

**Senate Commerce Committee Coast Guard Nominee Questionnaire
119th Congress**

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (the “Committee”) asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type “None” or “Not Applicable” if a question does not apply to the nominee. Begin each section (i.e., “A”, “B”, etc.) on a new sheet of paper. Electronically submit your completed questionnaire to the Committee in PDF format and ensure that sections A through E of the completed questionnaire are in a text searchable and that any hyperlinks can be clicked. Section F may be scanned for electronic submission and need not be searchable.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr.
Joseph Buzzella
Joe Buzzella

2. Position to which nominated:

Coast Guard Vice Admiral (O-9) and Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area, a position of importance and responsibility under 14 U.S.C. § 305.

3. Date of Nomination:

22 October 2025

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

[Redacted address]

[Redacted address]

5. Date and Place of Birth:

████████████████████ Miami, Florida

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse: Patrice F. Buzzella, Self Employed, Vacation Home Rental Management and Substitute Teacher

My spouse and I are co-partners in two Limited Liability Companies as shown on my Public Financial Disclosure Report.

Daughter: Lauren E. Buzzella, Age 30

Daughter: Maegan P. Buzzella, Age 27

Son: Joseph R. Buzzella, III, Age 23

7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

**Master of Science in National Security Strategy
National War College (2013-2014)**

**Master of Public Administration
Harvard University, JFK School of Government (2004-2005)**

**Master of Science in Quality Systems Management with a Specialization in Homeland Security
National Graduate School (2002-2003)**

**Bachelor of Science in Management,
United States Coast Guard Academy (1988-1992)**

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

I have served as a Coast Guard officer since May 1992. Please see my official Coast Guard biography and chronology of work history for detailed information.

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

My official Coast Guard biography and chronology of work history are attached.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age.

a. Coast Guard Liaison to the Board; San Diego Chamber of Commerce (2018-2019)

b. Coast Guard Liaison to the Board; San Diego Military Advisory Council (2016-2019)

c. Coast Guard Liaison to the Board; San Diego Chamber of Commerce Defense, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee (2016-2019)

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution.

a. Board Advisor Red Cross of NW Michigan (2011-2013)

b. Board Advisor United Way of NW Michigan (2011-2013)

c. Board Advisor Grand Traverse Bay Michigan YMCA (2011-2013)

d. Board Advisor Big Brothers Big Sisters of NW Michigan (2011-2013)

e. Board Advisor United States Coast Guard Academy Alumni Board (1992-1993)

12. Please list each membership you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts

membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

- a. Aeolian Yacht Club (2020-2021)**
- b. San Diego Yacht Club (2016-Present)**
- c. Harvard Club of New York (2007-Present)**
- d. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association (1992-Present)**
- e. Harvard University Alumni Association (2005-Present)**
- f. National War College Alumni Association (2014-Present)**
- g. American Legion Life Member (2011-Present)**
- h. Military Officer Association of America (MOAA) Life Member (2005-Present)**
- i. Coast Guard Aviation Association Life Member (1994-Present)**
- j. Knights of Columbus (2002-2019)**
- k. Traverse City Rotary Club (2011-2013)**
- l. Traverse City Elks Lodge (2012-2014)**
- m. Marines' Memorial Association (2009-Present)**

None of these organizations restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability, except the Knights of Columbus, which is an organization of Catholic men.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

No

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

None

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$200 or more for the past ten years.

None

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

Honorary Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer (2019)
Captain David H. Jarvis Inspirational Leadership Award Honorable Mention (2011)
Harvard University Presidential Scholarship (2004-2005)
Harvard University Public Service Fellow (2004-2005)

Military Medals and Ribbons:

Defense Superior Service Medal (2)

Legion of Merit Medal (3)

Meritorious Service Medal (4)

Coast Guard Commendation Medal (2)

Coast Guard Achievement Medal (3)

Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon

Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon

Joint Meritorious Unit Award (DOW) Ribbon

Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award

Secretary of Transportation Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon

Coast Guard Unit Commendation Ribbon (3)

Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon (6)

Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon (9)

Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Commendation Ribbon

National Defense Service Medal (2)

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal (2)

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Department of Transportation 9/11 Ribbon

Special Operations Service Ribbon (4)

Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon

Basic Training Honor Graduate Ribbon

**Coast Guard Rifle Expert Medal
Coast Guard Pistol Expert Medal**

17. List each book, article, column, letter to the editor, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

Harvard University Korea Policy Review Journal Volume I & II, Editorial Board, (2005-2006) (no link or digital copy available)

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

2024 Jun 10 - Harvard Global Crisis and Resilience Forum - Cyber Panel Member, Harvard University JFK School of Government. (no link or digital copy available)

2023 Nov 14-17 – Defense Cyber Contact Group (DCCG) – Forum on cyberspace discussions with FVEY partners (United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand), United Kingdom Ministry of Defense. (no link or digital copy available)

In addition to the speaking engagements listed above, I am frequently called upon as a Coast Guard Senior Leader to provide remarks for internal events such as retirements, changes of command, and promotions.

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

#	Date	Headline/link	Quote	Medium
1.	06/26/25	America's Tallest Military Ship Returns to San Francisco for First Time Since 2008	<i>"We love the Coast Guard Cutter Eagle," Buzzella said. "It's a war class from WWII and has been a cadet training vessel for decades."</i> - <i>On-screen, Interview.</i>	TV/Online
2.	04/14/25	Stars and Stripes: Coast Guard commander, top enlisted leader in San Diego fired	<i>"We will not tolerate behavior that goes against our core values, of honor, respect, and devotion of duty," Buzzella said in October.</i>	Online
3.	04/11/25	FB page: Michael Leary	<i>Capt. James Spitler was relieved "following an investigation leading to a loss of confidence due to failures in leadership, judgement, and integrity," Rear Adm. Joseph Buzzella stated.</i>	Social Media
4.	01/22/25	San Diego Coast Guard City announces the inaugural Coastie of the Year Award	<i>"I encourage you to continue living up to Mark's example. He was the best example of everything that encompasses our core values," said Rear Admiral Joseph Buzzella, commander, District Eleven.</i> <i>"Continue making the Coast Guard a better place; that is why you all have been nominated."</i>	Press release
5.	01/22/25	FB post: U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Southwest	<i>Coastie of the Year Award Ceremony:</i> <i>On-Screen, Speaker.</i>	Social Media

6.	11/20/24	FOX 6 Milwaukee: Coast Guard offloads 29,000 pounds of cocaine in San Diego, seizing \$335.8M in drugs	<p><i>"The Eastern Pacific is a challenging environment – both operationally and logistically," Rear Admiral Joseph Buzzella, commander of Coast Guard District Eleven said. "The transit zone is a vast area of ocean to cover, far from home. Despite the challenges, the success of the Munro's crew highlights the importance of what we do on the high seas."</i></p>	TV/online
7.	11/20/24	FOX 10 Phoenix: Coast Guard offloads 29,000 pounds of cocaine in San Diego, seizing \$335.8M in drugs	<p><i>"The Eastern Pacific is a challenging environment – both operationally and logistically," Rear Admiral Joseph Buzzella, commander of Coast Guard District Eleven said. "The transit zone is a vast area of ocean to cover, far from home. Despite the challenges, the success of the Munro's crew highlights the importance of what we do on the high seas."</i></p>	TV/Online
8.	11/19/24	MULTIMEDIA RELEASE: Coast Guard crew offloads \$335.8 million worth of cocaine in San Diego	<p><i>"Our partnerships and our collective abilities are vital to the security and prosperity of the hemisphere," said Rear Adm. Joseph Buzzella, commander, Coast Guard District Eleven. "The Eastern Pacific is a challenging environment – both operationally and logistically. The transit zone is a vast area of ocean to cover, far from home. Despite the challenges, the success of the Munro's crew highlights the importance of what we do on the high seas."</i></p>	Press release

9.	11/19/24	FB post: U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Southwest	<i>“Our partnerships and our collective abilities are vital to the security and prosperity of the hemisphere.” said Rear Adm. Joseph Buzzella, commander, Coast Guard District Eleven.</i>	Social Media
10.	11/19/24	FB Video: U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area	<i>Munro Drug Off-load: On-screen, Speaker.</i>	Social Media
11.	11/19/24	FB post: U.S. Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles - Long Beach	<i>“The establishment of Air Station Ventura is a critical development for the Coast Guard’s operations within the Eleventh District area of responsibility,” said Rear Adm. Joseph R. Buzzella, commander, Coast Guard District Eleven. “This new station offers ready resources that provide safety and security to the maritime community. This is a monumental day for the air crews and for the community in which they serve.”</i>	Social Media
12.	11/19/24	The Watch: Homeland Defense: Coast Guard makes \$300 million cocaine seizure	<i>“Our partnerships and our collective abilities are vital to the security and prosperity of the hemisphere,” said Rear Adm. Joseph Buzzella, Commander of Coast Guard District 11. “The Eastern Pacific is a challenging environment — both operationally and logistically. The transit zone is a vast area of ocean to cover, far from home. Despite the challenges, the success of the Munro’s crew highlights the importance of what we do on the high seas.”</i>	Online
13.	11/14/24	FB: Post: U.S. Coast Guard	<i>“The establishment of Air Station Ventura is a critical development for the Coast Guard’s operations within the Eleventh District area of</i>	Social Media

			<p>responsibility,” said Rear Adm. Joseph R. Buzzella, commander of <i>U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Southwest</i> “This new station offers ready resources that provide safety and security to the maritime community. This is a monumental day for the aircrews and for the community in which they serve.”</p>	
14.	11/14/24	<p>Edhat.com: Coast Guard Inaugurates New Air Station at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu</p>	<p>Rear Admiral Joseph R. Buzzella, the commander for Coast Guard District Eleven, emphasized the station’s importance, stating, “The establishment of Air Station Ventura is a critical development for the Coast Guard’s operations within the Eleventh District area of responsibility. It will provide crucial support in terms of safety and security to our maritime community.”</p>	Online
15.	11/14/24	<p>FB post/page: External SM accounts reposting. U.S. COAST GUARD Newsfeed unofficial The Sunshine Room Kim Donadio Philip Abbott William Wallace Pye OliveDrab Dale R. Sears Stuart Shannon Flotilla 22- Sandy Hook, NJ United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 081-03-06, Eastern Shores</p>	<p>“The establishment of Air Station Ventura is a critical development for the Coast Guard’s operations within the Eleventh District area of responsibility,” said Rear Adm. Joseph R. Buzzella, commander of <i>U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Southwest</i> “This new station offers ready resources that provide safety and security to the maritime community. This is a monumental day for the aircrews and for the community in which they serve.”</p>	Social Media

16.	11/13/24	Coast Guard Holds Ribbon-Cutting/Commissioning Ceremony for New Air Station Ventura	<p><i>"The establishment of Air Station Ventura is a critical development for the Coast Guard's operations within the Eleventh District area of responsibility," said Rear Adm. Joseph R. Buzzella, commander, Coast Guard District Eleven. "This new station offers ready resources that provide safety and security to the maritime community. This is a monumental day for the air crews and for the community in which they serve."</i></p>	Press Release
17.	11/13/24	FB post: U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Southwest	<p><i>"The establishment of Air Station Ventura is a critical development for the Coast Guard's operations within the Eleventh District area of responsibility," said Rear Adm. Joseph R. Buzzella, commander, Coast Guard District Eleven. "This new station offers ready resources that provide safety and security to the maritime community. This is a monumental day for the air crews and for the community in which they serve."</i></p>	Social Media
18.	10/28/24	NBC 7 San Diego: Coast Guard temporarily relieves SD commander for alleged unfair treatment	<p><i>"The Coast Guard cannot accomplish our missions without the respect and trust of each member," Buzzella said. "A safe and professional environment for each member is crucial to the success of our service, and we will not tolerate behavior that goes against our core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty."</i></p>	Online

19.	10/26/24	Task & Purpose: Coast Guard relieves CO, senior enlisted leader for San Diego	<i>“The Coast Guard cannot accomplish our missions without the respect and trust of each member,” Rear Adm. Joseph Buzzella, head of Coast Guard District Eleven, said in the announcement. “A safe and professional environment for each member is crucial to the success of our service and we will not tolerate behavior that goes against our core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty.”</i>	Online
20.	10/26/24	Stars and Stripes: Coast Guard relieves commander and top enlisted leader of San Diego sector	<i>“The Coast Guard cannot accomplish our missions without the respect and trust of each member,” Buzzella said. “A safe and professional environment for each member is crucial to the success of our service, and we will not tolerate behavior that goes against our core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty.”</i>	Online
21.	10/25/24	Times of San Diego: Two Coast Guard Officers Relieved of Duty Due to Reports of ‘Unfair Treatment’	<i>“The Coast Guard cannot accomplish our missions without the respect and trust of each member,” Buzzella said. “A safe and professional environment for each member is crucial to the success of our service, and we will not tolerate behavior that goes against our core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty.”</i>	Online
22.	09/18/24	FB page: Gayle Anderson: Gayle’s ‘Warrior Wednesday’ / U.S. Coast Guard	<i>“There are people who are home today with their families because of Petty Officer Thompson and his crews’ heroism,” said Buzzella. “This is the first time I have awarded a medal of this level to anyone, and Petty Officer Thompson and his crew are most deserving.</i>	Social Media

			<i>They demonstrated bravery, came together, took action and made a significant difference during the fires.”</i>	
23.	02/09/21	Remembering the life of U.S. Coast Guard Bernie J. Trifoso who served during World War II	<i>KUSI TV interview: On-screen, Interview.</i>	Television
24.	01/12/18	FB video post: Capt. Joseph Buzzella gives Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. message	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. day Message: On-screen, narrator.</i>	Social Media
25.	03/15/17	FB Video: Thank you San Diego	<i>Thank you the city of San Diego, becoming a designated Coast Guard City: On Screen. Narrator.</i>	Social Media

20. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an “alias” or “handle,” including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

LinkedIn – held in my name under Joseph Buzzella, Active

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joseph-buzzella-833a61/>

21. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

Senate Armed Services Committee – SASC staff update on the Persistent Cyber Training Environment (Exact date unknown, was Summer of 2023)

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the Coast Guard, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

Since 1986, I have had the privilege of serving in some of the Coast Guard's most challenging and rewarding operational, command, and senior staff roles, as well as, in key assignments within the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of War. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of maritime operations and the ability to navigate and address complex maritime challenges. Throughout my career, I have led talented teams across the country, charged with advancing, defending, and protecting the interests of the Coast Guard, our homeland, and our national security. I have relentlessly advocated for our personnel and their families throughout my career. As a senior officer, I remain deeply committed to championing their well-being, knowing their resilience and unwavering dedication are the foundation of mission success. My 39 years of diverse Coast Guard service, extensive leadership experience, and proven record of performance have built an exceptionally strong foundation to serve at the senior executive level of our Service and government. I am deeply passionate about the Coast Guard's mission and proud of the immense value it provides to our nation. It is an honor and a privilege to continue serving, and I remain fully committed to helping ensure the Coast Guard remains a global leader in safeguarding our nation's security, preserving lives, and protecting maritime interests at home and abroad.

23. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the Coast Guard has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed, it will be my ultimate duty and responsibility to ensure the Coast Guard workforce performs to the absolute highest standards of integrity and moral principles. As a model organization of ethical managers and watchful stewards of public resources and trust, I pledge to continually strengthen the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to administer the American taxpayer's dollars as efficiently and judiciously as possible.

(2025-Present)

Since mid-July 2025, as the Acting Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area, I have led all U.S. Coast Guard operations spanning more than 74 million square miles across the Indo-Pacific, Arctic, Antarctic, Eastern Pacific, and Western United States. I am responsible for the operational readiness, mission execution, and welfare of over 13,000 active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary personnel assigned to 82 units, including major cutters, air stations, and specialized commands. My duties include directing complex joint and interagency operations focused on counter-drug, counter-smuggling, defense readiness, and contingency response missions. I serve as the senior Coast Guard operational commander in the Pacific, representing the Service in high-level interagency, international, and Department of War forums, while aligning resources and shaping future force design to strengthen national security and regional stability.

(2024–2025) As the Coast Guard Southwest District Commander, I led Coast Guard operations spanning from the California-Oregon border to the U.S.-Mexico maritime boundary, and south through the Eastern Pacific to the waters off Chile, an area covering over 3.3 million square nautical miles. My team and I were responsible for safeguarding lives, security of the southwest maritime border and maritime approaches, ensuring the safety of the maritime transportation system, and response to disaster contingencies across this dynamic region. A major focus was combating transnational organized crime, with operations targeting drug trafficking and maritime human smuggling, threats that undermined regional stability and security. Success depended on close collaboration with maritime and security forces across Mexico, Central America, and South America. We fostered enduring partnerships to enhance interoperability, share actionable intelligence, and coordinate joint operations to disrupt illicit networks. Additionally, I directed a workforce of over 5,600 members, Coast Guard cutters, aircraft, and shore-based units to maintain readiness for search and rescue, disaster response, and emerging maritime threats. Through persistent presence and strong partnerships, I remained committed to securing the maritime domain and advancing U.S. national and regional interests.

(2022-2024) As the United States Cyber Command J-7, Director of Force Development, I have successfully led a 165+ high performing, high impact military, government, and contractor cyberspace workforce. With Joint Force Trainer responsibilities, my team and I have been instrumental in driving U.S. Cyber Command readiness by ensuring first class delivery of individual training across Defense Cyber Operations work roles. In addition, my team

has developed, planned, and executed numerous strategic, operational, and tactical cyberspace exercises and wargames in support of U.S. Cyber Command, the eleven U.S. Combatant Commands, the inter-agency, and our international partners with a focus on the European and Indo-Pacific threats. Moreover, my team has developed, maintained, and provided high level governance over the nation's premier multi-million dollar Persistent Cyber Training Environment capability ensuring our cyber warfighters have the right training infrastructure and tools to reach qualifications and work role proficiency.

(2019-2021) As the Coast Guard Southwest District (formerly District Eleven) Chief of Staff, I was the principal advisor to the District Commander and second in Command of an extremely demanding 3.3 million square mile, 4-state (CA, AZ, NV, UT) district and Eastern Pacific international counter-drug operations covering 10 partner nations. I led a 183 member district staff comprised of 9 Divisions, and a joint District Eleven-Pacific Area Command Operations Center. Additionally, I provided executive oversight of a 5600 plus Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian, and Auxiliary workforce, 4 Sector Commands, 5 Air Stations with multiple H-65, H-60, C-27 aircraft, 19 Coast Guard cutters (comprised of 87 Coastal Patrol Boats, Fast Response Cutters, 2 large Buoy Tender cutters), and 14 small boat stations. This pinnacle leadership position allowed me to develop and provide strategic and tactical level guidance to both staff members and operational units which gave me an exceptional breadth of involvement across the entire range of Coast Guard missions combined with the real world application of managing and executing a multi-million dollar annual budget.

(2016-2019) As Sector Commander, Captain of the Port, Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator, Officer-in-Charge of Marine Inspections, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, Federal On-scene Commander, and Air Station Commanding Officer of the San Diego region, I was entrusted with statutory authorities and responsible for the safety and security of the largest naval port in the Pacific directing Coast Guard missions and inter-agency operations in the southwest coastal and offshore corridor of the United States. I led a 450 member workforce and over 600 Coast Guard Auxiliarists on a major Coast Guard installation with 26 facilities including an inter-agency Joint Harbor Operations Center, three 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boats, three MH-60 multi-mission helicopters, an Aids to Navigation Team, and a Small Boat Station. With these assets, I also provided executive oversight of the international Maritime Boundary Line to disrupt Transnational Criminal

Organizations. To this end, I was responsible for ensuring the responsible management, safeguarding, and execution of a multi-million dollar operating budget and federal property.

24. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the Coast Guard, and why?

a. “National and global demand on the Coast Guard.” The demands on the Coast Guard today and tomorrow are very different than when I joined over three decades ago. The global rules-based order is challenged on a daily basis, and the United States and our allies’ Maritime Critical Infrastructure is under constant cyberspace threat, and demand for more Coast Guard presence in the Indo-Pacific places the Coast Guard as an increasingly critical and non-duplicated bridge between the Department of State’s diplomacy and the Department of War’s lethality. The Coast Guard is the right tool to set and model norms where able and confront the competition of our adversaries. But this increasingly national relevance does pose a challenge for the Service as it works to balance these growing demands abroad with the relentless national impacts of drug and human smuggling, persistent cyberspace protection of our Maritime Transportation System, and other threats to our coasts.

b. “Expanding Mission Demand.” Mission demand is driving more frequent full-scale Coast Guard mobilizations. Contingency response has always been a hallmark of our Service’s operational excellence. In addition to our 11 statutory missions, we fulfill the essential roles of maritime safety, security, and stewardship, and serve as the coastal border defense, search and rescue, and maritime law enforcement arm of the United States Armed Forces.

Today’s operating environment brings increasing complexity and a widening range of responsibilities. The Coast Guard is responding to both traditional missions and emerging challenges such as border security support, the fight against fentanyl trafficking, cyber threats, illegal migration, and great power competition on the maritime frontier. These evolving demands require a sustainable surge capacity, one capable of responding to crises on multiple fronts while ensuring the Service remains Semper Paratus, Always Ready, to protect and safeguard the American public.

c. “Ready now and tomorrow.” The Coast Guard is an incredibly adaptive and agile organization. Our culture creates a workforce and delivers

capabilities that are flexible and scalable. Our platforms are multi-mission and our people are, too. But geopolitical, social, and technological drivers are quickly changing our operating environment. Rapid adoption of technology is reshaping the domestic Maritime Transportation System and global shipping. The Coast Guard's ability to provide regulatory oversight and keep pace with industry innovation, especially automation and cyberspace vulnerabilities, is a growing challenge. At the same time, expanding offshore commerce and the rise of commercial space launches at sea are driving new demands on our service.

But readiness is not just about ships and systems, it's about our people. Years of budget constraints have degraded our mission support systems and eroded readiness. To be ready now and tomorrow, we must restore and reinvest in the foundations that sustain operational excellence:

- Housing that provides stability for our members and their families.**
- Medical care and child care that allow our workforce to focus on the mission.**
- Modernized infrastructure to replace or repair what's long overdue.**

The challenge and the opportunity is to strike the right balance between sustaining a Coast Guard that keeps faith with the American people today, while preparing for a rapidly changing future. To do so, we must build back mission support that drives readiness.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

Please see my nominee PFDR. My spouse and I are co-partners in two Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) and we rent full time our home in Arlington, Virginia to a military family. Each LLC company revolves around a single primary asset which is a piece of residential real estate. All proceeds from the business are reinvested in the maintenance of the properties and in the checking accounts shown on my PFDR. My wife and I will continue to rent out the three properties. I will continue to keep all activities relating to my two LLCs and full time rental home completely separate from my federal responsibilities to avoid a conflict of interest or even the appearance of a conflict of interest.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

Yes, the two LLCs and our full time rental home described immediately above and in Parts 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6 of my PFDR are an ongoing commitment. All of the LLCs and our full time rental home are managed by my spouse and I will ensure that they do not conflict with my federal responsibilities.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None. Please see my nominee PFDR. If any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest arise, I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible

conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None. If any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest arise, I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None. If any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest arise, I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

None

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, an Inspector General, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:
 - a. Provide the name of court, agency, association, committee, or group;
 - b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
 - c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
 - d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

Yes

In May 2025, an anonymous OIG complaint was filed alleging improper travel and unauthorized use of Coast Guard funds for non-official travel when I attended a speaking engagement at the San Diego Yacht Club. In April of 2025, I was directed by the Pacific Area Commander to represent the Command at a Department of War General Officer sponsored “warfighter talks” at Camp Pendleton. Throughout the week, I also attended numerous U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, Boarder Patrol, Intelligence and other meetings in support of Southwest Maritime Border Security and Coast Guard Sector San Diego. Based upon the approval of the Commander, Pacific Area and the Area External Affairs staff, I accepted an invitation to speak at the San Diego Yacht Club Opening Day event while I was already assigned to duty in San Diego. My official speech was focused on making the civilian boating community a law enforcement “force multiplier,” by focusing on the concept of “See Something, Say Something” regarding suspicious Southwest Border smuggling activity when navigating the waters south of the U.S. / Mexico border. In furtherance of the “See Something, Say Something” theme, we passed out Coast Guard Joint Harbor Operations Center contact cards and provided plaques for display at the yacht club. I am a member of the San Diego Yacht Club; to avoid the appearance of impropriety, I paid for all of my own expenses relating to the Yacht Club speaking opportunity. I was informed that the preliminary inquiry report to the allegations found no evidence of wrongdoing and no evidence that I either improperly solicited the speaking opportunity or that I violated Coast Guard travel policies.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

No

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), age, disability, genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, engagement in a protected Equal Employment Opportunity/Equal Opportunity (EEO/EO) activity, whistleblower activity, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No

6. If you have ever served as a general court-martial convening authority involving sexual misconduct or assault, have you ever disapproved the findings of a court-martial related to the offense(s) or reduced the sentence adjudged by a court-martial, other than in connection with a pre-trial agreement?

No

7. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

In conjunction with my nomination to Rear Admiral (lower half) (O-7), I previously disclosed the following.

In 2010, when I was the Aviation Operations Officer at Air Station San Francisco, a subordinate officer filed an Article 138 complaint against the Commanding Officer. In response to the complaint, the District Commander initiated an investigation into the command climate at the unit. I was interviewed as a witness during that investigation. While I was not provided a copy of the Article 138 complaint itself, I surmised from the questions that the subordinate officer had made statements within it taking issue with my own leadership, as well as that of the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer. I was later informed that the investigation did not reveal wrongdoing by the Command and that the unit climate was healthy.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes

5. Do you agree, if confirmed, to keep this Committee, its subcommittees, other appropriate Committees of Congress, and their respective staffs apprised of new information that materially impacts the accuracy of testimony, briefings, reports, records—including documents and electronic communications, and other information you or your organization previously provided?

Yes

6. Do you agree, if confirmed, and on request, to provide this Committee and its subcommittees with records and other information within their oversight jurisdiction, even absent a formal Committee request?

Yes

7. Do you agree, if confirmed, to ensure that you and other members of your organization protect from retaliation any military member, federal employee, or contractor employee who testifies before, or communicates with this Committee, its subcommittees, and any other appropriate committee of Congress?

Yes

(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)


F. AFFIDAVIT

JOSEPH BUZZELLA being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

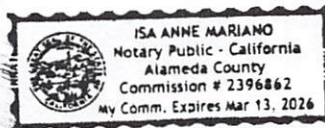


Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 6TH day of NOV, 2025.



Notary Public



CALIFORNIA ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CIVIL CODE § 1189

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California }
County of ALAMEDA

On NOVEMBER 6, 2025 before me, ISA ANNE MARIANO, NOTARY PUBLIC
Date Here Insert Name and Title of the Officer

personally appeared JOSEPH R. BUZELLA, JR.
Name(s) of Signer(s)

who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.



Place Notary Seal and/or Stamp Above

Signature [Handwritten Signature]
Signature of Notary Public

OPTIONAL

Completing this information can deter alteration of the document or fraudulent reattachment of this form to an unintended document.

Description of Attached Document

Title or Type of Document: _____
Document Date: _____ Number of Pages: _____
Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: _____

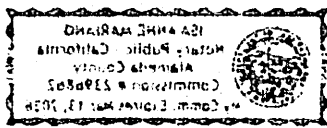
Capacity(ies) Claimed by Signer(s)

Signer's Name: _____
 Corporate Officer – Title(s): _____
 Partner – Limited General
 Individual Attorney in Fact
 Trustee Guardian or Conservator
 Other: _____
Signer is Representing: _____

Signer's Name: _____
 Corporate Officer – Title(s): _____
 Partner – Limited General
 Individual Attorney in Fact
 Trustee Guardian or Conservator
 Other: _____
Signer is Representing: _____

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Rear Admiral Joseph Buzzella

United States Coast Guard

Acting Commander

Pacific Area and Defense Force West



Rear Admiral Joseph Buzzella assumed his duties as Acting Commander, Pacific Area on July 18th, 2025. He serves as the operational commander responsible for all Coast Guard missions westward from the Rocky Mountains across the Indo-Pacific, Arctic and Antarctic regions, to the coast of eastern Africa. He concurrently serves as the Acting Commander, Defense Force West and provides Coast Guard operational support to the Department of War.

RADM Buzzella's previous flag assignments include Commander, Coast Guard Southwest District, and the Director of Force Development (J-7), U.S. Cyber Command.

RADM Buzzella is a career aviator flying multiple aircrafts including the HH-65 Dolphin Helicopter, HU-25 Falcon Jet, MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter, and MH-60 Jayhawk Helicopter. He was designated as Coast Guard Aviator Number 3293 after completing U.S. Naval Flight Training in 1996 and has served at numerous air stations throughout his career to include: Coast Guard Air Station Miami, Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco, and Command

of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. Additionally, he served as the Sector Commander of Coast Guard Sector-Air Station San Diego, where he was also the Captain of the Port.

RADM Buzzella has served in various staff tours including Assistant Director and Budget Program Reviewer; Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Deputy Director of the Chairman's Action Group; Chief of Staff for the Eleventh (now Southwest) Coast Guard District; and Chief of the Coast Guard Office of Emerging Policy and Strategic Foresight (DCO-X).

RADM Buzzella holds a Master's in National Security Strategy from the National War College, a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University, and a Master's in Quality Systems Management specializing in Homeland Security from the National Graduate School. He is a former Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Public Service Fellow.

RADM Buzzella began his Coast Guard career as part of Recruit Company Bravo-123. He graduated from Coast Guard Enlisted Basic Training at Cape May, New Jersey in 1986 and served as a reservist at Coast Guard Group Miami. He was then selected to attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School and subsequently graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1992. Following graduation, he served as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the CGC *Spencer* and CGC *Vindicator*.

RADM Buzzella originally hails from Miami, Florida and is married with three children.

Rear Admiral Joseph R. Buzzella

Current Assignment

Acting Commander, CG Pacific Area and Defense Force West, RADM, Jul 25

Assignment History

Jul 24 – Jul 25 Commander, CG Southwest District, RADM
Jun 22 – Jun 24 United States Cyber Command, J-7 Director of Force Development, RDML
Jul 21 – Jun 22 CG Headquarters, Chief, Coast Guard Office of Emerging Policy (DCO-X), CAPT
Jun 19 – Jun 21 Eleventh Coast Guard District, Chief of Staff, CAPT
Jan 16 – Jun 19 CG Sector - Air Station San Diego, Sector Commander, Captain of the Port, CAPT
Jun 14 – Jan 16 Pentagon, Deputy Director Chairman's Action Group (CAG), Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, CAPT

Jun 13 – Jun 14 National War College, Duty Under Instruction, CAPT
May 11 – Jun 13 CG Air Station Traverse City, Commanding Officer, CDR
Jun 10 – May 11 CG Air Station San Francisco, Executive Officer, CDR
Apr 07 – Jun 10 CG Air Station San Francisco, Operations Officer, CDR
Jun 05 – Apr 07 DHS, Office of the CFO - Assistant Director – Budget Program Reviewer, LCDR
Jun 04 – Jun 05 Harvard University, Duty Under Instruction, LCDR
Aug 00 – Jun 04 CG Air Station Cape Cod, HU-25 Instructor Pilot-Flight Examiner, LCDR
Aug 96 – Aug 00 CG Air Station Miami, HH-65 Aircraft Commander, LT
Sep 94 – Aug 96 U.S. Navy Flight Training, Duty Under Instruction, LTJG
Apr 94 – Sep 94 First CG District, Office of Law Enforcement, Ass't Fisheries Officer, LTJG
May 94 – Jul 94 USCGC VINDICATOR, Deck Watch Officer, LTJG
Aug 92 – Apr 94 USCGC SPENCER, Deck Watch Officer, LTJG
May 92 – Aug 92 U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Summer Ensign, ENS

Educational Summary

2014 National War College, Master of Science in National Security Strategy
2014 Joint Professional Military Education Phase II (JPME-2) Certificate
2013 Joint Professional Military Education Phase I (JPME-1) Certificate
2005 Harvard University JFK School of Government, Master in Public Administration
2003 National Graduate School, Master of Science in Quality Systems Mgmt w/a Specialization in Homeland Security
1992 USCGA, Bachelor of Science in Management

Military Personal Awards and Significant National Recognition or Achievement

LOM (3), DSSM (2), MSM (4), COM (2), ACH (3), LOC (1), Mil Outstanding Vol Svc Mdl (1), Basic Trng Honor Grad (1)
2019, Honorary Chief Petty Officer
2011, Captain David H. Jarvis Inspirational Leadership Award Honorable Mention
2005, Harvard University Public Service Fellow Award
2004, Harvard University Presidential Scholarship Award
2003, Captain Niels P. Thomsen Innovation Award

Significant Current Professional Credentials or Recent Activities

Head of U.S. Delegation, North Pacific Coast Guard Forum – Shanghai, China (2025)
Board Member San Diego Chamber of Commerce (2018-2019)
Board Member San Diego Military Advisory Council (2016-2019)

Board Member Defense, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee (2016-2019)
NATO Chairman's of Defense (CHOD's) Allied Conference – Brussels, Belgium (2015)
National War College Class Leadership Council (2013-2014)
Board Member Red Cross of NW Michigan & Board Member United Way of NW Michigan (2011-2013)
Board Member Grand Traverse Bay YMCA & Board Member Big Brothers Big Sisters of NW Michigan (2011-2013)
Harvard University Korea Policy Review Journal Volume I & II, Editorial Board, (2005-2006)
Airline Transport Pilot License (2) – Rotary Wing Multi-Engine and Airplane Multi-Engine DA-20
HU-25 and MH-65 Instructor Pilot and Flight Examiner, MH-65 AUF Aircraft Commander, MH-60T Co-pilot
Board of Directors, Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association (1992-1994)