

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
U.S. Coast Guard
Sector New York

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1650
July 25, 2006

Spirit Marine Company
W. 23rd St. & Pier 62 STE 200
New York, NY 10011

Dear Sir or Madam:

It gives me great pleasure to forward to you the Department of Transportation 9-11 Medal. You were awarded this personal recognition for your service while assigned to Activities New York during the eligibility period specified in reference.

The medal is awarded to Department of Transportation employees and private citizens for meritorious service and outstanding achievement in response to the attacks. Hanging from a red, white and blue ribbon, the solid brass medal features 11 rays of light rising from a candle, with nine stars superimposed over the lights. Two olives branches are set below the candle. It is inscribed with the Latin term "NE OBLIVISCARIS," meaning "Never Forget." The back of the medal is inscribed with the words, "For Service and Sacrifice to the United States of America During and After the Tragic Events of September 11, 2001." The DOT 9-11 Medal is placed between the Joint Service Achievement Medal and the CG Achievement Medal.

Over four and a half years ago, America suffered the anger of an enemy who hoped to destroy America by killing thousands of our citizens, our friends, and our loved ones, and by killing our spirit. But they underestimated us. Amid America's grief and our darkest moments, heroes emerged. Heroes that gave America the strength to not only carry on, but to rise to new levels of bravery, and commitment, and compassion. And nowhere was this more evident than among the men and women in the New York/New Jersey area that were among the first to answer the call for help that horrific day. Within moments of the attack, Coast Guard Activities New York organized a flotilla of private and public rescue vessels to assist in the waterborne evacuation of nearly a million survivors from lower Manhattan. Under the worst of circumstances, putting their own safety in jeopardy, these individuals demonstrated to the world the selfless sacrifices they are willing to make every day for their fellow man. With bridges and tunnels closed, and subway lines either demolished or shut down, the waterways provided the only escape route for hundreds of thousands of workers in lower Manhattan.

Coast Guard Activities New York and its Task Force -- which was called "Guarding Liberty" in the days and weeks that followed Sept. 11th, deployed an impenetrable layered maritime security shield around the Port of New York and the surrounding area. The response to the terrorist attacks and ongoing threat was a team effort to truly fulfill the role of Liberty's vigilant maritime guard responsible for the safety and security of the Port of New York and New Jersey. Coast Guard Reservists returned to active duty. The Auxiliary responded to many of the routine calls for help, freeing Coast Guard forces to conduct the largest port security operation since World War II. Ferry operators, pilots, and other mariners made significant contributions to the successful effort. Team Coast Guard as well as countless other organizations shouldered the load of keeping the port area and surrounding civilian population safe while minimizing delays to the flow of goods via the marine transportation system. This was a monumental task, particularly for the busiest port on the East Coast.

No single organization could have accomplished what the members of this multi-agency partnership have done. Through dedication, determination, and teamwork, you helped keep America's East Coast Gateway port both safe and operational. Our grateful Nation thanks you for your contributions to this effort.

Sincerely,

ROBERT R. O'BRIEN, JR
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Sector New York