

relied on a Coast Guard crew during World War II. As a part of the Greenland Patrol, *Bear* cruised Greenland's waters and, in October 1941, she brought home the German trawler *Buskoe*, the first enemy vessel captured by the U.S. in World War II.

In May 1944, the Navy decommissioned *Bear* for the last time and transferred her to the U.S. Maritime Commission. *Bear* remained in surplus until 1948 even though her timbers were still sound. Buyers from Halifax purchased *Bear* hoping to use her in the sealing trade. She remained moored in Halifax for years until her Canadian owners finally sold her to a restaurant entrepreneur in Philadelphia. In March 1963, a seagoing tug took the old cutter in tow to her new home. During the transit, heavy seas developed and, at a point south of Halifax and 200 miles off the Massachusetts coast, *Bear* parted the tug's towline. *Bear* began taking on water through her seams and the tug evacuated the crew trapped on board the powerless vessel. The historic ship began sinking and finally left the surface of the water at 9:10 a.m. on March 19th, 1963.



The colorful Captain "Hell Roarin'" Mike Healy, first commissioned African-American ship captain and famed skipper of the *Bear*. (Photo: U.S. Coast Guard)

Over her long life, *Bear* explored, policed, protected, nurtured, defended and helped preserve the polar regions of the world and the populations of humans and animals that inhabit the earth's frozen regions. During that time, she performed the missions of search and rescue, ice operations, law enforcement, environmental protection, humanitarian relief, polar research and exploration, and maritime defense. And, she recorded many firsts: such as the first to ship to deliver reindeer to Alaska; first to journey into the Arctic in winter; first to chart parts of the Bering Sea; and first and only ship to serve under the U.S. Navy, Revenue Cutter Service, Coast Guard and Antarctic Service. Cutter *Bear* and the men who sailed her remain a part of the United States Coast Guard's Arctic lore.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM INCLUDES "GRAY AREA" RETIREES

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) is available to all military retirees (**including "gray area" retirees under age 60**) and their eligible family members, un-remarried surviving spouses and their eligible children, as well as Medal of Honor recipients and their eligible immediate family members.

The program covers cleanings, exams, fillings, root canals, gum surgery, oral surgery and dental accidents on the first day that coverage becomes effective; after 12 months of being in the program, it then covers crowns, bridges, partials, braces and dental implants. ***(New retirees who enroll within four months after retirement from the Uniformed Services or transfer to Retired Reserve status are eligible to waive the 12-month waiting period for major services; supporting documentation is required)***

The TRDP provides every enrollee an annual maximum of \$1,300 per person, a \$1,200 annual maximum for dental accidents and a \$1,750 lifetime maximum for orthodontics. It is important to note that the money that the TRDP pays out for preventive and diagnostic services doesn't count against the annual maximum – those benefits are in addition to the \$1,300. Retirees can find more information on the program, as well as enroll 24/7/365, online by visiting trdp.org.

TRDP enrollees realize the maximum program savings (an average of 22%) when seeing a network provider. To find a network provider, as well as utilize the **Consumer Toolkit** to view processed claims, see annual maximum information, sign up to receive paperless Explanation of Benefits and more, please visit trdp.org. You can also obtain more information by contacting Joe Montoya at jmontoya@delta.org.