



Coast Guard City: Clearwater, Florida

The City of Clearwater became a Coast Guard City on December 23, 2011. Mayor Frank Hibbard proclaimed Jan. 27, 2012 "Coast Guard City Day," and a ceremony was held in downtown Clearwater on that date.

The City of Clearwater is now one of 14 cities throughout the nation to be designated as a Coast Guard City. The designation, endorsed by Congress and the Coast Guard, is made to recognize the outstanding support the community provides to Coast Guard personnel and their families. The Coast Guard plays a critical role in the safety and well-being of Clearwater's residents with more than 650 Coast Guard personnel located throughout the city and neighboring communities. It is a vital element of the city's citizenry and culture. More than 160,000 veterans and their families also live in Pinellas County. To support its Coast Guard families, the City of Clearwater coordinated community recognition, events and programs. The city recognizes the Coast Guard Persons of the Year; participates in the annual Coast Guard Birthday Celebration; provides welcome aboard packages to all arriving Coast Guard Personnel; hosts the Coast Guard Band at Ruth Eckerd Hall; and assists the Coast Guard when needed. The City of Clearwater extends a sincere thank you to all who serve.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Clearwater Designated a Coast Guard City

CLEARWATER, Fla. – The City of Clearwater is now one of 14 cities throughout the nation to be designated as a Coast Guard City. The designation, endorsed by Congress and the Coast Guard, is made to recognize the outstanding support the community provides to Coast Guard personnel and their families.

The public is invited to celebrate this prestigious honor Friday, Jan. 27, 6 p.m. at the intersection of Cleveland Street and Garden Avenue in downtown Clearwater on the Blast Friday Stage. Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard will be the Master of Ceremonies at the event. The Clearwater Police and Fire Departments Joint Honor Guard with the Coast Guard Honor Guard will post the colors, and music will be provided by the Coast Guard Quintet. Representatives from the Coast Guard and federal, state and local officials will speak.

The Coast Guard will set up displays at Station Square Park just east of the stage. Attendees will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with Coast Guard displays, and information about careers in the Coast Guard will be available.

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Blast Friday is held the last Friday of each month and features live music, a variety of vendors, food, beer, and wine. District restaurants are open with outdoor dining available on Cleveland Street. After the ceremonies, Rare Earth will be performing. The group is known for songs such as *Get Ready*, *(I Know) I'm Losing You*, and *I Just Want to Celebrate*.

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