

FLA/GA

LOCAL

Twenty Years United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Service Award



Harry Tipper, III Flotilla Commander Flotilla 14-1, District 7, USCG Auxiliary and Frank M Powell, III Vessel Examiner (VE) 20 years Service Award

Story and Photo by Frank M. Powell III

Some of the things that the boaters in my area have problems passing that must be met before a "Vessel Safety Check" decal can be awarded.

- 1. Overall Safety Condition**
The deck must be free of fire hazards and other hazards and in good condition overall.
- 2. Safe Electrical and Fuel Systems**
The electrical system must be protected by fuses or manual reset circuit breakers. Switches and fuse panels must be protected from rain or water spray. Wiring must be in good condition, properly installed with no exposed areas or deteriorated insulation. Batteries must be secured and terminals must be covered to prevent accidental arcing.
- 3. Portable Fuel Tanks**
The tank—normally 7 gallon capacity—must be secured and have a vapor-tight, leak-proof cap. Each permanent fuel tank must be properly ventilated.

You can request a courtesy vessel safety check at your boat's location or read over more guidelines at <https://cgaux7141.wildapricot.org/Vessel-Safety-Checks>

Remember, do not tie your boat to bridge fender systems. Navigational markers, navigational aids, and fixed buoys are also off limits.

As I have told 1000's of people before in the 20 years I have served as a vessel examiner, I say, wear your life jacket!

WEAR It Florida Campaign

Did you know that Florida has the unfortunate distinction of being the national leader in annual boating fatalities? A majority of fatalities every year are boaters who fall overboard and drown. These death could have been easily prevented if the boater had worn a life jacket.

Wearing a life jacket can mean the difference between a fun day on the water and becoming a statistic. Don't believe it could happen to you? In Florida it happens to an average of one person a week who also never

thought it could happen. This is where the Wear It Florida campaign comes into play. The campaign goal is clear and simple—to increase the number of recreational boaters who consistently wear a life jacket while on the water.

Common Misconceptions Associated with Life Jacket Wear

1. I am a great swimmer! Why would I need to bother with a life jacket?

Even the greatest swimmers are not always ready to be thrown overboard, and a quick look at boating safety statistics makes that quite evident. Typically, over half of Florida's boating fatalities each year are due to falls overboard and boaters entering the water unprepared.

2. I am not a kid; I am an experienced boater. I know what I'm doing.

Age and experience do not float. They are also not good indicators of whether you would survive an unexpected fall overboard. On average, about one half to two thirds of Florida's annual boating fatalities are men over the age of 30 with over 100 hours of experience on the water.

3. It is just too hot out to wear something so bulky and uncomfortable (not to mention what it will do to my tan lines)!

The availability of inflatable life jackets has made wearing a life jacket more comfortable as they are less bulky and constrictive. An inflatable life jacket has twice the buoyancy of a traditional orange horseshoe life jacket and is less than half the size! The biggest problem with an inflatable jacket is forgetting you are wearing them in the first place.

4. Who will notice if I wear a life jacket?

Everyone will notice when you are not around because you did not wear it. Your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews will also follow the example you set—whether good or bad. Make yourself a good example by practicing safe boating habits—WEAR IT.



Lille M. Hall-Vereen
New Alumni President Edward Waters College

New EWC Alumni President Elected

As Edward Waters College enters its next phase of growth, a dedicated group of alumni is doing their part to ensuring that the school survives. In June, at the National Alumni Association Convention Lille M. Hall -Vereen was elected to lead the group for the next two years. "I am excited to be chosen to help move us to higher heights" said Vereen. "We are poised to focus on projects that will celebrate our past and keep us operating in years to come". Lille Vereen a 1969 graduate of the college said that her goals are to create an endowment fund for scholarships and organizational

effectiveness, complete a project that places a historic marker on the spot where the college was founded in Live Oak, Florida. Another initiative is to increase student engagement and increase Alumni membership. Other officers elected were Johnny Kirby, Vice President, Jackie Nash, Recording Secretary, Linda Holmes, Financial Secretary, Marguerite Warren, Treasurer, Leroy Smith, Parliamentarian, Melva Rozier, District Director, Eric Daniel Johnson, Director of Public Relations, Carrie Dejournett, Chaplain, and Shelia Seabrook Williams, Immediate Past President.

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Are a woman who had diabetes during pregnancy	Delayed Wound Healing	Nerve Damage
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