



U.S. COAST GUARD
NATIONAL RETIREE COUNCIL
RETIREE SERVICES PROGRAM (CG-WMM-23)
2703 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVE SE
WASHINGTON, DC 20593-7801

JUL 03 2025

Dear Retirees & Annuitants:

We're writing to share a new resource that may be of comfort and practical help during one of life's most difficult times - the loss of a loved one. As a military Retiree, there are some additional steps that need to be taken by our survivors when we pass. The CG National Retiree Council (CGNRC) has long recognized the need to provide a useful guide for families to help address these issues. At long last, we're pleased to present the CG Military Personnel Estate Planning & Final Affairs Handbook - a CGNRC priority and culmination of dedicated efforts by Council members spearheaded by the late CAPT Mike Rosecrans, USCG (Ret.), as well as CG Regional Retiree Councils (RRCs), the CG Pay & Personnel Center, and CG Retiree Services. This Handbook can be accessed digitally by typing "Coast Guard Military Personnel Estate Planning & Final Affairs Handbook" into any Search Engine, such as Google.

The Handbook isn't just for Retirees. We recognize that that **everyone 18 years and older** needs a **basic Estate Plan** and understanding of managing **final affairs**. At some point in our lives, most of us will need to care for aging and/or chronically ill family members or dear friends, manage final affairs, and cope with the process of grieving as a caregiver and survivor.

Handbook content, including external websites, is general information, **subject to change**, and does **not** constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Coast Guard. You are **strongly** encouraged to discuss estate planning & final affairs with trusted family, friends, and professionals in each topic. Feel free to share the Handbook with others you feel may benefit from it.

Updates to the Handbook will be e-mailed to e-mail addresses on file in CG Direct Access (DA). You are strongly encouraged to maintain current e-mail addresses in your DA Self-Service account, accessible at <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/gp/> You may direct questions to Mr. Bob Hinds, CG Retiree Services Program Manager, at Robert.C.Hinds@uscg.mil

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Merrie Austin".

Merrie Austin, RADM, USCG (Ret)
CGNRC Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Vanderhaden".

Jason Vanderhaden, MCPOCG, USCG (Ret)
CGNRC Co-Chair