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Abstract Title: The U.S. Coast Guard, a.k.a. the “North Carolina Navy”

Abstract Description: Coast Guard men and women have come from every corner of the State of North Carolina, while others have moved to the state to serve in places like Wilmington, Oak Island, Wrightsville Beach, Elizabeth City, Fort Macon, Hatteras and other bases and stations along the Outer Banks. Not only do these personnel serve today in the modern Coast Guard, but they did so for generations in legacy agencies like the Lifesaving Service, Lighthouse Service and Revenue Cutter Service. Many North Carolina families have been associated with these predecessor services. Their names include Etheridge, Midgett, Burrus, Balance, Gray, O’Neal, Daniels and many others. So many have served that the Coast Guard is sometimes called the “North Carolina Navy.”

The Coast Guard’s history is closely tied to the State of North Carolina. This connection dates back to 1790 and the men and women who have served at the many stations and bases along the coast and eastern side of North Carolina. This paper will explore the history of North Carolina’s countless connections to the Coast Guard and its missions.