcoming we got, from all the people from the town that stopped by for a tour of the Cutter or just say Thanks!, but most of all what made my day was the smile on the Kids that came through the cutter.

That day may go down as one of my shortest port of calls, but one of my all time favorite! Thank You Nahant!

Selectman, Commodores the adoption of the Coast Guard FLYINGFISH just instills the commitment and bond between the Town of Nahant, the Nahant Dory Club and the Coast Guard, If you think about it, this bond really started back over 110 years ago with the opening of a life boat station Nahant after the sinking of the schooner Charles Briggs in 1898., Now look at it, the Town of Nahant owns of the most prestige's CG Life Boat Stations in the country and now a CG Cutter....

Selectman, Commodores, citizens of Nahant, and Shipmates the adoption of the FLYINGFISH by the Town of Nahant and the Nahant Dory Club is truly such an honor for those who have served or will serve aboard the Coast Guard Cutter FLYINGFISH.

Thank you all for giving me one of my fondest memories of my CG career, I will cherish it forever.

Thank You! And God Bless the Citizens of Nahant, Nahant Dory Club, Cutter FLYINGFISH, and Family and Friends!

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Address by Senior Chief Keith Kucera Officer in Charge USCGC Flying Fish

Good morning Nahant Town Selectmen, Nahant Dory Club Cadre, Coast Guard Sector Boston Command Cadre, distinguished guests and the family and crew of FLYINGFISH. My name is Senior Chief Keith Kucera, Officer in Charge of the Coast Guard Cutter FLYINGFISH. We come together this morning to open a new and exciting chapter between the FLYINGFISH and Nahant. The suggestion of this relationship dates back to 2009, when my friend and prior skipper of FLYINGFISH, Master Chief Mark Cutter, helped plant the seeds to a now flourishing relationship between a “small crew and a small town”. Mr. Bob Cusack, Dory Club Commodore and Coast Guard Master Chief (retired) Maurice Poulin have been at the forefront in this endeavor and I truly appreciate all of their efforts.

First, a bit about the cutter and her crew. The FLYINGFISH was commissioned in 2002, built in Bollinger Ship Yard, Lockport, LA. FLYINGFISH and her 11 man crew are home ported in Boston, MA. Our area of responsibility covers all waters seaward from the northern point of Maine to Sandy Hook, New Jersey, out 300 nautical miles. Our missions include, but are not limited to: Maritime Law Enforcement, Federal Fisheries protection and enforcement, Ports Waterways and Coastal Security, Environmental Protection, Recreational Boating Safety, National Defense, and Search and Rescue. We stand ready to answer these calls in a moment’s notice because every minute counts!

Next, I would like to address the proposed adoption. A question has been asked, “What does it mean to adopt a ship?” The term itself implies a commitment of continuing support. That support should not be taken in a monetary context at all. It should be seen as an opportunity to proudly display a sense of patriotism, community, and strength of spirit this town has been known for. It also sets the stage for a re-birth of relations between the Coast Guard and this community. The Nahant Lifesaving Station was built over 110 years ago, and still stands as a historical landmark today. The station was erected in response to the loss of eight souls in the wreck of the three-masted coal schooner CHARLES BRIGGS, on Short Beach in 1898. Its construction was “one of a kind” as it was able to launch surf boats in two directions. Back then, these lifesavers or “surfmens” lived in your community, their children attended your schools, and they provided community services to a town they loved so much. Our intention is to pay homage to those brave lifesavers with our commitment to you. We would like to offer our time in areas such as: The Partners in Education program at your local elementary school, participate in community education outreach programs, provide community service to local veterans and/or any residents in need, and learn from the rich history your town has in the military and maritime community.

In short, this relationship or commitment has no monetary value to speak of. BUT, it does focus upon a set of values which, in my book, are better than anything money can buy; our Coast Guard values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

**BMCS Keith E. Kucera  
Officer in Charge  
USCGC FLYINGFISH  
U.S. Coast Guard Base  
427 Commercial Street  
Boston, MA 02109**

**Dear Senior Chief Kucera:**

**The Officers and Members of the Nahant Dory Club do formally adopt the USCG Cutter Flying Fish WPB 87346 as a Coast Guard Cutter meriting our special interest and support. We pledge to contribute to the welfare of the crew of USCG Cutter Flying Fish throughout its missions of search and rescue, environmental protection and law enforcement. We admire their proud heritage of service and their adherence to the United States Coast Guard's motto "Semper Paratus." "Always Ready"**

**This 30<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2014**

**Robert J. Cusack  
Commodore**

**Manuel H. Santos  
Vice Commodore**