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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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Heroes

The world's best Coast Guard

KATHERINE WALKER



atherine Walker served as the keeper of Robbin s Reef Light in New York City from 1886 to 1919 after her husband, the previous keeper, died of pneumonia. His last words to her were, "Mind the light, Katie."

Objections were raised when, at the age of 40, she applied for the job, because she was only 4 feet, 10 inches tall and weighed barely 100 pounds.

Several men were offered the job but turned it down due to the isolation. Time proved that she was not only good at the job of tending the light, but also excelled as a life saver on the reef, where she rescued approximately 50 people — mostly fishermen whose boats were blown onto the reef by sudden storms. She retired from service at age 73. Story and photo courtesy of the Coast Guard Historian's office