

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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COMDTINST 1800.6
30 NOV 1989

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 1800.6

Subj: Presidential Recognition Upon Retirement from the Coast Guard

Ref: (a) Department of Defense Instruction 1348.34(NOTAL)

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction publishes information concerning the issuance of certificates and letters to members of the Coast Guard, upon retirement, conveying the President's appreciation for their contribution of honorable service to our country.
2. BACKGROUND. The President, in a White House Memorandum, directed the Department of Defense to initiate a program where he could recognize members of the Armed Forces for their 20 or more years of honorable service, devotion to duty and sacrifices for their country.
3. DISCUSSION. Reference (a) establishes policy and procedural guidance for the program. It specifically states that "A Certificate of Appreciation for Service in the Armed Forces of the United States (DD Form 2452) shall be presented to each member retiring from the Armed forces after 20 or more years and attaining eligibility to receive retired pay. In addition, letters of appreciation, signed by the President, shall be presented to selected personnel specified in this Instruction." Coast Guard Reservists qualify by being eligible for Ret-1 or Ret-2 retirement, whichever comes first. The issuance of certificates and letters of appreciation went into effect on 1 October 1989. However, members who have retired between 20 January 1989 and 30 September 1989 will also be provided recognition with no action required on their part.

4. PROCEDURE.

- a. Commandant (G-PO/G-PE/G-RSM) will automatically issue the letter of appreciation and/or certificate along with a member's retirement package. Members with at least 30 years of service will receive both the certificate and letter.
- b. Commandant (G-PO/G-PE/G-RSM) will submit the names of individuals eligible for a letter of appreciation from the President to the Coast Guard's White House Liaison Officer. To be eligible to receive a letter of appreciation signed by the President, a member must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - (1) Retire with at least 30 years of active military service for Regulars or at least 30 years of satisfactory service for Reserves. (2) Be the Commandant of the Coast Guard upon retirement.
 - (2) Be the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard upon retirement.
 - (3) Be a former prisoner of war who is eligible for the Prisoner of War Medal. (5) Be a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

5. ACTION. area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, unit commanding officers, and Commander, Coast Guard Activities Europe shall ensure the widest dissemination of this information.

/s/ G. F. WOOLEVER
Acting Chief, Office of
Personnel and Training