



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert

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For Immediate Release

Red Cross Board Member Elizabeth Young Meets Italian Red Cross Nurses



Hyannis, Mass., April 28th, 2010 — American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter Board Member Beth Young of Marstons Mills recently met two Italian Red Cross nurses during a Coastguard to the Naval Academy in Naples, Italy.

Beth Young says: " You can see how proud these Red Cross nurses are of their service. In my brief communications with them, I understood that this was how they could serve if they wanted to serve their country.

Women were just admitted to military service in 1999 in Italy. It was ironic that I was the senior officer of our delegation, and women of my rank do not yet exist in any of their military services.

"I understood years of struggle for equality from these two proud Red Cross nurses. It was kind of like stepping back in a time warp for me because I entered the CG in 1985, 9 yrs after women were admitted into the CG. Some of the men did not really know what to make of us and I could see that in their culture as well. It was refreshing to see the strides we have made in the US as far as acceptance of women in the service."

The American Red Cross is mandated by Congress to support Emergency Messages to members of the Armed Forces and their family members and it plays a role in pre-deployment briefings to the Armed Forces (all branches) stationed or training at the Massachusetts Military Reservation.

Commander Elizabeth Young, U. S. Coast Guard joined the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Board in 2009. A career Coast Guard HU-25 Falcon pilot, Beth has flown over 3,700 hours and continues to fly missions at Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod.

During her career she has been a first responder from the air, often conducting life threatening medical evacuations and searching for vessels in distress during the worst of storms, and taking her crew into harm's way to save the lives of others in distress.

To find out more about volunteering for the Red Cross or for class schedules, or to donate, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601, call (508) 775-1540 ext. 21 or visit www.capecodandislandsredcross.org

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