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We have a duty to the people we serve, and their lives depend on us. We owe them the very best. We will do everything we can as a team to continue our commitment to excellence."

"Welcome to the varsity," Mullen said. "I have every confidence that you will succeed and lead well, develop a cohesive team, reach new heights and help your people achieve what they thought was not possible."

Tregoning and Nilles have known each other for nearly 20 years.

"To Senior Chief Jay Nilles, Erin, Zak and Maci, welcome to the Station Siuslaw River family," Tregoning said. "It's a fantastic family to be a part of. Jay, I am excited to hear about the successes you will experience with your crew in the years ahead."

Nilles in turn thanked Tregoning for the warm welcome his family had received, as well as the professionalism of the Station Siuslaw River Crew.

"Since arriving here just over a week ago, Master Chief Tregoning and the crew of Station Siuslaw River have opened their doors with overwhelming support for this transition between officers in charge. Master chief, your work here shows. The pride the crew has in everything from their uniforms to the boats' appearance, to the maintenance of these buildings and the sur-



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE, USCGAUX PA3



Master Chief Tim Tregoning and Senior Chief Jay Nilles were honored at the U.S. Coast Guard Change of Command Ceremony for Station Siuslaw River on June 1. Nilles is now the officer in charge of the station, relieving Tregoning, who has served here since 2015.



rounding grounds, the housing units they live in and their training regimen, and their professionalism, are beyond reproach. I'm honored to follow be-

hind you as the next officer in charge of Station Siuslaw River."

Both men got the chance to thank their families.

Tregoning came off the stage to present his family gifts.

"To Amy, Jon, Berkley and Mom, thank you for supporting me and my

shipmates and for your steadfast love and support of all of us. I look forward to what our future holds, and I love you very much," he said.

Nilles expressed his love and appreciation for his wife, children and parents.

"The days of responding to the station for an incident on the docks, on the beach and on the ocean are once again on the docket," he said. "I will strive not to leave you stranded at baseball games and grocery stores — but sometimes, when the bell rings, you respond."

Both men then addressed Station Siuslaw River and the community.

"Thank you all for the tremendous support for the crew of Station Siuslaw River, for the families of the station, both active duty and auxiliary, and the community that supports us and keeps us here," Tregoning said.

Nilles added, "I look forward to carrying on the fine traditions of Station Siuslaw River."

The ceremony ended with a benediction by Coast Guard Auxiliary Chaplain Pastor Michael Barnard, who opened the ceremony with an invocation, and the retiring of the colors by the Station Siuslaw River Color Guard. In addition, a reception afterwards featured light hors d'oeuvres and cakes by CS3 Savannah Leffler and her culinary team.



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