



Press Release

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Wilbur Didn't Survive, But the Volunteer Spirit of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Lives On

On an average day the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary assists 56 people in trouble on the water, assists with 19 search and rescue missions and possibly saves one to two recreational boaters from certain death somewhere on the waters of the United States. The Coast Guard Auxiliary's life saving efforts are not limited to people either.

On February 27, 2008 George McLellam and Harvey F. Saunders who are both U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary pilots, flew an injured porpoise, in McLellam's generously donated plane from the Suffolk Executive Airport to The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation in New York. The porpoise was named "Wilbur". Last year McLellam made this same trip for a porpoise named "Orville". Although regrettably Wilbur did not survive, the volunteer spirit of the members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary lives on.

Wilbur was found by National Park Service rangers washed up on Cape Hatteras National Seashore on Tuesday. The aquarium's stranding response team assessed the porpoise's condition and determined he could be rehabilitated.

Air Operations is just one of many missions conducted by the men and women of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Created by an Act of Congress in 1939, the Coast Guard Auxiliary directly supports the Coast Guard in all missions, except military and direct law enforcement missions.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard's motto is SEMPER PARATUS (ALWAYS READY). The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an integral part the United States Coast Guard. For more information visit www.cgaux.org if you ready to be SEMPER PARATUS visit <http://join.cgaux.org>.

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