



# U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

## Chief Warrant Officer Michele Roe



### **Units:**

District Eleven, Jul 2015 – 22 Sept 2017

PACAREA, Jul 2011 – Jul 2015

District Eleven, Jul 2008 – Jul 2011

MSST LA/LB, Jul 2005 – Jul 2008

District Fourteen, Sept 2001 - Jul 2005

RESERVES (June 1984 – September 2001)

SECTOR Honolulu

USCGC Jarvis

Group Honolulu

Air Station Barber's Point

Communications Station Honolulu

"Official Civilian Status" (1981 – 1984)

Communications Station Honolulu, June 1978– May 1981

Communications Station Portsmouth, June 1976 - May 1978



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Radio Station Pungo, May 1976 – June 1976

Radio Station Washington, DC, April 1975 – April 1976

Radioman "A" School, Petaluma, CA, November 1974 - April 1975

Boot Camp, Cape May, NJ, August 1974 – November 1974



## Biography:

CWO Michele Roe was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Nancy and Larry Halvey. She graduated from Wooster high school in 1973. One of six children, CWO Roe desperately wanted to attend college but knew there was no college fund set aside, especially since she was number 3 in the pecking order of six children, so she worked two jobs as a nurse's aide at Wooster hospital and at the local retirement home so that she could afford to attend classes at Ohio State University.

To assist with funding for her college and the possibility of leaving the small town of Wooster behind, she was all set to join the Navy when they lost her urine sample shortly after her physical. She had to travel all the way back to Cleveland to submit another one. It was during this visit that the Navy noticed she had braces on her teeth and denied her enlistment, even though her braces were to be removed within the month.

Her Navy recruiter seeing her dismay suggested she try the Coast Guard because they had just started recruiting women. He introduced her to his neighbor who also happened to be a Coast Guard recruiter. The year was 1974. In 1974 women had only 4 rates to choose from: Yeoman, Storekeeper, Hospital Corpsman and Radioman and there was absolutely no opportunity to go to sea or to be part of the aviation community.

Having spent two years as a high skilled stenographer (secretary and accountant), and hating it, her first choice was Corpsman, but the school was full so she opted to become a Radioman. After graduating from radioman school in April of 1975 she was stationed at Radio Station Washington DC, which is now the location for TISCOM.

After closing down RADSTA Washington, then RADSTA Pungo, she became a plank owner of COMMSTA Portsmouth, which was commissioned in 1976 and was touted as the



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communications gem of the CG, as it was equipped with state of the art telecommunications equipment and was the busiest station for Morse Code. It was here that she honed her Morse code skills and became a high speed Morse code operator and worked countless Maydays and SOSs and played a significant role in saving numerous lives throughout her career.

Michele then spent three years at COMMSTA Honolulu before leaving the CG in 1981 as a Radioman First Class (RM1) to explore civilian life and to start a family. After the birth of her daughter Autumn, CWO Roe enlisted in the CG reserves in 1984 and served at Communications Station Honolulu, Air Station Barbers Point, Group Honolulu, USCGC Jarvis & Sector Honolulu.

September 12, 2001 she was ordered back on active duty and was assigned to District Fourteen, where in June of 2002 she returned to active duty full time as a Telecommunications Chief (TCC). She spent four years at D14 and was commissioned as a Chief Warrant Officer (CWO2) aboard the USS Missouri in Honolulu, HI in 2005. As a warrant officer she has served at the MSST (91103) in Los Angeles/Long Beach 2005-2008, as the District Eleven (D11) Security Manager 2008-2011, the PACAREA Security Manager 2011-2015 and then returned to D11 as the D11 Security Manager 2015-2017, to complete her 41 years of total active and reserve service.

CWO Roe's dream to attend college was finally realized when she graduated with an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Hawaii in 2000, and later a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and computer networking from Wayland Baptist University in 2004. By joining the Coast Guard, Michele inspired her sister Connie to join the Army, her brother Michael served in the Army Special Forces and her sister Wendy retired as a Yeoman Senior Chief from the Coast Guard.

CWO Roe's personal military awards include CG Commendation Medal, CG Achievement Medal, CG COMDT Letter of Commendation Ribbon, CG Presidential Unit Citation, DOT Outstanding Unit Award CG Unit Commendation Ribbon, CG Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, CG Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon, CG Bicentennial Unit Commendation Ribbon, CG Good Conduct Medal CG Reserve Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, DOT 9-11 Ribbon, CG Special Ops Service Ribbon and Armed Forces Reserve Medal AFR.

Throughout her civilian and CG career her daughter Autumn has always been her biggest fan and cheerleader and she is the reason we are all gathered here today.