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## *U.S. Coast Guard History Program*

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### **MCPO Patricia Stolle, USCG**



#### **090626-G-5394S-023 Eleventh District change of watch ceremony**

COAST GUARD ISLAND, ALAMEDA, Calif. – Master Chief Petty Officer Patricia Stolle is presented the Legion of Merit by Rear Adm. Paul F. Zukunft, the commander of the Eleventh Coast Guard District, during a Eleventh District command master chief change of watch ceremony, Friday, June 26, 2009. Master Chief Petty Officer Terence F. Vanderwerf relieved Stolle as the district command master chief. A retirement ceremony was also held for Stolle today who served as an active duty member for more than 35 years and was the first enlisted woman in the Coast Guard to achieve the rank of master chief petty officer since the Coast Guard SPARs. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 3rd Class Erik Swanson)



**090626-G-5394S-177 Master Chief Patricia Stolle retires after 35+ years**

COAST GUARD ISLAND, ALAMEDA, Calif. – Petty Officer 2nd Class Jessika Garay (right) passes the retirement flag to Petty Officer 1st Class Rikki Lake for presentation to Master Chief Petty Officer Patricia Stolle during her retirement ceremony, celebrating more than 35 years of active military duty, Friday, June 26, 2009. Stolle, the former command master chief of the Eleventh Coast Guard District, totes a long list of historical achievements, including being the first enlisted woman in the Coast Guard to advance to the rank of master chief petty officer since the Coast Guard SPARs. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 3rd Class Erik Swanson)



**090626-G-5394S-194 Master Chief Patricia Stolle retires after 35+ years**

COAST GUARD ISLAND, ALAMEDA, Calif. – Master Chief Petty Officer Patricia Stolle (left) receives her ceremonial retirement flag from Master Chief Petty Officer Leilani Cale Jones, Friday, June 26, 2009. Stolle served as an active duty member for more than 35 years and was the first enlisted woman in the Coast Guard to be advanced to master chief petty officer since the Coast Guard SPARs. Master Chief Petty Officer Charles W. Bowen, the master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, presided over the retirement ceremony. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 3rd Class Erik Swanson)



**United States Coast Guard**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

*Eleventh Coast Guard  
District*



**DATE:** June 9, 2009

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Coast Guard master chief retires after long service**

COAST GUARD ISLAND, ALAMEDA, Calif. – Master Chief Petty Officer Patricia A. Stolle, a Petaluma, Calif., native, retired from the Coast Guard June 26, after serving for more than 35 years as an enlisted member.

A retirement ceremony was held for Stolle immediately following a change of watch ceremony where Master Chief Petty Officer Terence F. Vanderwerf relieved her as the command master chief of the Eleventh Coast Guard District located here.

Stolle joined the Coast Guard June 1974, just shortly after legislation was passed allowing women to join the regular Coast Guard in 1973. She attended basic training at Cape May, N.J., and upon graduation, attended Yeoman “A” School in Petaluma, Calif.

She totes a long list of historical accomplishments including, the first chief petty officer woman to serve at sea on a Coast Guard cutter and the first enlisted woman since the SPARS to be advanced to master chief petty officer. Stolle and Master Chief Petty Officer Diane Bucci were the first women to be selected for command master chiefs.

Stolle assumed the duties as command master chief for the Eleventh Coast Guard District in June of 2006. She previously served as a command master chief for both the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans, and the Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific located here. On July 1, 1993, Stolle was advanced to master chief petty officer while serving at the Personnel Reporting Unit in Yorktown, Va. Prior to becoming a command master chief, she was stationed at Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma, where she served as an instructor at the Chief Petty Officer Academy for five years.

Her awards include two Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, two Commandant Letter of Commendation Ribbons with “O” devices and a host of many others, including a letter of appreciation from President Barack Obama.

Stolle and her husband Douglas will be enjoying the next chapter of their life in Bothell, Wash.

