

Leaving a Living Legacy

Alumni encouraged to share their memories of Dr. Hallie Gregory in new digital memory book

By RADM Erroll Brown '72 and CDR Mark Harris '96

“Coach Hallie Gregory was such a positive influence on me and so many other officers in the Coast Guard. While at the Academy, he was always ready to mentor, motivate, and inspire others ... his impact on our Coast Guard was immense.”

*- RADM James E. Rendon, Coast Guard Academy Superintendent
(ran track for Gregory and had him as an instructor)*

Our Coast Guard family was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Dr. Hallie Gregory on September 17, 2017 in Salisbury, Md. Dr. Gregory was the first African-American head coach at the United States Coast Guard Academy and a 2001 CGA Athletic Hall of Fame inductee. He was a professor and coach at the Academy from 1971 to 1989. In 1980, Gregory, the Academy's assistant track and basketball coach, was appointed the Academy's head track coach by Coast Guard Academy Athletic Director, Otto Graham. This made Gregory the first African-American head coach in the history of the Academy. He was a men's track and field coach from 1978-1984 and the men's basketball head coach from 1984-1989 while also serving as Assistant Director of Athletics in 1989.

“With the passing of Coach Hallie Gregory, the Coast Guard Academy lost a tremendously revered and respected figure in our history and a true pioneer,” said Tim Fitzpatrick, Coast Guard Academy Director of Athletics.

While at the Coast Guard Academy, Gregory founded the USCGA Genesis Club, a support organization for minority cadets. Coach Gregory's spirit has grown and lives on today in the Academy's 14 faith, fellowship and diversity clubs. He also helped develop the academy's cardiopulmonary resuscitation program. His influence extended far beyond athletics and Dr. Gregory succeeded at bringing cadets, officers and people from a multitude of different backgrounds and walks of life together for positive discourse, intellectual stimulation, personal and professional growth.

“Coach Gregory was an outstanding coach, and even more outstanding person who cared deeply for the Academy, the cadets and his athletes,” said Dr. Kurt Colella, Coast Guard Academy Dean of Academics, who was coached in track by Gregory. “He taught me a great deal about how to interact with others, balance the rigors of cadet life, and challenged me in every developmental dimension to be the best I could be. He will be sorely missed by all!”



Share Your Story

Whether you played sports or not, he touched many of our lives in positive and uplifting ways. He was Coach to us all. Extending his touch well beyond athletics, he cheerfully engaged cadets, faculty, and anyone needing a little lift.

We are working to put together a digital memory book on the life and contributions of Dr. Hallie E. Gregory during his time at the Coast Guard Academy. We're asking you to share your memorable Coach Gregory moment.

Help us capture, preserve, and reflect his broad impact and significant contributions. This digital memory book can serve as a living legacy of possibilities for this new generation of tomorrow's leaders.

Please send us your best stories, photos, videos, and thoughts to editor@cgaalumni.org or editorcgaaa@gmail.com for larger files.

RADM Brown and CDR Harris serve on the Eclipse Legacy Fund Governance Committee. CDR Harris is also a new member of the USCGAAA Board of Directors.