



Eastern Massachusetts Region
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Media ALERT

U.S. Coast Guard Members Named 2010 American Red Cross Sea Rescue Heroes

Hyannis, Mass, February 22, 2011 –The American Red Cross Cape Cod and Islands Chapter is pleased to announce that Lieutenant Commanders Rachel Eldridge and Doug Watson, Aviation Electronics Technician Second Class Jamar Jones, Aviation Electronics Technician Third Class Spencer Vince, Aviation Maintenance Mechanic Third Class Thomas Frost of US Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod have been named Sea Rescue heroes and will be honored at the 9th Annual Heroes Breakfast at the Resort & Conference Center in Hyannis on March 31, 2011 from 7:00-9:00 am. Tickets are available on-line at www.cciredcross.org, by calling (508) 775-1540 ext. 21 or at American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601.

LCDR Kevin Berry of US Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod nominated the crew of the Coast Guard 2129, a Falcon jet stationed at Air Station Cape Cod, for their quick and heroic actions when two emergencies threatened the lives of three citizens.

On May 29, 2010, Lieutenant Commanders Rachel Eldridge and Doug Watson, Aviation Electronics Technician Second Class Jamar Jones, Aviation Electronics Technician Third Class Spencer Vince and Aviation Maintenance Mechanics Third Class Thomas Frost learned a boat, "Happy Days," was taking on water somewhere off Boston.

With little information, the crew searched between Boston and Gloucester, a task complicated by its course around Logan International Airport. With daylight waning, they attempted one last search. Eldridge noticed oil sheen on the water -- they spotted a man. The vessel had sunk.

The crew worked to drop a life raft, but as the jet approached, they saw a second person in the water. Despite dangerously low fuel, they reevaluated their plan and dropped the raft between them. With other rescuers arriving, they flew to New Hampshire to refuel.

Then -- a second emergency.

A woman needed medical evacuation from Nantucket. They flew there directly and learned Medflight was en route. But eyeing deteriorating weather, the crew remained -- a fortunate decision since Medflight was forced to turn around. The jet crew completed the mission.

The entire crew worked tirelessly through tense, complicated emergencies. Their remarkable dedication makes this versatile team Red Cross Heroes.

To find out more about the 9th Annual Red Cross Heroes Breakfast, Red Cross training schedules, volunteering for the Red Cross, for disaster preparedness information in English, Spanish or Portuguese, or to donate, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601, call (508) 775-1540 or visit www.cciredcross.org

The Red Cross is not a government agency and does not receive federal or state funding. Local Chapters do receive some human resource support from the American Red Cross Headquarters, however, each Chapter is responsible for raising adequate funds to support all of its activities, including recruiting and training volunteers, and teaching life saving skills within its geographical coverage area. It relies on donations of time, money, and blood from the American public to successfully do its work.

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