

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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June 14, 2011

Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr.
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
2100 Second Street
Washington, DC 02593


Dear Admiral Papp,

The City of Newburyport, Massachusetts has recently submitted an application to be named a Coast Guard City in recognition of the City's extraordinary support for its Coast Guard unit, and I am writing to offer my strongest endorsement of this application.

In my role as Senator from the 1st Essex District, I have had the distinct opportunity to view, first hand, the partnership between the City of Newburyport and the US Coast Guard Station - Merrimack River. Over the course of this partnership, it has been imperative for the City to work in unison with the Coast Guard. Never was this more apparent than a year ago when a drowning occurred near the mouth of the Merrimack River. The Coast Guard, in concert with the Newburyport Harbormaster, worked together on the rescue and then the recovery.

The history between the City and the Coast Guard dates back approximately 220 years. In fact, Newburyport is considered to be the birthplace of the Coast Guard. In 1791, the US Revenue Cutter Service launched its first vessel, *The Massachusetts*, from the banks of the Merrimack River, and in 1991, the Coast Guard returned to Massachusetts to celebrate its 200th Anniversary. In addition, in 1958 the City of Newburyport dedicated its Yankee Homecoming Celebration to recognizing the Coast Guard and erected a statute in downtown Newburyport in honor of the Coast Guard. In 1965, the US Congress and President Lyndon Johnson passed and signed a resolution recognizing Newburyport as the official birthplace of the Coast Guard, and the US Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp.

There is undoubtedly a long and distinguished history between the Coast Guard and the City of Newburyport. In recognition of this noteworthy partnership, I would greatly appreciate your consideration in granting this application for the City of Newburyport to be awarded the status of a designated Coast Guard City.

Very truly yours,

Steven A. Baddour
State Senator
First Essex District