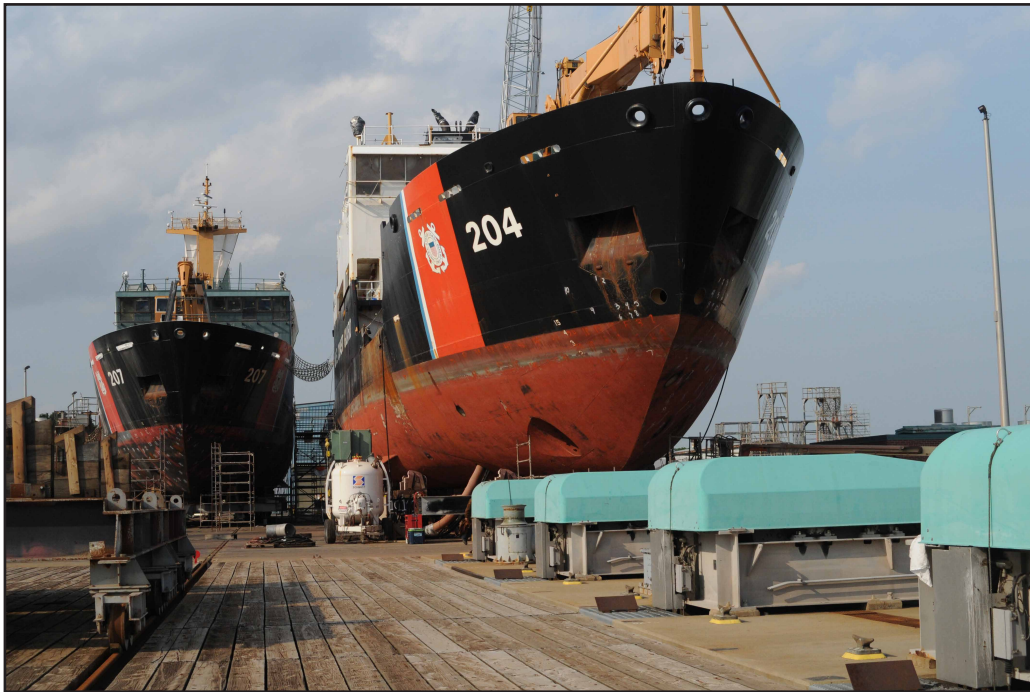




## Third ISVS 225' Cutter Departs

### **Yard's Mid-Life Maintenance Assures Cutters' Long Term Sustainability**



*The Yard's shiplift dry docks the Cutters MAPLE (left) and ELM (right) as the fourth and fifth, respectively, 225' buoy tenders to undergo mid-life repair under the Coast Guard's In-Service Vessel Sustainment program.*



*The Cutter KUKUI departs the Yard on Saturday, June 9th after completing a 12-month mid-life maintenance under the Coast Guard's In-Service Vessel Sustainment (ISVS) project. The 225' buoy tender is the third in its class to complete overhaul under ISVS, a project that began at the Yard in 2014. KUKUI's new homeport is Sitka, Alaska.*

The Coast Guard Cutter KUKUI departed the Yard on June 9<sup>th</sup> after completing a 12-month mid-life maintenance under the Coast Guard's In-Service Vessel Sustainment (ISVS) project. KUKUI was the third ISVS 225' buoy tender to undergo extensive overhaul of targeted hull, mechanical, electrical, and electronic systems.

Repair of KUKUI included the inaugural installation of a 225' prototype buoy crane. Other tasks involved overhaul of deck equipment and weight handling gear, updates to the machinery control system and HVAC systems, topside preservation, and stability assessment. Routine maintenance included dry-docking, painting, plate renewal, and renewal of work-out machinery parts and rusted steel.

The 225' seagoing buoy tenders were commissioned between 1996 and 2004 and are planned to spend at least 30 years in service. The Yard's mid-life maintenance allows the buoy tenders to be fully mission capable and effectively operate for the rest of their service life.

## The Commanding Officer's Column by Captain Matthew W. Lake



Greetings family and friends of the Yard! First off, I wish congratulations to Mr. Benson, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Brink for their well-earned recognition as the Coast Guard's Civilians of the Year. This is the third year in a row that Yard employees have earned this honor, and the second year in a row that the Yard had a "clean sweep" of the Coast Guard Civilian of the Year awards. Furthermore, the Department of Homeland Security recognized the Yard's 140' Icebreaker Service Life Extension Project (SLEP) as the "Level III Acquisition Program of the Year."

In June we began the second year of our partnership with New Era Academy, providing high school

internships at the Yard. This program is fully funded by donations to the City of Baltimore; students from New Era Academy are paid by the City to work in the Yard during the summer, learning basic job and trade skills. This is one of three new internship programs that are helping bring new talent into the Yard to ensure we are developing our next generation of Yard employees. Another similar program is supported by Anne Arundel County.

In terms of workforce growth, we continue to leverage the unique authorities of the Yard's industrial working capital fund to restructure and rebuild our workforce to accomplish today's work in the shipyard and ensure we are well-prepared for the future. Within the past 18 months, we hired talented people to fill 82 new positions on the waterfront. In doing so, we are able to deliver cutters faster than before, and for less cost. As a matter of context, we are on track to finish this fiscal year with nearly one million production hours – the highest output in a quarter century.

Broadly speaking, the demand for the Yard's services is the highest it has

been in recent times, to include demand from the Coast Guard and notably other government agencies. For example, the Surface Force Logistics Center, Yard and the U.S. Navy recently signed an agreement to overhaul Navy gun weapons systems that are common with those installed on Coast Guard cutters. We continue to work closely with NOAA on the renovation and upgrade of their ships, and are working with the U.S. Army to support some of their emerging ship maintenance requirements.

Within government there is strong recognition that maintaining a healthy industrial base, to include public shipyards like the Yard, is imperative to the security of our Nation. We, the men and women of the Yard, are doing our best to meet this strategic need.

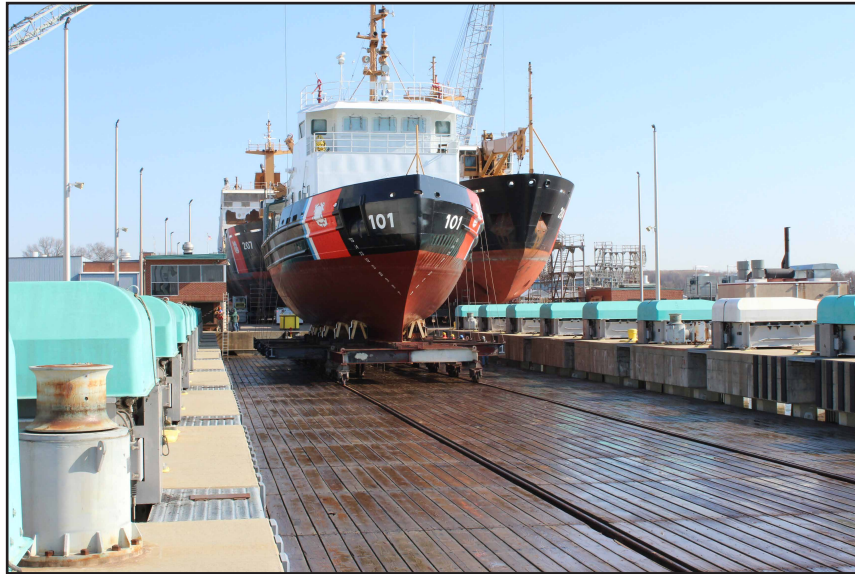


### Commandant Honors James Wyche, X40, For 50 Years Federal Service



Admiral Paul Zukunft (left), Commandant of the Coast Guard, hosted Yard Boat Builder/Painter James Wyche (right) at the Commandant's Flag Mess at Coast Guard Headquarters on May 4 to celebrate Mr. Wyche's 50 years of federal service. A U.S. Army veteran, he began his Yard career on April 22, 1968 in the Yard Fiberglass Shop. Congratulations from the Yard family on your Golden Anniversary! *(Photo courtesy of Lamont McCloud, X40)*

**“We’re Working On It!”**



*CGC KATMAI BAY (WTGB 101) - Sault St. Marie, MI*



*CGC RAZORBILL (WPB 87332) - Portsmouth, VA*



*CGC COBIA (WPB 87311) - Woods Hole, MA*



*CGC THUNDER BAY (left) (WTGB 108) - Rockland, ME  
CGC MAPLE (right) (WLB 207) - Atlantic Beach, NC*

# CG YARD FY17 Mission Support

## Renovation Projects (ISVS & OGA)

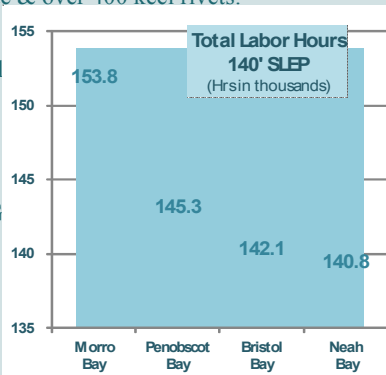
Yard continued production of the In-Service Vessel Sustainment (ISVS) Project, including Mid-life Maintenance Availabilities (MMAs) & Service Life Extension Projects (SLEPs). Yard also completed 1 renovation project for Other Gov't Agency (OGA) vessels.

■CGC NEAH BAY	SLEP	\$14.5M	52 wks
■CGC WILLOW	MMA	\$13.4M	60 wks
■CGC EAGLE Phase 3	SLEP	\$6.1M	30 wks
■NOAA F. Hassler	OGA	\$2.9M	19 wks

**225' WLB MMA and EAGLE SLEP:** Yard completed WILLOW MMA (hull #2) & began KUKUI (hull#3) and MAPLE (hull#4) MMAs. Yard completed EAGLE SLEP Phase 3 including renewal of 1,160 ft<sup>2</sup> hull plate & over 400 keel rivets.

**140' WTGB SLEP:** Yard completed NEAH BAY (hull #4) continuing efficiency gains made in FY16 (chart), & achieving a 95.7% 'labor learning' curve, exceeding current rates for Navy & CG new construction.

**Navy YPSLEP:** Yard commenced work on the 1<sup>st</sup> of 5 hulls from the Naval Academy's Yard Patrol (YP) training fleet.



## CG Yard Efficiency Improvements:

Yard achieved its highest labor productivity in 2 decades & its greatest production labor hour output (859K) since 1999, reducing its labor rate by 4%. These results were achieved by performing work that fits with Yard's competitive advantage, altering the workforce structure to lower labor costs and targeted hiring to match demand.

### 87' CPB Recurring Depot Availability Prgm

Yard completed 12 DD availabilities on 87' CPBs, on hulls 26-37 of the 47 LANT CBPs, wrapping up the 3<sup>rd</sup> yr of the 87' Recurring Depot Availability Program (RDAP).

**RDAP SCHEDULE:** 87' RDAP continued to deliver fully mission capable cutters on-time for operations. 9 of 12 CPBs finished on-schedule in the 66-day RDAP window. Three CPBs requiring unexpected repairs were restored with no loss to cutter operating schedule and no follow-on delay to other RDAPs: two involved extensive U/W plate renewal (avg 240 ft<sup>2</sup>); 1 involved stern door deficiencies.

**RDAP SCOPE:** As learning curve efficiencies were achieved in FY16-17, labor hour savings have been rolled back into each RDAP, enabling completion of more discrepancy corrections (identified in Joint Vessel Inspections), as well as more habitability improvements & electronics upgrades.

**FRC Recurring Depot Availability Program** At the request of CG-751, Yard and SFLC completed a Business Case Analysis of a similar RDAP for FRCs, which demonstrated significant value to the CG, especially if implemented earlier in the fleet's life-cycle, likely avoiding the need for a long-duration mid-life type project.

## System Overhauls/Maintenance Support

Yard continued delivering key support to mission execution with capabilities not achievable or available elsewhere in the U.S.

**Discrepancy Response:** Yard machinists restored buoy cranes back to full operating capability on cutters WALNUT & ALDER after months of performance problems that the manufacturer could not fix. Yard worked overtime & thru the winter holidays to finish DOUGLAS MUNRO's 76mm gun swap, enabling her to sail for homeport on-time and meet operational requirements.

**Major Gun Weapon Systems (GWS):** Yard is the only Navy-certified U.S. depot overhaul facility for the MK75 (76mm) GWS, and recently completed two overhauls for Poland, while supporting the system on WMECs & WHECs. Yard was selected by the Navy to develop overhaul specs for the new 57mm cannon installed on WMSLs & USN Littoral Combat Ships. Yard also achieved NAVSEA certification to overhaul the MK 38 MOD 2 installed on FRCs & numerous Navy vessels.

## CG Yard Action Areas – 2017 Highlights

Yard aims to improve its service & capabilities by focusing on Action Areas in three groups, aiming to boost project performance & lower costs, in FY17 and beyond.

**People:** Yard hired 114 new employees to right-size its workforce & started 2 new internship programs for work-force development. A new incentive system is under development to increase future workforce productivity.

**Mission:** Yard prototyped new project management software, and continues efforts with OSC, SFLC IOD and ALC to integrate the system with other IT tools to improve project planning. Yard partnered with the Facilities Design and Construction Center (FDCC) in Norfolk on ship lift modifications to replace the costly OAKRIDGE floating dry dock by FY20, and began efforts to dispose of the dock through foreign military sales.

**Future:** Yard continued planning for a 154' FRC RDAP (modeled after 87' CPB RDAP) to optimize depot-level maintenance for the future fleet of east-coast FRCs, and began planning efforts in support of 270' WMEC SLEP.

## Yard Employees Receive Top DHS and Coast Guard Honors



*Donald Benson*



*Alexandre Brink*



*Kenneth Johnson*

Dianne White, Chief, Yard General Accounting Division, Yard Fiscal Department, received the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chief Financial Officer Supervisory Award for Exemplary Performance during ceremonies held at the Washington DC Convention Center on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The honor recognized her outstanding Yard financial planning and performance management, noting her expertise in researching transactions and determining corrective action. Dianne has served as Division Chief at the Yard for 9 years, supervising 7 financial specialists. She has 28 years federal service.

The Commandant honored three Yard employees with the “U.S. Coast Guard Civilian Employee of the Year (CEOY) Award” during ceremonies at Coast Guard Headquarters on May 8th. The Coast Guard recognized Donald Benson, Industrial Department - winner of the Senior Level Category; Alexandre Brink, Fiscal Department - winner of the Mid-Level Category, and Kenneth Johnson, Structural Group - winner of the Junior-Level Category for their dedication that greatly contributed to the Coast Guard’s operational mission readiness.

Donald Benson is the Electro Group Assistant General Foreman and began his employment at the Yard in 1989. He is responsible for overseeing the Yard Electronics, Electrical and Ordnance Shops. He supervises 105 employees and manages \$25 million per year in cutter renovation and repair projects, electronics installation road shows, and heavy weapons system overhauls for the entire Coast Guard fleet.

Alexandre Brink is Chief of the Fiscal Department’s Reconciliation, Reports & Budget Division. Beginning her employment at the Yard in 2011, she is a Supervisory Accountant managing a staff of 6 financial specialists, responsible for reconciling monthly financial reports for one of three Coast Guard accounting locations and processing all Yard program orders.

Kenneth Johnson is a Shipfitter/Welder who started his Yard career in 2016. He is responsible for welding and steel hull plate and sheetmetal fabrication for a variety of shop projects and is commended for his expertise in removal and installation of bulkheads, deck coverings, ventilation, etc. during cutter renovations and availabilities at the Yard.



*Dianne White*

The current Coast Guard CEOY Award winners join the “fraternity” of prior Yard CEOY winners: Adam Cole, Rick Hare, and Jann Blevins in 2016 and Ron Viands in 2015.

Congratulations to all award winners from the Yard family!

**Milestones**  
**Retirements**

Joe Ortt  
Naval Architect Technician  
15 Years

James Jones  
Woodcrafter  
30 Years

Mike Virtue  
Shop Planner  
30 Years

Eugene Serio  
Electronics Industrial Control Mechanic  
33 Years

Robert West  
Management Analyst  
41 Years

Stephen Furgerson  
Electronics Technician  
34 Years

**Advancements/Promotions**

LCDR David Gonzalez, Industrial Department  
LT Charles Lortz, Industrial Department  
CWO3 Anthony Hord, Security Department  
HS2 Brandy Jones, Health Services Division  
ME2 Destiny Henderson, Security Department  
Aaron Alexander, Painter, WG-9  
Donald Drolet, Painter, WG-9  
David Anshel, Painter, WG-9  
John Pickron, Marine Machinery Mechanic Leader, WL-10  
Michael Williams, Production Controller (Ships), GS-12

Adam Lindley, Mechanical Engineer, GS-13  
Jann Blevins, Painter Supervisor, WS-9  
Matthew Dumsha, Painter Supervisor, WS-9  
Brian Kindig, Structural Inspect (ships) Leader, WL-11  
Donald Storm, Structural Inspect (ships) Leader, WL-11  
Dawn Maxwell, Sheetmetal Joiner Leader, WL-10  
Michael Jarrard, Sheetmetal Joiner Leader, WL-10  
Erek Cowins, Sandblaster, WG-7  
Floyd Maith, Sandblaster, WG-7  
Joseph Hansberger-Evans, Engineering Tech (Electrical), GS-10

**Civilian Awards**

**Time Off**

Aaron L. Alexander  
Robert K. Andreasen  
William P. Andrews Jr.  
William R. Bittner Jr.  
Theodore Brown  
Daniel T. Cade  
Max J. Carter  
Erek J. Cowins  
Brian P. Dash  
Tyrus V. Dove  
Matthew J. Dumsha

Matthew L. Ebert  
Alex C. Firestone  
Thomas W. Geddings  
Travis A. Gettle  
Robert L. Hilte  
James H. Johnson III  
Keith A. Jordan  
Bryan P. Kelly  
Floyd J. Maith  
Carson E. McCorry

Steven K. Moon Sr.  
Bryan M. Palen  
Derrick Peterson Sr.  
Larry A. Phinney  
Shawn P. Riley  
Reese B. Scott Jr.  
Percy Stevens  
Corey W. Stewart  
Allen R. Taylor  
Edward J. Zaruba III

**Special Act**

David L. Anshel  
William R. Bittner Jr.  
John J. Driscoll Jr.  
Robert L. Hilte  
Carson E. McCorry  
Michael H. Nolan  
Bryan M. Palen  
Reese B. Scott Jr.  
James Wyche Jr.  
James P. Yeatts

**Baltimore Area Coast Guard Commands Celebrate 2018 Diversity Day**

The Yard hosted the Baltimore Area Coast Guard Command 2018 Diversity Day on Thursday, May 17. Held at the Columbus Recreation Center, the special event celebrated the theme, "The richness of the power of diversity and inclusion among the Baltimore Area Coast Guard Commands." Mr. Keith Colson, Administrative Director of the Maryland Commission On Indian Affairs, served as guest

speaker. Festivities included Chinese and Kung Fu folk-

loric dances, cultural exhibits, and cuisine samplings.

(Photos by Shek Kwan, APO Baltimore)



## Memorial Day 2018 Honors Coast Guard Hero PO3 Joseph Gerczak

The Baltimore Area Coast Guard Commands held their traditional Memorial Day Service on Friday, May 25 at the Yard Veterans Monument. Captain Lake presided. Four Yard employees – all veterans of the armed forces – presented the memorial wreath. Presenters included Dale Strucko, X33, veteran of the Vietnam War; Ken Nicholson, X43, veteran of the Gulf War; Aaron Bolling, X31, veteran of the Iraq War, and Don Piper, X10, veteran of the War in Afghanistan.

Captain Lake focused his speech this year honoring the late Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Gerczak who was killed in World War II and is the namesake of one of the new 154' foot Sentinel class cutters named for Coast Guard heroes. Petty Officer Gerczak attended boot camp at the Yard in the 1940's. His story is relayed below through the Captain's remarks.

"Since today is devoted to memorializing those who have sacrificed their lives in service to our Nation, I want to discuss the story of one of our own. . . . Petty Officer Third Class Joseph Gerczak.

Joseph Gerczak was born on Feb. 10, 1922, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from high school in June 1939 and worked as an apprentice machinist making gun parts until he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard on Sept. 26, 1942. He completed "boot camp" at Recruit Training Station, Curtis Bay, Maryland (the Coast Guard Yard) in the fall of 1942 right across from this location (in what is now the "Grove").

Boot camp is a challenging experience, but back then, the Yard was training recruits to go to war. I will read to you a letter that the former Yard CO, CAPT LeRoy Reinburg wrote to all incoming recruits at that time that provides some insight into the experience:

'Hard jobs are routine in this service.

In a way, the Coast Guard is always at war; in wartime, against armed enemies of the nation; and in peacetime, against all enemies of mankind at sea: fire, collision, lawlessness, gales, ice, derelicts and more. The Coast Guard, therefore, is no place for a quitter, or for a cry-baby, or for a lying four-flusher, or anyone who cannot keep his eye on the ball. Your period of recruit training is a time of test, hour by hour and day by day, to determine whether or not you are made of the right material. It is up to you, as an individual, to prove your worth.'

It was right here at the Yard where Joseph Gerczak became a "Coastie" and built the "right stuff" that he would call upon a year later in combat.

After graduating boot camp in November 20, 1942, Joseph Gerczak was assigned to the Coastal Picket cutters, CG-75003 and CG-46015 – conducting coastal anti-submarine warfare in the Battle of the Atlantic. He was later transferred to Landing Ship Tank (LST) Flotilla 8 on Feb. 11, 1943 and assigned to USS LST-66 on April 3, 1943. While a part of LST-66's

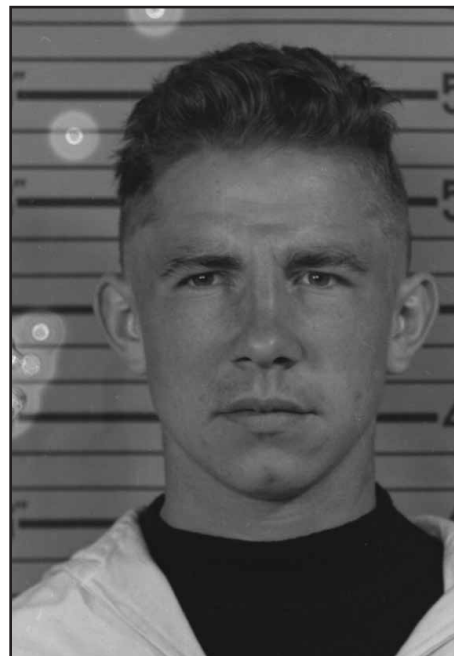
crew, he was promoted to Signaller Third Class on Nov. 1, 1943.

LST Flotilla 8 served in the Pacific Theater of operations. LSTs were designed to sail right up onto a contested beach and unload scores of marines, soldiers and equipment directly into the fight. Many of these LSTs were crewed by Coast Guard personnel, and fought extensively in each of the major U.S. amphibious landings during WWII.

In the fall/winter of 1943, LST Flotilla 8 was ordered to participate in an attack against the Japanese in New Britain. At the time, the Japanese had more than 100,000 soldiers assigned to the large base in the capital of New Britain, and surrounding islands. General MacArthur believed that it was important to re-take New Britain from the Japanese to clear the way for progressive island-hopping to mainland Japan.

PO3 Gerczak was on board USS LST-66 during the initial Marine assault against the Japanese-held Borgen Bay Area of New Britain on

See **Hero**, pg 8



*Coast Guard Petty Officer Third Class Joseph Gerczak at Coast Guard Boot Camp, Yard, 1942.*



*Memorial Day 2018*

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**Hero**, cont. from pg 7

Dec. 26, 1943. As seven Japanese dive bombers suddenly attacked his ship as it stood in the Bay awaiting other vessels then unloading cargo on the beach, PO3 Gerczak immediately manned his battle station and was the first to open fire. When the planes came in and struck from the starboard side, he poured his drums of ammunition into the attackers with unrelenting fury, blasting two from the sky and into the sea near his vessel. With his ship struck by bomb fragments each bursting successively closer, he dauntlessly continued delivering a steady stream of bullets against the enemy until he was fatally struck down by a violent blast which forced shrapnel into his gun shield and silenced his weapon.

By his expert marksmanship, unwavering perseverance, and cool courage in the face of tremendous odds, PO3 Gerczak contributed to the success of this and previous assault and reinforcement landings during the New Guinea Campaign. His constant devotion to

duty throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Coast Guard.

In recognition for having gallantly given his life for his country, PO3 Gerczak was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. He also posthumously received the Purple Heart and Presidential Unit Commendation that was awarded to LST-66 for meritorious service in action against the Japanese.

PO3 Gerczak is one of countless men and women who gave their lives in service to our Nation. We live in a Nation blessed with freedom and goodness. The freedoms, benefits and protections that we have as citizens of our Nation have only come through the sacrifices of men and women like PO3 Gerczak. These are individuals that put mission, service, their shipmates, and their oath at the forefront – sacrificing their lives for the benefit of their fellow man.

We are indeed ‘a grateful nation that remembers’ on this Memorial Day 2018.”



### YARD NEWS

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