
Governor Thompson's Greetings and Welcome to
U.S. Coast Guard Reservists
returning from Operation Desert Storm
March 15, 1991, 1:00 p.m.
440th Military Air Transport Wing,
Mitchell Field, Milwaukee

THANK YOU, CAPTAIN RAMSDEN.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE'S PORT
SECURITY UNIT 303 ... ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN,
WE ARE VERY PROUD TO WELCOME YOU HOME.

I KNOW YOU WANT TO BE REUNITED WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND
FAMILIES ... SO I WILL BE VERY BRIEF.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT ... EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE FAR
FROM YOUR NATIVE MIDWEST ... YOU WERE NEVER FAR FROM
OUR HEARTS AND MINDS. WE WERE ALWAYS THERE WITH YOU IN
OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ... BUT TODAY TRULY IS A JOYOUS
OCCASION ... BECAUSE WE FINALLY HAVE YOU HOME WITH US,
ONCE AGAIN.

YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH, WHILE PART OF DESERT
STORM.

THROUGH YOUR EFFORTS, OVER THESE LONG MONTHS ... YOU
HAVE PROVEN THAT THE COAST GUARD MOTTO ... TRULY
REFLECTS THE AROUND-THE-CLOCK, AROUND-THE-WORLD
NATURE OF YOUR DUTIES

YOUR MOTTO IS A STRAIGHT-FORWARD STATEMENT ... "SEMPER
PARATUS (phonetic: SEM-pair pah-RAH-tus) ... "ALWAYS READY."

... READY ... WHETHER IT IS TO PATROL THE TROUBLED WATERS OF
THE PERSIAN GULF ... OR TO MAN A LONELY RADIO STATION ON
THE BARREN ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ... OR TO VENTURE OUT ONTO
STORMY LAKE MICHIGAN TO RESCUE THE CREW OF A SINKING
SAILBOAT.

THE COAST GUARD HAS BEEN "ALWAYS READY".

AND THAT MOTTO APPLIES ESPECIALLY TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE PORT SECURITY UNIT 303.

TRUE TO YOUR MISSION ... TRUE TO YOUR MOTTO, YOU ARE
ALWAYS READY.

YOU WERE THERE WHEN YOUR COUNTRY CALLED YOU.

THIS YEAR MARKED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COAST
GUARD RESERVE, AS WELL AS THE FIRST CALL-UP OF MAJOR
COAST GUARD RESERVE UNITS.

IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE NATION LOOKED FOR THE BEST ...
AND THEY CERTAINLY FOUND THAT IN THE SONS AND
DAUGHTERS OF PORT SECURITY UNIT 303.

YOUR JOB HAS NEVER BEEN AN EASY ONE.

BUT THIS WAS AN ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TASK: TO SHIELD OUR
COALITION'S VITAL SUPPLY LINES FROM TERRORIST ATTACK AND
TO GUARD THE FLANKS OF OPERATION DESERT STORM.

YOU PERFORMED YOUR TASKS HALF A WORLD AWAY ... UNDER
ARDUOUS AND DANGEROUS CONDITIONS ... ACCORDING TO THE
HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS SERVICE.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD OF THE SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM AND
VOLUNTEERISM THAT MOTIVATES WISCONSIN'S MANY GUARDS
AND RESERVISTS.

BUT I COULDN'T BE PROUDER THAN I AM AT THIS MOMENT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT, WHEN YOU WANT TO PRAISE SOMEONE IN
THE COAST GUARD, YOU DON'T SAY "WELL DONE" ... YOU SAY
"BRAVO ZULU."

AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, I JUST WANT TO SAY
WE'RE PROUD YOU ... "BRAVO ZULU" AND WELCOME HOME!

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR ALL OF US ...

Source: Marquette University Libraries; Tommy G. Thompson Collection; Series 2:
Gubernatorial Speeches

GOD BLESS YOU AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.