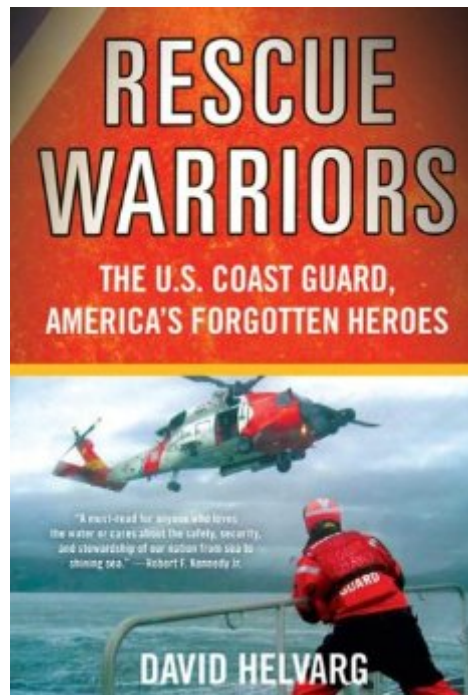


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Rescue Warriors: The U.S. Coast Guard, America's Forgotten Heroes



Synopsis

Since its founding more than two hundred years ago, the United States Coast Guard has rescued over a million people. On any given day, "Coasties" respond to 125 distress calls and save over a dozen lives. Yet despite having more than 50,000 active-duty and reserve members on every ocean and on our nation's coasts, great lakes, and rivers, most of us know very little about this often neglected but crucial branch of the military. In *Rescue Warriors*, award-winning journalist David Helvarg brings us into the daily lives of Coasties, filled with a salty maritime mix of altruism and adrenaline, as well as dozens of death-defying rescues at sea and on hurricane-ravaged shores. Helvarg spent two years with the men and women of the Coast Guard, from the halls of their academy in New London, Connecticut, to the frigid, storm-tossed waters of Alaska's Bering Sea, to the northern Persian Gulf, where they currently guard Iraqi oil terminals. The result is a masterpiece of adventure reporting---the definitive book on America's "forgotten heroes."

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Customer Reviews

Rescue Warriors is David Helvarg's greatest work to date. His training as private eye, war correspondent and environmental activist comes through in his works along with his always superb

conversational voice. I've followed his work since first reading his investigative breakthrough, "The War Against the Greens," 1994, an expose of the corporate-funded anti-public lands advocates who wanted free access to mine and graze public lands. Helvarg then wrote the single best read on the threats to our oceans, Blue Frontier: Dispatches from America's Ocean Wilderness." From that he launched his own environmental organization, the Blue Frontier Campaign, a large coalition of ocean protection groups, [...]. With Rescue Warriors Helvarg leans on his war reporting skills (having documented some of the Reagan era atrocities in Central America) and his proclivity for people who have the chutzpah to live on the edge, but who are saving people, not killing them. Like so many of my favorite books that tell a broader history through one window: shad; salt; tea; slavery; commerce; Helvarg tells the story of America through the Coast Guard. From its founding in the 1700s to warn mariners about dangers and to collect taxes from ships importing goods, the Coast Guard moves through key moments in American history like Forrest Gump, the fight against the importation of slaves, fights against pirates, the Civil War and every other major war up and through the War on Terror. Rescue Warriors is a story I didn't know. The Coast Guard claims to have saved more than a million people, even Jerry Falwell didn't claim that many. It was the only government agency that functioned during Hurricane Katrina.

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