

Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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Catching up

So, perhaps you noticed a flood of covers from the chapter in the past several weeks? I am almost caught up for 2019. It has not been an easy year producing covers. Many glitches getting pictorial issued. Changes in the postal employees who had helped us service covers for many years, as they are promoted or even retiring. At times, the philatelic duties are collateral duty and when the person who handles it moves on, the replacement has no idea what was going on with hand cancels and pictorial cancels. The result, our requests pile up and the covers do not return. I do not know how to combat this. While I was working as a PMR for the USPS, I could call them from my post office and even email with my usps.gov email address and that got their attention and helped me get to the right persons and get pictorials issued in places that had no idea how to handle a request for a pictorial. Not so, after I left. Pictorials are listed in the USPS Postal Bulletin but covers are not serviced. Why, I have not a clue. When the need arises, I prod the professional folks at Kansas City "the caves" to delve into missing covers. I don't know how long before I wear out my welcome there. Seems like catastrophe after catastrophe that I ask them to look into. Some are still pending. (Bath ME for instance). I would bore you if I went into all the trials and tribulations I have gone through this year trying to salvage the requests that I sent in, appeared in the PB and poof, no one knows anything about them when pressed as to why they are not using the pictorial device. Crazy? Yup! Are they wearing me down? Yup. I may throw in the towel and save myself a lot of stress and extra work fighting with the USPS.

Name confusion? USCGC MIDGETT



USCGC John Midgett WHEC 726

This is a tale of two Midgetts; or rather, two U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) cutters that made headlines

this year with their introduction to, (or retirement from), official service.

The first Coast Guard Cutter named "Midgett" was built in 1971, WHEC-726, making her 48-years-old last April. Due to age, she is scheduled for decommissioning sometime in March of 2020.



USCGC MIDGETT WMSL 757

Meanwhile, a new cutter was built and commissioned by the Coast Guard on August 24, 2019 – but also named *Midgett*, WMSL-757. Thus, to avoid confusion, the original *Midgett* (WHEC-726) was renamed the John Midgett. After March, there will once again only be one USCGC *Midgett*.

B-274 Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky Commissioned



Russian Ministry of Defense

On November 25, 2019, the flag was solemnly hoisted on the Russian Navy submarine B-274 *Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky*, (Б-274 *Петропавловск-Камчатский*) built by Admiralty Shipyards JSC in St. Petersburg for the Pacific Fleet (Тихоокеанский флот). The new Russian submarine is an Improved *Kilo*-Class boat. She is one of 13 project 636.3 variants expected to enter service. She uses heavy-duty lead-acid batteries to power the propeller. These are occasionally recharged using diesel generators, an arrangement known as diesel-electric.