

LoBiondo, Hughes to face off in fall House race

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo will face attorney and Ocean City native William Hughes Jr. in the November general election, according to results from the June 3 primary.

Republicans in the 2nd Congressional District over-

whelmingly chose LoBiondo, now running for his 11th Congressional term.

In Cape May County, LoBiondo handily defeated his challenger, Republican Mike Assad, a former member of the Absecon Board of Education, 3,060 votes to 690 votes.

In the district, LoBiondo captured 81 percent of the vote to Assad's 18 percent.

Democrats chose Hughes,

an Atlantic City attorney and son of William Hughes, former congressman and ambassador to Panama. The elder Hughes represented the 2nd Congressional District from 1975 to 1995, and even defeated LoBiondo in the 1992 congressional race.

In the primary, Hughes Jr. received 84.6 percent of the vote to 15.2 percent for challenger David Cole, a technology

engineer from Mantua Township. Hughes' 1,383 votes from Cape May County Democrats compared to Cole's 249 votes.

According to the Cape May County Board of Elections, voter turnout in the county was 8.49 percent, with 5,861 out of 69,038 registered voters participating.

Jeff Bell clinched the Republican Senate nomination among the four candidates,

garnering 41,274 votes statewide to face incumbent Democrat Sen. Cory Booker.

Cape May County Republicans selected Bell with 2,010 votes, or 60 percent. Richard Pezzullo received 740 votes, Murray Sabrin received 317 and Brian Goldberg 245.

Cape May County Democrats chose Booker, who ran uncontested, with 1,511 votes. Republicans overwhelm-

ingly selected incumbent Cape May County Sheriff Gary Schaffer with 3,265 votes, or 99.7 percent.

Incumbent Freeholders Will Morey and Kristine Gabor were also chosen for the Republican slate, with 3,138 votes for Gabor and 3,106 votes for Morey.

Democrats did not field candidates in either the sheriff or freeholder race.

Highly trained, ready within minutes

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satellite stations. One is on the Delaware Bay, and the other is in Sea Isle City in the Townsends Inlet area.

Out of the Station Atlantic City's 52 active-duty members, eight work out of Ocean City from May through October.

Station Atlantic City also includes 22 enlisted reservists and is assisted by five Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas, a volunteer organization.

The unit provides search and rescue, law enforcement and environmental protection, and covers about 250 square miles of ocean, back bays and inlets.

The satellite stations allow the Coast Guard to achieve a quicker response time, said Petty Officer Cynthia Oldham, of Coast Guard Public Affairs.

According to the Coast Guard Office of Search and Rescue (SAR), each Coast Guard unit will have a SAR resource ready to leave within 30 minutes of notification of a distress.

However, for Station Atlantic City, Fonesca estimated response times averaged just a few minutes.

If the call is identified as a

high priority, an SAR alarm is sounded, which Fonesca compared to a bell going off in a firehouse.

After the alarm rings, crews assemble and can be in the boat within one minute or so, he said.

Dispatching a vessel, helicopter, or both, is dependent on the nature of the distress call.

The Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay is the parent command to dispatch helicopters to Station Atlantic City. Sector Delaware Bay has several small units, located in Cape May, Atlantic City, Manasquan, Philadelphia and more.

A helicopter can be a better asset than a vessel because it can get to a location faster, Fonesca said. Helicopters can also travel to areas such as shallow back bays, where Coast Guard vessels cannot.

"Very often we may both get dispatched just to see who can get there first," Fonesca said.

Air station crews fly daily with different units to practice similar water-rescue operations. At Station Atlantic City, vessel crews practice two to three times monthly with flight

crews.

Crews at Station Atlantic City's Ocean City satellite location also train on vessels several times weekly.

For Station Atlantic City, air training is often done offshore, Fonesca said.

Training includes dropping a rescue swimmer from a helicopter, using a stretcher, using a smaller rescue basket and more.

Helicopters can fly as low as 20 feet above the water, Fonesca said.

In some scenarios, a rescue swimmer will jump from a helicopter into the water, he said.

"We do train during the day, we train at night, we train during rougher weather," Fonesca said. "We train all different ways."

At Station Atlantic City, vessels include 47-foot motor lifeboats, 25-foot Defender-class boats and more.

The 47-foot vessels are capable of handling 30-foot seas and 20-foot-high breaking surf.

Some Coast Guard boats are also equipped with buoyancy chambers, which allow the boat to re-right itself if it rolls over.

Active-duty Coast Guard members are also trained dif-

ferently depending on where they are stationed, Fonesca said.

Stations on the Pacific Ocean operate differently than those on the Atlantic Ocean, Fonesca said.

"Out there it's a nice, clean, rolling barrel of water," Fonesca said about the Pacific coast.

"The East Coast is kind of like a washing machine, with that barrel of water underneath."

Fonesca said the difference comes from the way winds operate around the world.

The Pacific Coast also has deeper trenches, whereas the East Coast has a more gradual incline to land.

The oceans' differences make for completely different styles of operating a vessel, Fonesca said.

"Our main goal is for everyone to have a good time, a safe time, so everyone makes it home so they can go out and make it home another day," Fonesca said.



Kristen Kelleher/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Members of U.S. Coast Guard Station Atlantic City pull up a buoy before leaving the dock for a practice drill.

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Kulkowitz

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ceremony.

Women who remembered the invasion approached and kissed him. Women who weren't even born in 1944 approached and kissed him. His picture appeared on the front page of the local paper the next day.

Long after the war, in 1978, Kulkowitz opened the Mad Batter restaurant and the Carroll Villa Hotel on historic Jackson Street in Cape May. The opening of the business helped to facilitate the renaissance of great restaurants here.

According to the Carroll Villa Hotel website, in 1944, when Kulkowitz landed on Utah Beach and approached the village of Houseville, he had only one thought in mind — to rid the world of German leader Adolph Hitler. He felt it was his duty as an American and as a Jew to enlist.

Kulkowitz's generation performed selfless acts of sacrifice and heroism, yet somehow, despite overwhelming accomplishments, they remain humble symbols of American's greatness.

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