2001-2005

2001: For the first time since World War II, Coast Guard Auxiliary lends major operational support to Coast Guard in protecting U.S. cities, coastlines, ports, and citizens against foreign attacks, due to Al Qaeda terrorist attack on New York City and Washington, D. C., on September 11. Auxiliarists participated in the maritime evacuation of Mahattan Island New York. Dubbed the Largest evacuation in history 500,000 civilians rescued in 9 hours. Larger than Dunkirk.

Auxiliary publishes first official history, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary: A History, 1939-1999, authored by John A. Tilley of East Carolina University (U.S. Government Printing Office).

2002: U. S. Coast Guard transferred from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Homeland Security.

1 March 2003: U. S. Department of Homeland Security formally established. U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member organization.

2004: Auxiliarists become victims and rescuers during unprecedented four hurricanes that hit Florida: Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

2005: Hurricane Katrina hits Louisiana and the Gulf Coast in August. Hurricane Rita hits Texas, Louisiana in September and Hurricane Wilma hits Florida in October. Auxiliary members nationwide assisted at these disasters.

Hurricane Katrina Search and rescue operations alone saved 24,135 lives from imminent danger, usually off the roofs of the victims' homes as flood waters lapped at their feet. Coast Guardsmen "evacuated to safety" 9,409 patients from local hospitals. In total, 33,545 lives were saved. Seventy-six Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary aircraft took part in the rescues. They flew 1,817 sorties with a total flight time of 4,291.3 hours in the air. The air crews saved 12,535. A total of 42 cutters and 131 small boats also participated, with their crews rescuing 21,200. More than 5,000 Coast Guardsmen served in Katrina operations. District 8CR sent several divisions to support the Coast Guard with personnel and facilities - surface, air, and communications. The district also donated $10,000 to assist members impacted by Katrina.