



COAST GUARD FEATURE

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GREAT POINT LIGHT DEDICATED

By PA2 Gregory Creedon

With the breaking of a bottle of champagne and the raising of a flag, the Coast Guard's newest old light went on line.

First District Commander RADM Robert L. Johanson joined with U.S. senators Ted Kennedy, Jim Sasser, and Christopher Dodd, Rep. William Lehman, and local dignitaries on the sandy tip of Nantucket Island to dedicate Great Point Light on Sunday, Sept. 7.

The brilliant white stone tower replaces the historic light lost to a storm in March 1984. It is the first lighthouse of this type to be constructed since the early 1900s.

The evening before the dedication, an island-wide picnic was held. Speakers, including Senator Kennedy, Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul A. Yost and people who lived at Great Point, talked about the new light. During the festivities, a Nantucket fog rolled in, covering the island in grey and postponing the planned relighting and fireworks.

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The next day dawned clear and sunny. Shortly after 10 a.m., the armada of the cutters White Sage and Bittersweet and spectator boats left Nantucket Harbor. Coast Guard small boats and private tugs ferried passengers ashore for the impromptu ceremonies and tours of the gleaming new light.

Just after noon, Sen. Kennedy smashed a bottle of champagne against the side of the light and, with Rear Adm. Johanson, raised a Coast Guard flag, signalling EM2 Bob Hughes of Aids to Navigation Team Woods Hole to turn the light on.

A plaque inside the light reads, "Egypt had its pyramids; Nantucket has Great Point."