

DEPENDENT CRUISE 1988-1989



By ET1 Eugene Vogt

The Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin got underway again on Saturday July 22 for the Annual Navy League and Dependents cruise. More than 400 guests from the Navy League, dependents, and friends of the Coast Guard cruised through New York Harbor and the Verrazano Narrows.

These guests ranged from babies in strollers to many veterans of World War II. The weather was co-operative, and the table set by the cook could have graced a cruise ship. The ship's spaces were opened to the guests and many families got to see just what the crew of 378 does. Of course, with all those years of experience aboard not all of the sea stories came from the crew. I was reminded about correct shipboard terminology by a nice elderly lady. Directing her to the Captain's cabin, she replied, "That's a ladder, the Queen Mary had stairs." It seemed she had served in the Royal Navy.

One of the highlights of the cruise was the presentation of the "Navy League Sailor of the Quarter Award" to MK1 Mario Straker. The award, an engraved plaque, and \$250, was presented on the Star deck as his family watched. Straker has eight and a half years in the Coast Guard and was stationed on the 82 foot CGC Point Verde and at CG Station Mobile, Law Enforcement Detachment before coming to the Gallatin. He says that although getting underway is hard on a family, "It's what it's all about." Now he is working hard for the future studying to make Chief and preparing to apply for OCS.

Soon we were passing the Statue of Liberty as Commander Flanagan approached Yankee Pier for the last time as ship's Executive Officer. Captain Newlin thanked him for his work and wished him well in his new job. As we passed the old Brooklyn Army Terminal, many of the guests were remembering another homecoming, over forty years ago.

The Hrisko brothers, Bill and Andrew, remembered. Bill was a BM1, USCG; while Andrew served as a CM3 (carpenter's mate) in the Navy. These are the kinds of people that support us year after year. They haven't forgotten us, and we are thankful for what they have done.

