



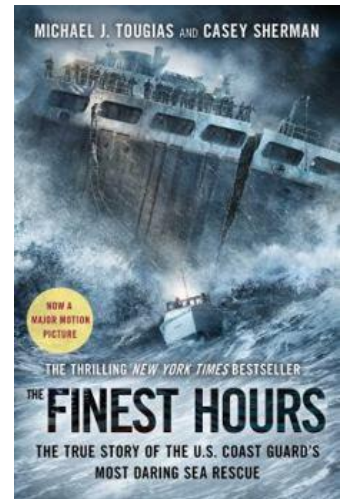
July 20, 2026 at 7:00

The Finest Hours: The True Story Behind the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue

Presented by: Michael Tougias

On February 18, 1952, an astonishing maritime event began when a ferocious nor'easter split in half a 500-foot long oil tanker, the Pendleton, approximately one mile off the coast of Cape Cod, MA. Incredibly, just 20 miles away, a second oil tanker, the Fort Mercer, also split in half. On both tankers men were trapped on the severed bows and sterns, and all four sections were sinking in 60-foot seas. Thus began a life and death drama of survival, heroism, and a series of tragic mistakes. Of the 84 seamen aboard the tankers, 70 would be rescued and 14 would lose their lives.

Michael Tougias is the NY Times bestselling author of 30 books including co-author of this book (now a Disney movie). He will use slides to illustrate the harrowing tale of the rescue efforts amidst towering waves and blinding snow in one of the most dangerous shoals in the world.



Special Events:

June 27 - USA 250th Living History at Blair Cemetery

Sept 26 - Old Home Day

Dec - Christmas Concert & Cookie Swap

For information about the Society, check our website at www.camptonhistorical.org

This event is made possible thanks in part to the following business sponsors:

Annie's Overflow Restaurant

BTD Mechanical

D.A. White Excavation

Eckcells Watch Materials/Tools

Jeff Saulnier Logging

Mountain Fare Inn

Robert Oaks Horseshoeing

Westminster Tool Inc.

White Mountain Propane