



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert **MEDIA ALERT**

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American Red Cross to Honor USCG members Corey Boudreau, Mike Snyder, Joshua Shaffer and John Brennan at its 8th Annual Heroes Breakfast on March 4th

Tickets and Sponsorships Now Available at www.cciredcross.org

Hyannis, Mass, February 18, 2010 - The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, is pleased to announce that Aircraft Commander: LTJG Corey Boudreau, USCG; Copilot: LT Mike Snyder, USCG; Flight Mechanic: AET3 Joshua Shaffer, USCG; and Rescue Swimmer: AST3 John Brennan, USCG will be honored as Military Sea Rescue /Medical Rescue Heroes at its 8th Annual Heroes Breakfast on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA from 7:00-9:00 A.M.

On December 19-20 the crewmembers listed above assumed watch. Severe snow storms began at about 3:00pm and were forecast to continue throughout the night. At 8:15pm an emergency radio beacon signal was received from the S/V Moonshine. The number of people onboard or the nature of the vessels distress was not yet known. Various help was launched from different points and the air station duty pilots carefully planned the mission loading extra fuel and hypothermic kits, blankets and supplies. Ground crews worked feverishly to make takeoff possible. Low visibility and icing were factors. The aircraft taxied in near zero visibility and pilots soon realized flight under visual conditions would not be an option. The on-scene weather and search conditions were reported as 10 to 12 foot seas, winds 30 knots gusting to 40 knots, and visibility less than one mile. While LTJG Boudreau focused navigating the aircraft through the difficult conditions, LT Snyder attempted to hone in on the emergency beacon signal from the Moonshine, with negative results. They finally located the vessel and determined there were four people, in good condition on the vessel. Due to the weather conditions, it was determined that the people could not be hoisted from the vessel and it would have to be towed.

The helicopter remained on scene until help arrived, approximately 45 minutes later. While keeping the Moonshine in sight, the helicopter crew orbited the vessel and provided comforting illumination. They also passed updated position information to the rescue boat, expediting the rescue. They remained on the scene and then climbed back into the storm to return back to Cape Cod. After shutdown, the crew observed ice coating the front of nearly every vertical surface of the aircraft.

LTJG Boudreau was faced with incredibly challenging flying condition on this mission. LT Snyder demonstrated excellent judgment and initiative throughout this case. Rescue Swimmer Brennan and Flight Mechanic Shaffer were instrumental to conducting a safe search and rescue mission. Their actions during preflight planning were especially important to ensuring the aircraft was prepared for the severe weather conditions and possible rescue of an unknown number of people from the S/V Moonshine. All crew members were essential to this mission and contributed to the commendable, successful result.

The Red Cross touches lives in our community every day through programs and services such as disaster relief and health and safety training. As an organization committed to helping the community, the Red Cross is honored to salute individuals who are making a difference through their actions at its 8th Annual Red Cross Heroes Breakfast.

Tickets are available online at cciredcross.org or can be obtained by calling toll-free (508) 775-1540, ext. 21. Different levels of sponsorship are also available. You can write to: American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis MA 02601 or send an email to heroes@cciredcross.org.

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