



Press Release

May 10, 2007

For more information, contact:

Ed Sweeney DC-A
Chief-Public Affairs Department
916-284-8507

DC-A@auxpa.org
www.auxpa.org

GIVE YOUR MOM SOME BOATING SAFETY TIPS/GIFTS THAT MAY SAVE HER LIFE

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers great Mother's Day gift ideas for boaters

With Mother's Day just around the corner, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary would like to offer some special Mother's Day gift ideas that say "I love you", and will help keep boat-loving Moms stay safe all year long, and will surely last longer than roses or a card.

With warm weather approaching, one of the best gift ideas is to give Mom a sleek, light-weight, and comfortable inflatable life jacket (also known as a personal flotation device - or PFD). Today's life jackets come in a variety of styles and colors, are light weight, yet they provide even greater buoyancy than many older (less comfortable) style. More importantly, since these life jackets are less cumbersome, Mom is more likely to wear it. A sad reality is that over 80 percent of those involved in boating fatalities drowned, many because they were not wearing a life jacket.

One other great gift idea for a boater is to enhance their skills, and sign them up for a boating safety course. Knowledge is power, and it has been statistically shown that boaters who have taken a safety class are far less likely to be involved in a boating mishap or fatality. Course topics include basic boat handling, required and recommended safety equipment, navigational rules and dealing with boating emergencies. Specialty classes, such as advanced navigation, how to read a nautical chart, and how to use GPS and radar are also available. To learn more, call 1-877-875-6296, or visit the USCGAUX Boating Safety Class page at : http://nws.cgaux.org/visitors/pe_visitor/class_finder/index.html

Another one of the most valuable gifts for boaters doesn't cost anything but time, such as scheduling a free vessel safety check(VSC) with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary. An Auxiliarist will examine your vessel to ensure compliance with federal, state and local safety requirements before getting underway. For more information or to schedule a VSC, visit: <http://safetyseal.net/> and click on "I WANT A VSC."

Several other great gift ideas to help keep Mom safe include:

- A carbon monoxide detector
- A fire extinguisher
- An anchor
- Emergency signaling kits -- flares, signal mirror, whistle, etc.
- Up-to-date navigational charts and/or a handheld GPS unit
- Navigation tools and calculators
- Hand-held VHF marine radio with extra batteries
- Personal emergency position indicating radio beacons (PEPIRBs)
- Tool kit and spare parts for boats
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as a First Aid kit, sun screen, sunglasses, food and water.

The price range for these items runs from under \$10, up to several hundred dollars, but giving the gift of safety to Mom is priceless.

The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary recommends these gifts in the effort to save lives, and to reduce the number of mishaps on America's waterways.

-###-

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is composed of uniformed volunteer's who assist the Coast Guard in all of its varied missions, except for military and direct law enforcement. These men and women can be found on the nation's waterways, in the air, in classrooms and on the dock, performing Maritime Domain Awareness patrols, safety patrols, vessel safety checks and public education.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary was founded in 1939 by an Act of Congress as the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and re-designated as the Auxiliary in 1941. Over 27,000 members donate millions of hours annually in support of Coast Guard missions.

For more information on the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, visit us at www.cgaux.org or www.axupa.org