

Veteran's Day, 2006

by Jeff Burton

I hope everyone had a good Veteran's Day. Let me once again thank you all for your service and for supporting those who have served and those who still are serving.

Included are photos of a news article that appeared following the CG Station Chatham reunion. Had a great time and was reminded that the MCPO-CGR, Jeff Smith, was a member of the Reserve crews when I served there. I was almost as surprised to see my picture in the article as I was when the head of the CG museum in Barnstable took a picture of me to put in the museum showing various CG uniforms (he'd never seen the PB uniform or USCG tartan).

Speaking of uniforms; I was looking at the band and honor guard/drill team uniforms at the wreath-laying ceremony yesterday and thought that it might be a good idea for us to put a 'U.S. Coast Guard Band' shoulder patch on the "Bravo" jacket, similar to the ones worn by the other ceremonial units (e.g., Honor Guard Drill Team.) The precedent is there, and it would be in line with the other ceremonial units. I would recommend that this is something that the band should provide to all active members.

On other fronts, things went very well at ANC for Veteran's Day with Steve Cochran, Chet Strait and I playing "Green Hills, The Battle's O'er, and Balmoral after the Band finished their set. Timing for our finish was well executed, as Steve had us do a short ending for Balmoral so that we stopped as the Commandant and Undersecretary Jackson got to the wreath for the ceremony. Attendees/Speakers included the Commandant, Undersecretary for DHS Michael Jackson, MCPO-CG Bowen, MCPO-CGR Smith, RADM Papp, and a surprisingly large number of current and veteran CG members and their families.

Unfortunately, the TV news truck was heading up to CG Hill as we were leaving. The ceremony was very short and the media, as well as several CG families, were just getting to the area as most of the participants were departing. All in all it was a beautiful day, a nice ceremony, and good interaction with the dignitaries and with the CG band.

