

Fellow Coast Guard Retiree,

You are invited to join the recently established Great Lakes Retiree Council (GLRC). This is an expansion of the former Cleveland-area Retiree Council that has been dormant since 2021.

Although the leadership will be based here in Cleveland, the GLRC will look to connect with Coast Guard retirees across the District to share news about the service, Great Lakes District operations as well as provide information about retiree and veterans benefits and resources. Supported by Base Cleveland, the Council will look to add representatives from other locations across the region to facilitate information distribution, networking and social events. The Regional Council will also represent Great Lakes members at the National Retiree Council meeting every year.

The Co-Chairs of the Council are Jim Bach (OSCM, USCG Ret.) and Lorne Thomas (CAPT, USCG Ret.). Jim served as the Command Master Chief here at the District from 2016-18 and has visited every Great Lakes District unit. After a tour as Atlantic Area's Command Chief, he retired in 2020 with more than 31 years of service. Lorne has spent an extensive amount of time on the Great Lakes in the field and on the District staff. He just finished serving as the District's civilian Chief of External Affairs after retiring from active duty in 2010.

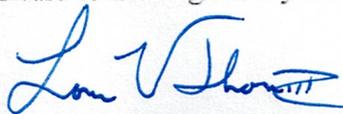
As the Co-Chairs of the GLRC, we will maintain a bridge between the Great Lakes District active service and the Great Lakes retiree family providing information to the supported military retiree community. This will include retiree program news, disseminating information from the appropriate resource office on active-duty service activities, events of interest to retirees, updates and changes pertaining to retiree benefits and services.

We will also serve as a communication link between the Great Lakes Coast Guard retiree community and the District and Base Cleveland. Base Cleveland's active-duty retiree services coordinator will support this connection and collaborate with the GLRC to communicate, in an effective/timely manner, key information of interest to the supported military retiree community.

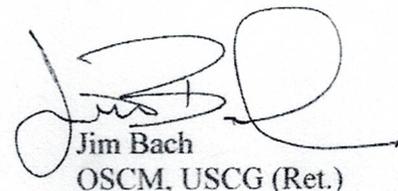
We will also serve as a link between the Retiree & Annuitant Services Branch at the Coast Guard Personnel & Pay Center (PPC) and provide contacts at accredited veterans' representative organizations as needed. The GLRC will not represent any retiree in individual transactions with the PPC, the Veterans Administration or a Veterans Service Office at representative organizations.

We will use e-mail to communicate with members. There will be no additional letters. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please send your e-mail to: [d9glrc@gmail.com](mailto:d9glrc@gmail.com). Please indicate the nearest city/town to you. If you are interested in serving as a Council representative outside of the Cleveland area, please indicate that as well.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Lorne W Thomas  
CAPT, USCG (Ret.)



Jim Bach  
OSCM, USCG (Ret.)

Co-Chairs  
Great Lakes Retiree Council